



6th November 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the second half of autumn term. I hope that you had a restful half term break, despite the current restrictions and weather! Thank you to those of you who isolated in order to keep all of our school community as safe as possible.

As we enter another lockdown, please be assured that school and breakfast/after school clubs will continue to operate 'as normal'. All safety measures - such as the one-way system, staggered start/finish times and wearing face coverings when entering the premises - will remain in place. Thank you for your continued support at this unusual time.

In line with government advice, we are trying to keep classrooms well ventilated to minimise the spread of infection. Up until half term, classroom doors and windows had been open all day. As it is becoming colder, we will keep windows open and will try to leave doors ajar during lesson time. Doors will be opened completely at break and lunchtimes to air the classrooms. We will aim to keep children who feel the cold more keenly away from the windows and doors. Please feel free to dress your children in undergarments - such as long-sleeved t-shirts, tights or thermal trousers - if they are feeling cold. Please also ensure that your child has weather-appropriate clothes for PE - i.e. tracksuit top and bottoms - and that they have a coat in school every day.

We are currently making plans to ensure that some of our traditional Christmas events can go ahead safely and in line with government guidance. Due to social distancing restrictions, these events will be very different to previous years, so we appreciate your understanding and patience with this. We will update you on these events shortly.

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CONGRATULATIONS MRS SNEDDON

A lovely bit of news to share is the wedding of our Senco, Miss Devlin, which took place over half term. She is now Mrs Sneddon and we are delighted that, after having to put off the wedding due to the first lockdown, she has now managed to get married.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS WARNER

We are also delighted to let you know that Mrs Warner had baby Alice Rose on the 13th October and both mum and baby are doing well. We have sent our congratulations to both happy parents.

PE CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Pelicans class who came second at the first 'virtual PE games' event. The KS2 event focus was invasion games. The children had to complete three different challenges in order to enter this event. 6,084 pupils took part in this so we are very proud of Pelicans for achieving second place.

SUPERSTAR MATHEMATICIAN AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2



October's Superstars are: Finley Keen, Amelia Enriquez, Nevan Tamang, Sienna Gill, Owen Hancock, Charlie Lewis, Lola Passingham, Sienna Jackson, Kiarna Ndaba, Shania Thorn, Gurmeet Nandra.

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



SUPERSTAR WRITER AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2

October's Superstars are: Chloe Murphy, Jolene Tyler-Smith, Dexter Gardner, Isabel Currie, Serayah Helvacioğlu, Rebecca Dragota Fradique, Chloe Whitely, Oskar Tomala, Ciian Hammond, Aimee Hellewell, Edward Rutter.

Well done – what a lot of brilliant writers!



Crazy Hair Day:

This year, on Friday 13th November 2020, we are having a **Crazy Hair Day** to raise money for **Children in Need**. The children need to come to school in their school uniform with **Crazy Hair** - the **crazier the better**. We ask that they bring in a donation of £1 on this day if they would like to take part.

The school council has come up with some ideas to help you:

- Colour chinks in your hair
- Coloured hair spray
- Ribbons or lots of gel

Thank you

Mrs Layton-Matthews and Miss Hunt



POPPY SELLING

Just to let you know that the school is selling poppies outside the school office. Monday (11th November) will be the last day that they will be sold.

UPDATE ON HARVEST

Having spoken to the Food Bank, they have requested that our food donations be postponed until later in the year when the need is greatest.



Rights Respecting Schools

We are in the process of selecting the new Rights Respecting Schools Champs. The children have to put together a short speech to their peers to suggest why they would make a good representative for their year group. The list of this year's representatives will be on the school website once they have been elected.

Last year the RRS Champs introduced 'article of the week' (taken from the convention of children's rights). The article is discussed throughout the week, both in class and in assemblies. The children have become very good at understanding the articles and discussing them with their peers.

During the school closure, the 'article of the week' was available on our school website, and we have continued to add the 'article of the week' which you may want to explore and discuss at home. There are also some suggested activities linked to the article which children can complete if they would like to. Please feel free to get the children to bring in any activities completed so that they can share it with their class teachers and the RRS Champs.

