



1st March 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome back after what I hope was an enjoyable half term break.

As this is such a short half term, this will be the last newsletter before Easter – the next one will be sent at the beginning of May.

The newsletter contains a number of new pieces of information, including the dates of several forthcoming events. Please take the time to read it, so that you are aware of any events that may affect you. Parent Consultations will be held at the end of this term, on Wednesday 3rd April – a separate letter will follow shortly with further details on this.

SUPERSTAR MATHEMATICIAN AWARD FOR KEY STAGE TWO

February's Superstars are: Warren Clark, Joe Mortimer, Thomas Lunnon, Aimee Hellewell, Kaidan Ali, Elissa Quartey, Lexie Carter, Prinsha Rai, Amy Phillips, Rory McDonald, Kai Newman-Maidment and Charlotte Dickinson.

You should be very proud of your hard work – well done!



SUPER STAR WRITERS' AWARD FOR KEY STAGE TWO

February's Superstars are: Autumn Wilson, Charlie Lewis, Kellen Lay-Murphy, Shyla Horsgood, Lily-Marie Harrington-Brown, Gracie-Rose Reed, Josh Marshall, Imogene Ingham, Jesse Stevens, Izzy Millon and Tyler Brough.

Well done – what a lot of brilliant writers!

PARENTS' FORUM

Our next parents' forum is on Tuesday 5th March from 9.00am – 9.30am.

BOOK WEEK

A reminder that Book Week will take place next week (the week commencing 4th March). During this week, we will celebrate the joy of books and reading – the teachers have planned lots of exciting activities for the children to do.

On World Book Day, Thursday 7th March, children are invited to dress up as a book character, author, poet or illustrator with the chance to win a £5 book voucher. Please note that due to swimming sessions taking place on Thursdays, year 4 will have their dress-up day on Friday 8th March rather than on Thursday 7th.

On the final day of Book Week (Friday 8th March), the gates will be open from 2.30pm for a family member to come to the classroom and read with their child or a group of children and see what they have achieved during this week. If you have more than one child in the school, we suggest you go to the youngest sibling first.

We look forward to seeing you!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A reminder that we have booked the Scholastic Book Fair for the week beginning Monday 25th March. This will be a chance for you to buy books for your children. Both fiction and non-fiction are available for all ages across the school, and some small stationery items will also be available to buy. Come and meet us in the Dance Studio after school and take a look at the books available. It will finish on the Thursday, so make sure you do not miss out!

SCHOOL UNIFORM - HEADBANDS

This is a polite request that any children wearing headbands to school wear a simple Alice Band rather than a 'novelty' headband, such as cat ears or unicorns, which are not appropriate for school.

WORLD POETRY DAY – THURSDAY 21ST MARCH

To celebrate 'World Poetry Day', each class in key stage one and key stage two will be learning a poem off by heart. These will be performed during assemblies on Thursday 21st March at the following times:

Year 3, 4 and 6 – 9.10am

Years 1, 2 and 5 – 2.30pm

Parents are welcome to attend.



NETBALL

The netball league has just begun so the school team will be playing matches almost every week for the next ten or eleven weeks. This means that some matches will inevitably be played on a Thursday as we try to accommodate the availability of other schools. Unfortunately, where matches are scheduled to take place on Thursdays, training will be cancelled and a text message will be sent out to parents. Team members will be advised of forthcoming matches by letter and, as always, supporters are welcome to attend both home and away matches.

Our netball league competition began on 28th February with our first match played at home against Wildridings. The team were excited to get their first match played but also nervous as Wildridings were last year's champions. The Owlsmoor team started well and were particularly good at marking their space and intercepting the opposition's passes. Connie and Isabella were both on excellent form as our shooters and started scoring some great goals early on. Caitlyn and Callum played their hearts out, intercepting numerous passes, battling for every ball and creating lots of space for themselves in the centre of the court. Urged on by the home supporters, Lily, Keira and Sophie worked hard in defence and blocked numerous passes that might have otherwise led to the other team scoring. The hard work paid off and we started to pull away. This gave us the chance to bring on all of our reserves Grace, Mia and Izzy who were equally impressive in their efforts on court. We finished the match victorious with a 19 – 3 win that was thoroughly deserved. Well done to the whole team and congratulations to Caitlyn who was chosen as 'Player of the Match' by the Wildridings team.

Mrs Fish

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

As a school we would like to support World Down Syndrome Day this year. We would like to invite the children to wear odd socks on the day - Thursday 21st March - and bring in £1 to support this charity. Here is a link that provides more information about the day <https://www.worlddownsyndromeday2.org/about-wdsd>

Thank you in advance.

