



5th February 2021

Dear Parents

On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for all your kind emails, thoughtful messages and genuine appreciation that so many of you have shown us, in recognition of the amazing work that our staff are doing. As I have said before, we are still discovering what we can do around the remote learning experience and if we can improve on the experience the children are getting at home we will continue to do so. Many parents have sent in cakes, biscuits, and other goodies, and we would like to thank you for your generosity.

I would also like to reiterate again a huge thank you for the wonderful job that you are doing whether that be delivering home learning or working as a critical worker. I know it is really hard on both you and your child during this pandemic, but hopefully with the vaccination programme, and the positive impact of this third lockdown, there is some light at the end of this dark tunnel.

We are all excited at the prospect of schools potentially opening more fully from the 8th March, but as yet we have no further details. The likelihood is that we will not get any more warning than you do. Until we open more fully, please continue to support your child and let us know if there is anything else we can do to help you and your child.

SUPERSTAR MATHEMATICIAN AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2

January's Superstars are: Maxwell Savastano, Harry Pratt, Emmie Martin, Taylor Wanless, Noah Smith, Skye Lewington, Riley Brooke, Maicey Kinch, Freddie Gallagher, Shyla Horsgood and Gabby Krumova
You should be very proud of your hard work – well done!

SUPERSTAR WRITER AWARD FOR KEY STAGE 2

January's Superstars are: Jack Brown, Amelia Enriquez, Jessica Grumbt, Jayden Hinton, Archie Coultrip, Joe Mortimer, Imogen Jacob, Zachery Shepherd-Mogensen, Lucie Adamson, Alex Fox and Vinnie Skinner
Well done – what a lot of brilliant writers!

HALF-TERM WEEK

A reminder that half-term starts on Monday 15th February until Friday 19th February. The school will be completely closed to all children during this time.

BOOK WEEK

Book week will be taking place during the week commencing 1st March. Our theme this year is non-fiction. Across the school, the children will look at a variety of texts that are about real events, are factual and provide information. The children will have opportunities to make comparisons between fiction and non-fiction. They will be supported to question whether what they are reading is factual or from somebody's imagination.

There will be an optional homework task of building a den – a Reading Retreat, Cosy Corner, Novel Nook or Discovery Den. We would like a selection of photographs of children reading in their dens to post on our website. If you consent to your child's image being uploaded, please follow the instructions that will be sent out by class teachers via Teams. (Please note that submission of a photograph implies consent.) If they would like to, the children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on the day that they have their weekly class video call on Teams. This is just for fun and not a competition this year.



Rights Respecting Schools

This week our focus has been Healthy Mind Week, with the children in school completing activities around the theme 'express yourself'. There are two articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that provided a particularly strong link to this:

Article 2 - (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Article 13 – (sharing thoughts freely) Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, if it is within the law.

Next Tuesday is Safer Internet day which is a global event to help everyone think about being as safe as possible when we are online. The following two articles provide strong links to this:

Article 16 - (the right to privacy) Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.

Article 17 – (access to information from the media) Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.





Science Week

This year, science week will be celebrated during the week beginning Monday 8th February and the theme this year is 'Innovation for the Future'. Teachers have planned exciting, practical activities to provide opportunities for innovative thinking around future world issues, including recycling, global warming, clean water, plastic pollution, time-saving gadgets and game design. As most of the children are learning remotely at the moment, we have delayed the arrival of the chicken eggs until March.

THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Puffins (Nursery)

Over the last month the children in school have enjoyed learning all about winter, Chinese New Year, and the traditional tales of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and Jack and the Beanstalk. We will be finishing this half term with science week. The theme for science week is 'Innovating for the Future', where we will be looking at STEM activities (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). In nursery that involves lots of building with Lego, mega blocks, wooden bricks and any other materials we can find. We will be trying to find out which material was best for the Three Little Pigs' house and trying to build a bridge for the Billy Goats Gruff. If you have any junk modelling items like cereal boxes, toilet roll tubes, etc, we would greatly appreciate these at any point next week.