Miss Grant

PTA – 5P BATTLE

The PTA is staging a 'battle' after half term, starting on Monday 9th November and running for two weeks (until Friday 20th November). For our new parents, this is how it works: we ask that your children bring in any spare 5p coins and put them into their class bucket. At the end of the two weeks the PTA will count the coins in each bucket and see which class has the most 5p coins. The winning class will receive sweets for everyone and extra playtime. They can also help choose what the money will be spent on. Please start collecting any 5p coins - Thank you from the PTA.

LOST SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please can you check your child's school uniform as some of our pupils have mislaid theirs. If you find that you have got the wrong uniform at home, please can you return it to the school office ASAP and we can return it to its rightful owner. Thank you in advance.

THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Puffins (Nursery)

Welcome back after a very wet half term break. We are sorry that it was spent at home but hope that you all managed to spend some quality time with your families. Thank you to all those parents and carers who successfully logged on and attended the parent consultations via Microsoft Teams. It was a great opportunity to talk to you all and discuss how well the children have settled into Nursery, as well as their progress to date. If you were unable to attend parent consultations, I am available after school to discuss your child's progress, so please arrange a time for me to call you.



This half term has started with a crash, bang and whoosh as the children have been talking about their previous experiences of seeing fireworks and discussing how to stay safe. They have created some amazing firework artwork and rockets while learning their 2D shapes. We will be learning about the festivals of Diwali and Christmas, as well as learning about autumn and going on an autumn walk around the school. It would be great if you could collect and bring in some of the different coloured leaves and autumnal debris on your walk to or from school so that we can use them as part of our learning.

As requested during parent consultations, our number and sound of the week poster will be on the classroom door. This will be updated weekly.

Thank you to the parents who have contributed to their child's learning through our observation and assessment tool, 'Evidence Me'. It has been really nice to see how the children have been sharing their school learning with you at home. Please continue to add your own observations, WOW moments, special achievements or days out that you would like to share with us. We really do enjoy seeing and hearing about them.

As the weather begins to change, please could we ask that your child brings in a coat and wellington boots (clearly labelled) as we aim to be outside as much as possible. It is also helpful to ensure that all cardigans, jumpers and shoes are named clearly as this saves a lot of time getting the right clothing items to your child. With coughs and sneezes on the increase, we really appreciate your donations of boxes of tissues.

We kindly request that parents ensure that children do not play or use any toys at the beginning and end of sessions. This is especially important due to Covid-19 procedures, as we must ensure that children from different bubbles do not touch our equipment. Thank you.

As always, our door is always open so please come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns, or alternatively you can email us via the school office.

Many thanks

Miss Grant, Miss Dickenson and Mrs Read

Reception

Welcome back after an unusual half term holiday. We are sorry that it was spent at home but hope that you are all well rested and spent some quality time with your families. Thank you to those parents who accessed parent consultations via Microsoft Teams.

This half term our topics are Bonfire night, Autumn and Festivals (Diwali and Christmas). If you have anything at home which will enhance the children's learning of these topics (books, small world toys, photos, etc.), please feel free to bring them into school.

The children have been learning about 'Guy Fawkes'. They watched a fireworks display (on screen) round a campfire for one of their literacy lessons and did some amazing firework writing. The children will also be going on an autumn walk next week, where they will be collecting leaves, acorns and other autumnal debris in the school grounds. Please can each child bring in a collection of autumnal debris from their own autumn walks? They will be put to good use!

A quick reminder that all children should be doing reading homework, practising their phonics letter sounds in their phonics books and attempting to write the sounds everyday (sent home via Microsoft Teams). Could you also continue to help your child learn their Teddy words at the back of their reading records - thank you.

Coughs and sneezes are on the increase; we really appreciate your donations of boxes of tissues. Thank you.