Mrs Layton-Matthews



Easter Half Term Holiday Club

We will be open 8-18th April 2019 - 830am - 6pm at New Scotland Hill Primary School.

We offer affordable & flexible fees starting at only £3ph and an Early Bird Special of £11.50 half day or £23 full day if booked and paid for by 22nd March 2019.

We provide lots of fun for your children with a variety of free play opportunities, arts & crafts, sports games & much more.

For more info or to book please email theafterschoolclub2011@yahoo.co.uk

PLASTIC FANTASTIC!



Just by sending your old writing instruments to us, we can turn your everyday rubbish into money for research into the biggest cancer killer of children in the UK.

WE'RE RECYCLING USED WRITING INSTRUMENTS FOR ELLIE'S FUND

We can accept:

ALL used writing instruments (except wooden pencils and crayons) regardless of their brand or material - ballpoint pens, felt tips, markers, highlighters, mechanical pencils - and correction fluid bottles too.

These items get recycled and we receive 2p per item, which goes towards funding research into brain tumours.



To help us raise money for this important work, just leave your used writing instruments here.

Thank you!

We've already raised more than £52,000 from our recycling efforts - that's more than 17 days of research into brain tumours - however, each day of this vital work costs £3000. Can you help us to raise this every month?



THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Puffins – Nursery

The children have enjoyed learning about the journey of a colour during science week last half term. They took part in many experiments and also had the opportunity to learn about the cycle of a chick, watching them hatch and grow! For the rest of this term, we will be focussing on spring and Easter.

The week commencing the 4th March is Book Week. We will be focusing on the story 'There's a Dragon in Your Book'. Children can come to school dressed as a book character or author on Thursday 7th March. Then, on Friday 8th March, the gates will be open at 2:30pm for a family member to come to the classroom and read with their child.

We are also going to be continuing our 'mystery reader' this term. This is when we ask parents, grandparents, family members to bring a book of their choice to come and read to the children at the end of a session. The idea is that the children don't know who is coming to read to them, so please don't tell them you are coming to read! A sign-up sheet will be on the nursery door if you would like to take part.



On Wednesday 20th March we would like to welcome you all to our Spring Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9:15am – 10:00am. The children in Puffins, Robins, Wagtails and Blackbirds will all perform a few spring and Easter songs and poems.

Closer to the time, a sign-up sheet will be available for the parent teacher consultations - which will be held on the morning of Monday 1st April and the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd April. The whole school will close at 1pm on Wednesday 3rd March for the consultations but nursery will close at 12.00 midday on that day.

A polite reminder – can all jumpers and cardigans please be named so that we can return them to the correct child.

Miss Edwards, Miss Sandy and Mrs Toal

Reception

Welcome back after the half term. We hope you have had a restful break. This half term our topic is 'Farming' with a focus on Easter and spring. If you have any books, photos or artefacts related to any of these topics, please send them in (clearly labelled) for us to share with the children. We have already started our topic this week focusing on dairy farming and making our own butter.

The children will be taking part in Book Week next week. As part of this, they will be swapping with different classes to listen to each other read – they will enjoy listening to a variety of the children's favourite stories and finding out why they have chosen this book as their favourite. The children are able to dress up as their favourite book character on Thursday 7th March instead of PE clothes. They will each write their own *Farming* book about farm animals which you can come and read with them in class at 2:30pm on Friday 8th March.

On Wednesday 20th March we would like to welcome you all to our Spring Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9:15am-10:00am. The children in Puffins, Robins, Wagtails and Blackbirds will all perform a few spring and Easter songs to welcome in the spring season.

On Thursday 21st March, the children are invited to wear odd socks to school in exchange for £1 to support World Down's Syndrome Day.

An early reminder - please do not forget to sign up for the parent teacher consultations on Wednesday 3rd April for Robins, Blackbirds and Wagtails in the dance studio. The whole school will close at 1pm on Wednesday 3rd April for the consultations.

A gentle reminder, please can you get your children to practise saying all their teddy, rocket and penguin words from teddy 1 so they can become fluent in saying these words. They could also begin to practise writing them. This will help them during their writing lessons when they are trying to spell. Thank you.

Mrs Layton – Matthews, Mrs Bryan and Miss Grant

Year 1

The children are enjoying the new topic on France. Please feel free to send in any French related objects and books from home. Towards the end of term we are planning to have a French Day, during which we will be tasting French food (such as pastries, pork pate, cheese, breads and escargot!). Other activities will include playing French games and constructing an Eiffel Tower. Please let us know if there are any new allergies that you think we might be unaware of or any foods you would prefer your children not to taste. We will not force children to eat anything they do not want.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that children who read four times a week at home will receive an extra 10 minute playtime each Friday. We are currently having a big push on comprehension. When you read with your child please question them about what has happened in the story as well as other comprehension questions such as how the main characters feel or how they have behaved and why. In addition, we are encouraging the children to use the exact language from the text to explain their answers to these kinds of questions. As the children become better readers, comprehension is of greater importance and before the children can move up a book band level they will need to show a solid understanding of what they have read.