The children who are staying safe at home can also join in and we would love to see any creations that the children make at home. As mentioned in previous newsletters, in our nursery we use a programme called Evidence Me. This allows us to upload our observations of the children and send them to you at the end of each half term. It would be great to see some of the fantastic things that the children are currently doing at home during this lockdown. We are really missing seeing all of the children's smiley faces and the classroom is very quiet without them. We would appreciate if parents could upload 1 or 2 observations of their child each week to the **Parent Share** section of the app whilst they are at home. You can do this by clicking on the **photo or video icon** which will instantly capture a photo or start recording for you. You will then need to **Tap to Edit** where you can select your child's name in **Learners** and send a little note about what they have been doing in **Parent Notes**. Once you click the back button this will automatically save and be visible to the teachers. You can find more information about how to upload a parent observation using the following link: <https://help.evidence.me/evidence-me-help-for-parents/>

We would like to say a big thank you to those parents that have already been doing this. We have loved seeing the photos and reading about what the children at home have been up to. Finally we would like to wish you all a restful half term holiday and cannot wait for all of our little Puffins to return to school in the near future.

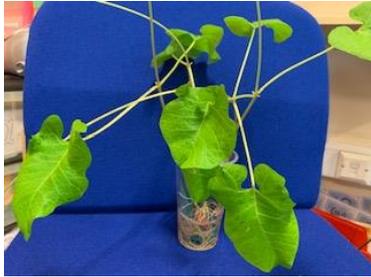
Take care and keep safe

Miss Grant, Miss Dickenson and Mrs Read

Reception

Well done for all of your online learning during the past few weeks, we are so proud of you all and have so enjoyed seeing your videos and photos of your hard work. We loved seeing

your cakes, biscuits and cupcakes you baked for Jack's mum, the castles you built and all the hard work you put into your story writing of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears.' This week we can see that you have enjoyed participating in Healthy Mind Week. We will finish this half term with science week, where we will look at inventors and inventing something useful. We will also be sending lots of exciting experiments home for you to try. We hope you have lots of fun and can't wait to see your inventions! Please start collecting all of your recycling for this week.



These are the beans we planted on our Teams chat meeting. Look how much they have grown. How are your seeds coming along?

Next half term, will be looking at jungles, dinosaurs, castles and princesses, pirates and Easter celebrations. If you have any items that would help with the teaching of these topics eg photos, books or any artefacts, please bring them along for show and tell in our team chat meetings.

We hope you have a restful half term and we are looking forward to seeing what next half term brings!

Mrs Layton – Matthews, Mrs Hunt, Miss Edwards

Year 1

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their support with the children's remote learning. It has been a big change for everyone; you have all been working really hard and this is reflected in the work we have seen. The children in the classroom have also been working really hard and look forward to seeing their class mates on their weekly Teams meeting. We are also looking forward to science week which begins on Monday 8th February. This year's theme is 'Innovation for the Future' and we have linked some of our activities to this topic. Please keep collecting your recycling as we will be needing this for several of the activities we have planned.

We hope you have a restful half term and we are look forward to seeing what next half term brings!

Mrs Wood, Miss Wakelin and Mr Horton

Year 2

Thank you for the lovely snow pictures you uploaded to our Teams page. We were delighted to see families finding time for some fun! The children are doing so well with their home learning and we can see you are all working very hard. We would like to say a big thank you for all your support with the children's learning at home during this challenging time. We really do appreciate it.

We have really enjoyed reading the children's own versions of the Grace Darling story and seeing their amazing animal models in science. As you know, the school day is not all about academic work. Children at school learn many skills and their social and emotional development is as important to us as we know it is to you. That is why this week we have been supporting the national mental health campaign with our own 'Healthy Mind Week'. We hope you enjoyed the activities we planned and would encourage you all, if at all possible, to continue to take some time out from your hectic schedules for yourself. Developing a healthy

mind is of great importance especially during these unprecedented times. We are also really looking forward to science week which begins on Monday 8th February. We hope the children at home are also looking forward to this week and that you have received our letter about what to start collecting. We are hoping to inspire the children to become the next generation of scientists! After all, it is the scientists in their laboratories who have become our super heroes this winter! The theme for science week is 'Innovating for the Future' and we have linked our learning activities to saving our planet, recycling and eliminating waste. Keep gathering those plastic bags, cardboard tubes and boxes, they will all come in handy for several of the activities we have planned. We wish you all a very restful half term and look forward to seeing the children back in school as soon as it is safe for them to return. Thank you for your support and stay safe
Year 2 team

Year 3

During this half term, the children have continued to learn all about our topic, 'Stone Age to Iron Age' and they have recently started to find out about the Bronze Age and the Bell Beaker culture, popular in Britain between 2,800 BC and 1,800 BC. The children have been amazing 'scientists', exploring the properties of rocks and finding out how different types of rocks are formed. Over the next couple of weeks, they will learn about volcanoes and 'erupt' their own volcano in class or remotely from home. **Please can you collect a small plastic bottle for their volcano.** We are all looking forward to science week, with the theme 'Innovation for the Future'. We cannot wait to see what you will be making. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children for their amazing learning at home and in the classroom, and the parents for the huge amount of support, patience and time you have spent with remote learning. Miss Hadley, Miss Barton and Mrs Brown-Nicholson.