As the weather begins to change, please could we ask that your child brings in a coat or raincoat (clearly labelled). Could they also bring in a pair of clearly labelled wellington boots for outside digging and playing in the wet weather. It is also helpful to ensure that all cardigans, jumpers and shoes are named clearly as this saves a lot of time getting the right clothing items to your child.

We kindly request that parents ensure that children and their siblings do not play on or use any of the outside toys at the beginning or end of sessions. This is especially important due to Covid-19 procedures, as we must ensure that children from different bubbles do not touch our equipment. Thank you.

As always, please come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns, or alternatively you can email us via the school office.

Many thanks

Mrs Layton-Matthews, Miss Edwards and Mrs Hunt

Year 1

The first half term has flown by and the children have settled in very well.

Thank you for your support with homework and reading so far this term. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that homework is sent home on a Thursday and should be returned by the following Tuesday. The children should keep the spelling sheet at home to continue practising; it does **not** need to be handed in. Teddy, Rocket and Penguin words (high-frequency and tricky words) will generally be tested once a week, and once children can read each word by sight they will be given the next set of words. Children need to be able to recognise these words in all contexts and your child may be asked to repeat some words if they are not secure in reading them.

Most children have been enjoying their extra ten-minute play on a Monday for reading at least four times a week at home. Please remember to sign your child's reading record when they have read. They do not necessarily need to read the school reading book every night and we do encourage them to read other texts, e.g. newspapers, comics and library books. These can also be recorded in the reading diary. The National Curriculum has a strong focus on the application of knowledge. Children who are confident readers are expected to apply their knowledge of language to other areas of English - for example, writing in full sentences using correct punctuation and using high-level vocabulary that they have experienced in their reading books.

We will shortly be learning about time. When you have the opportunity, it would be useful if you could help your child to learn the days of the week and months of the year, and to be familiar with an analogue clock face.

Please make sure that all your child's belongings - including jumpers, water bottles, PE kits and book bags - are named. The children often leave their things around and it is impossible to match them up with the rightful owners without name tags.

Thank you for the donations of cereal boxes and toilet roll tubes – we now have enough for our projects.

Mrs Wood, Mr Horton and Miss Wakelin

Year 2

Welcome back to school after the half term break!

It was lovely to see so many of you 'virtually' at the recent parent consultation evening and to discuss your child's progress and achievements. You should now have received your copy of their targets.

Our topic this half term will be the history of Sandhurst, including what our school would have been like in the past and what toys and games children would have played with. If you have any old photos or books about the topic, please send them in so that we can share them with the classes. On Monday 9th November we will be having our Victorian dress-up day. Please do not go to any expense for this (an old skirt or shirt will do nicely). We will also be designing and making winter salads this term.

At the end of November your child will take the **Year 1 Phonics Test** which is a statutory requirement. We will send home additional phonics homework so please make sure that you encourage your child to say the sounds correctly and blend them together using their 'superman arm'.

Now that the weather is getting colder, please can you make sure that your child has 'cold weather PE kit' with them in school, and a coat as even on cold days we do go outside to play and for other activities. School jumpers are essential this term, especially since we are required to keep the windows open for ventilation and to keep the classrooms regularly aired. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Gardiner, Miss Gardner and Miss Holness

Year 3

Welcome back after the break. We hope you now feel rested and ready for a very exciting half term leading up to Christmas.

We would like to thank all of the parents who attended the virtual parent consultations just before the end of the half term. We hope that you found the opportunity to discuss your child's progress useful and, as always, we are happy to speak to you after school if you have any further questions or comments regarding class work or homework.

Thank you for your continued support with completing homework and reading at home at least four times each week; this is particularly important with the higher expectations of reading comprehension this year.

We will be continuing to learn about the rainforests in geography, and will also be learning about bones, muscles and nutrition in science.

Please could you ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every week.