A polite reminder: water bottles and PE kits need to be named and brought in daily or kept in school. There is fresh water available to refill water bottles as needed.
Thank you for your continued support.
Year 1 team.

Year 2

What a warm start to the term! This term we will be continuing to work hard in preparation for our Standard Assessment Tests which are in May, so we would encourage you to keep up with the reading at least four times a week and remember to ask your child questions about what they have read. Sample SATs materials are being sent home as part of the homework. If you have any questions we are always happy to see parents at the end of the day.

We are looking forward to 'Book Week' and our theme is dragon stories, so keep an eye out for these at home. This term we will be learning about the United Kingdom looking at important landmarks in the city of London, so if you have visited the city with your child please encourage them to share any leaflets or photographs. Could we also request more tissues for Parakeets class.

Parakeets have their class assembly on Thursday 27th March and are looking forward to showing you what they have learned.

Finally, we will be visiting Maidenhead synagogue at the end of the month. A parental consent form will be with you shortly and if you would like to volunteer to help, please speak to the class teacher.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Year 2

Year 3

Science week was hugely popular, especially the 'Mad Science' assemblies at the start of the week where the children experienced dry ice billowing around the hall and learnt how to catch a shadow. There was also a lot of excitement about visiting and holding newly hatched chicks.

We successfully made fossils and designed some super posters about Inge Lehmann, a famous scientist who proved the centre of the earth is solid. We finished the week by 'erupting' our volcanoes on the school field, an activity that never fails to excite and delight the children; sorry about the mild whiff of vinegar that followed their volcanoes home! Most importantly, the children had fun while learning many interesting facts and hopefully we have inspired some children to be scientists when they grow up 😊

Next week, we will be celebrating Book Week, focussing on dragons in line with the theme of mythological creatures. All of the children will be making their own book as we find out about how dragons are portrayed in books and films. We will be learning and writing about Viking dragon ships and the Chinese dragon dance as well as finding out about 'real' dragons – komodo dragons and leafy sea dragons. During the week, we will be sharing our books with children in another year group and we will be dressing up as our favourite book characters on Thursday 7th March. To end the week, we hope some of you will be able to come in at 2.30pm on Friday 8th March to read with your child, or to a small group of children.

Our Year 3 play is fast approaching and we are very grateful for all of your support in helping your children to learn their lines. All children have been allocated their lines and these have been glued into reading records. Most importantly, could you encourage your children to practise their lines using their loudest speaking voices as they really do need to be heard right at the back of the school hall. The show for parents begins at 9.15am on Friday 5th April, so could we politely request that all costumes are handed in to class teachers no later than Monday 25th March.

Finally, many of the children have now been using 'Times Tables Rockstars' at home to practise their times tables. It is really helping children to learn and recall times tables and division facts more quickly and is generating a real buzz around who is topping the leader board. Times Table Rockstars can be accessed at home through a personal computer, laptop, ipad or iphone. If you would like any further information, or help with what you need to do, please talk to your child's class teacher.

Mrs. Fish, Miss Barton, Mrs Walden

Year 4

Welcome back after the half term holiday. Before the break, we had a fun and successful Science Week working on our theme of journeys. We explored the journey of sound and the journey of information through a neuron in the brain. We carried out experiments to find out the best material to insulate against sound and played memory games to help show how we form memories.

Next week will be book week, and we will be exploring 'The Moon Dragons' by Dyan Sheldon. We will be writing our own version of the story and turning it into a book. As usual we will be dressing up as a book character for World Book Day, but due to our swimming session, **Year 4 will be dressing up on Friday 8th March.**

We will soon be assigning parts and beginning rehearsals for the Year 4 Production - auditions for the bigger parts will take place in the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for all your help in supporting your children to learn lines.

Weekly swimming is going well with all the children gaining in confidence.

Please make sure your children have warm outer layers for the colder days, as well as a named school jumper for wearing in the classroom.

We have reminded the children that they are allowed to bring one pencil case into school which needs to be small enough to fit into their trays. We would be grateful for your support with this.