Year 4

We would like to start by saying a massive well done to all our Year 4 children. They have been working so hard at home or in school during what has been a very difficult time for everyone. We are delighted with the quality of work being produced and love seeing what they have been up to each day. We would also like to say a huge and sincere thank you to all the parents and carers at home. We are very aware of the challenges that supporting your child in their remote learning is presenting for you, trying to fit everything in whilst carrying on with your jobs and other daily activities, but we really do appreciate the support you have been offering your children with their work. We hope you enjoyed Healthy Mind Week – don't forget you can keep doing any of the activities we tried this week at any time to help keep your mind healthy! Next week is science week! This year's theme for the week is 'Innovation for the Future' and we have some fun activities planned for you to do! For one of the activities towards the end of the week, it would be useful to have some recycling materials, such as empty yoghurt pots, empty cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes etc, as we will be building something we will have designed during the week, so please start collecting! As this will be the last newsletter before the half term, we wanted to wish you all a very restful break when we get there!
Year 4 Team

Year 5

Firstly, we would like to thank you profusely for your support with the children's remote learning. It has been a huge learning curve for us all, but the children now seem to have settled into a routine and the work they have been returning reflects the time and effort they, and you, have been putting in. We know all families are in different situations so we are trying hard to send lessons out in formats that suit most devices; we have been very impressed with how quickly the children have got used to returning their work in a range of



ways. As it seems remote learning will continue for at least another few weeks, we would like to thank you in advance for your continued support in these challenging times.

The children seem to have enjoyed their persuasive writing task linked to the story, "The Wizard of Oz". The leaflets they produced were of such a high standard and very creative; we really enjoyed reading them. We will continue with our history topic on the Vikings, and our science topic all about materials and their properties, until half term.

On Monday 8th February, our attention turns to science week with activities themed around 'Innovation for the Future'. We have planned some exciting activities that we hope will be fun to do at home and at school; we hope the children have already started collecting lots of recyclable materials for the design and construction projects.

Finally, we would like to wish you a restful half term break where we hope you and your children have the chance to 're-charge your batteries' 😊

Mrs Fish, Mrs Reed and Miss Hunt

Year 6

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for the hard work and support you are providing with the children's remote learning. We know it has been a huge challenge for everyone but the children have persevered and shown resilience in these difficult times.

We would like to reiterate that we are very impressed with the work the children are returning and they should all be very proud of themselves. Their most recent work on the Victorian workhouses showed they really understood how to write persuasively, added in lots of extra detail from their research lesson and ensuring they made the workhouses sound desirable, even though we know they weren't. Well done everyone! 😊

Next week is science week and we have planned lots of exciting activities around the theme 'Innovation for the Future', a separate letter was sent out to ask the children to collect lots of recyclable materials for the projects we have planned.

We have loved speaking to the children weekly and having the chance to catch up with them and see their smiley faces. We cannot believe how grown up they look sat at their desks and on a computer screen. It is a great opportunity for us to ask them questions and for them to ask us any questions they may have, or if they just want to share something with the class! From next week, we will be holding two class chats, one on Monday and one on Thursday. We will be posting on each of the classes' Teams page in advance and on the morning of the chat.

The timings for these are as follows:

Monday: 10:20 – 10:40

Thursday 9:30 – 9:50

The invitations will be sent out in advance and if for any reason a change needs to be made, we will notify you as soon as possible via text message and a post on the class Teams page. Finally, we hope you have a wonderful half term break and get plenty of rest. If you or your child needs anything, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Miss Horner, Miss Parkinson and Mr Charman.

Yours sincerely

EA Cole

EA Cole (Mrs)
Headteacher



DIARY DATES:



Monday 8th February – Science Week begins
Tuesday 9th February Safer Internet Day
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February Pupils return to school
Monday 1st March Book Week
Friday 19th March World Poetry Day
Wednesday 31st March Virtual Parent Teacher Consultations
Thursday 1st April Term ends 2.00 pm