Miss Hadley, Miss Barton and Mrs Brown-Nicholson

Year 4

We hope all the children enjoyed a restful half term holiday – it seemed to whizz by! Many thanks to all of you who accessed the parent consultation appointments with us via Microsoft Teams before half term, and for ensuring that you kept to your time slot to enable the event to run smoothly for all involved. It was a great opportunity to get to know one another a bit better and to set some targets for the children to work towards this term. If you haven't had a chance to speak to your child's teacher, please call the school office to arrange a time for them to call you.

Thank you for continuing to arrive at the classroom at the correct time in the morning, which is **8.40am for Year 4** (8.30am if your Year 4 child has a sibling in Year 6, or 8.35am if your child has a sibling in Year 5) and for not arriving too early for collection at the end of the day, which is at **3.05pm for Year 4** (2.55pm if your child has a sibling in Year 6, or 3.00pm if your child has a sibling in Year 5). Your cooperation with this enables movement around the school site to operate as safely as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support with completing homework and reading at home; most children are now enjoying a reading treat on Friday afternoons.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that your child is welcome to bring a snack into school to eat at break time if they wish, but it must only be fruit or vegetables.

Finally, as always, donations of boxes of tissues for the classroom are gratefully received at this time of year!

Mrs Bruce, Mrs Plumtree, Mrs Panesar and Miss Devine

Year 5

Welcome back to school after the half term break. We would like to thank all the parents who joined the parent consultation meetings and hope that you found them useful. If you have not yet had the chance to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact the school office to arrange a time for them to telephone you.



This half term we are continuing with our history topic on the 'Ancient Greeks' and will be having a Greek Day on Friday 13th November. During the day, we will be making Greek pots from clay, and tasting a variety of Greek foods - olives, feta cheese, hummus, tzatziki, pitta bread, Greek yoghurt, honey, grapes and figs. If your child is unable to try any of these foods due to a food allergy, please let the class teacher know; you are welcome to provide an alternative similar item for your child if you wish. The children **do not** need to dress up in Greek clothing as the day coincides with the school's Children in Need event, with a theme of 'Crazy Hair'. Therefore, the children are invited to come to school in their school uniform and with a small donation if they wish to have a crazy hairstyle.

In science, we have started a new topic, Earth and Space, with cross-curricular links to our English lessons around the book *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. The children have been very engaged with the book and we hope that this will inspire them to read for pleasure. On that note, we have had a few photographs brought in for our class 'Reading River' displays, but we would love to receive a photograph from every child if possible. This can be a photograph of them reading anything at home, e.g. a book, a comic, a magazine, instructions or a recipe. If you do not have access to a printer, the photograph can be emailed to the school and the class teacher will print them.

Finally, please could you ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every Monday and leaves it in school until Friday.

Mrs Fish, Mrs Reed and Miss Hunt

Year 6

Welcome back. We hope that you all had a lovely half term holiday despite the wind and rain. Last month we were all so proud of how quickly the children settled back into school and into a routine. They all worked incredibly hard and were so engaged with our 'Extreme Earth' geography unit by asking questions, while some children completed extra work at home! Well done 😊

We would like to remind you that outdoor games lessons take place on Monday mornings with Mr Methven and on Tuesdays with their class teacher. Please could we politely remind you that your child should have their outdoor PE kit in school ready for these sessions every week as there are a number of children who regularly forget their PE kit.

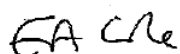
As always, we continue to encourage the children to read at least four times each week and to practise and revise their times tables. Please encourage your children to do this and guide them in choosing books that are appropriate to their age and their ability. Thank you for your support with this.

As the weather turns colder, we will always accept kind donations of tissues!

As always, if you need anything, don't hesitate to contact us and we thank you for your continued support.

Miss Horner, Miss Parkinson and Mr Charman

Yours sincerely



EA Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher



DIARY DATES:



Monday 9th- 20th November
Friday 13th November

Wednesday 9th December
Friday 18th December
Monday 4th January 2021

PTA 5p Battle
Greek Day for Year 5
Crazy Hair Day for Children In Need
Christmas Lunch
FINISH 2.00 pm
Pupils return to school