Year 4 team

Year 5

Before half term, we had a successful science week which included ice challenges, making our own salt crystals and launching our own rockets. We were also delighted to have science teachers from Sandhurst School come along to run workshops where the children learnt how to prepare slides and then studied onion cells under microscopes. These experiments all embodied the theme of exploration and discovery. We will continue with exciting science lessons as this half term as we are studying properties of materials.

Alongside this excitement, the children performed really well in their play 'Fleeced'. If you had the opportunity to watch the play we hope that it kept you entertained and would like to thank you for your help –whether it was helping your children learn their lines, sing songs or supply costumes.

We will be sending out information before the end of this half term on Bikeability, which will take place in May. Please make sure that you read the information carefully should your child wish to take part. There is a limited number of spaces and therefore they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. This activity will cost £10 as an external company is providing this. Further information will be detailed in a separate letter.

Parent Consultations will take place on Wednesday 3rd April, so please make sure you book an appointment to see us – the appointment sheets will soon be available. Just a reminder that we do expect the children to also attend the appointment as this is an opportunity to discuss their progress so far and to set targets together.

It is important that the children continue to read four times a week at home and complete all homework set for maths, English and spellings on time. They should also continue to learn their times tables. If children have any issues completing their homework, please come and discuss this with your child's teacher prior to the due date.

Miss Poulter, Miss Parkinson and Miss Hipkin



Year 6

We hope that you had a restful half term and that all of the children are refreshed and ready for what the next few weeks have to offer. Excitingly, we are studying 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' in English this half term. We hope that the children will be inspired to produce some creative writing. If the children have a copy of the book, it would be of great benefit for them to bring this into school to read-along with their class teacher in lessons. We will also be continuing our topic of 'Kings and Queens' and will study the last of the Tudor Monarchs before moving on to Queen Victoria.

Thank you to everyone who sent their Mill Rythe forms back to us before the deadline. We hope that we will be able to have our choice of activities now we have sent the information in early.

We have Book Week to look forward to next week; we are excited to see the creative costumes that the children have chosen to wear on Thursday 7th March. We also have Eagles' class assembly coming up and we are looking forward to hearing about all that they have been learning on Friday 22nd March.

Parent Consultations will take place on Wednesday 3rd April, so please make sure you book an appointment to see us – the appointment sheets will soon be available. Just a reminder, that we do expect the children to also attend the appointment as this is an opportunity to discuss their progress so far and to set targets together. If you can't attend, please book an appointment to see us after school one day.

At this stage in Year 6, it is important that the children continue to read four times a week and complete all homework set for both maths and English. Also, it is important that the children learn the spellings that they have been set, as these will be similar to the words they will be asked to spell in the spelling test in their SATs. If children need support with their homework, homework club runs on a Monday and Wednesday lunchtime. Any children who do not complete their homework, will be asked to give up part of their lunchtime in order to complete it. As always if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to come in and see a member of the Year 6 team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

EA Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher



DIARY DATES: (new dates or information in bold)



W/C Monday 4th March

Tuesday 5th March

Thursday 7th March

Friday 8th March

Thursday 14th March

Wednesday 20th March

Thursday 21st March

Friday 22nd March

W/C Monday 25th March

Wednesday 27th March

Thursday 28th March

Friday 29th March

Wednesday 3rd April

Friday 5th April

Monday 8th April – Friday 19th April

Monday 22nd April

Tuesday 23rd April

Friday 3rd May

Monday 6th May

Thursday 9th May

Friday 10th May

W/C Monday 13th May

Wednesday 15th May

Friday 17th May

Wednesday 22nd May

Thursday 23rd May

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June

Tuesday 4th June

Book Week

Parents' Forum 9am - 9.30am

World Book Day (dress-up day, except year 4)

Dress-up day for year 4

'Open' classrooms for book week- 2.30pm

PTA Discos: EYFS & KS1 5pm - 6.30pm,

KS2 6.45pm - 8.15pm

Toucans' Class Assembly 9am

EYFS Spring Celebration 9.15am

'Odd Socks Day' – bring in £1

World Poetry Day Assemblies

Eagles' Class Assembly

Scholastic Book Fair (Mon-Thurs 3.10pm)

Parakeets' Class Assembly

Woodpeckers' Class Assembly

Year 2 trip to Synagogue

Parent Consultations (early closure at 1pm)

Year 3 Play 9.15am

Term Ends 2pm

Easter Holidays

Bank Holiday

Back to school

Wagtails' Class Assembly 9am

Bank Holiday

Robins' Class Assembly

Kiwis' Class Assembly

Y6 SATs Week

Swans' Class Assembly

Year 4 Play 9.10am

Blackbirds' Class Assembly 9am

Year 1 Play 9.10am

Half Term

Inset Day

Children back to school

