



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our penultimate Newsletter for this half term. We continue to strive to strengthen our school community and would like to thank you for your continued support in doing so.

This week Mr Long, Miss Carmichael and I had the opportunity to see Year 1's learning in mathematics and English. They children were all very focused and attentive and it was a pleasure to watch how keen and enthusiastic they were to learn new concepts and embed previously learnt skills. In mathematics, they were learning about tens and ones, which we all know can be rather tricky, but they used dienes resources to support them in their understanding which led onto reasoning opportunities that will support their learning throughout their academic and daily endeavours. In English they were writing out instructions all about how to make spiders. The models which they all made on Friday looked fantastic, so if anyone would like some instructions as to how to create these mini beasts come and ask Year 1! Thank you Miss Low for inviting us to visit your class – it was super to see such excellent learning taking place.

This week, both Year 6 and Year 2 went on school trips.

Year 6 had the opportunity to go to the RAF museum to enrich their learning in history. Although a long journey, the children enjoyed exploring the museum, and learning about the RAF's history. They also learned how to code like pilots. It would be fair to say they really enjoyed it and it was a great experience.

Year 2 went to The Florence Nightingale Museum. There they had the chance to learn more about their history unit "How did these famous women make the world a better place?" They had the opportunity to discover the story of 'The Lady with the Lamp', why she went to the Crimea, how she improved conditions for the soldiers and nurses and what happened as a result of her work. The session began with an interactive performance by the museum's own 'Florence Nightingale' describing her life and work. Year 2 behaved impeccably and were a credit to us all!

Prayer of the Week

Heavenly Father, help and guide us as we search for the truth in all that we do. May we aim to find truth in our learning. May we be truthful in what we say and in what we do. Sometimes it is difficult to know what is true and we confuse what is false with what is true. Give us wisdom to sort out what is false and what is true. All we believe we know all of the truth and never get things wrong, then we are lying to ourselves. Give us wisdom.

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Attendance	
Reception	95.9%
Year 1	97.8%
Year 2	92.7%
Year 3	94.1%
Year 4	98.2%
Year 5	94.4%
Year 6	96.4%
Total	95.8%

Well done Year 4 for your winning attendance of 98.2%.

This week has seen a bout of sickness with our children. Let's wish them all better and hope that next week we can improve on our attendance figures for the last week of this half term.

Lates	
Reception	2
Year 1	5
Year 2	7
Year 3	7
Year 4	6
Year 5	5
Year 6	5
Total	37

Attending school regularly is important for your child's future. Parents are responsible for making sure their children receive full-time education and are legally responsible for making sure that their children attend school. If your child doesn't go to school, you could be fined or prosecuted. Term time holidays have been increasing over the last number of years and in a bid to stop these from happening and impacting your child's and other children's learning, please note the following points. You need to get permission from the Head of School if you want to take your child out of school during term time. You will need to make an application to the school in advance and this is usually only granted if there are exceptional circumstances. Please note that cheaper holidays do not constitute an exceptional absence. We will be monitoring absences either side of half term, and I shall be contacting families where children are away. Your support in this is, as always, greatly appreciated.

Class Assembly

Year 1 wowed us all with their super assembly this Thursday. They put on a tremendous performance of *Aaaarrggghh Spider!* by Lydia Monks. They were all so confident and performed with palpable joy in their hearts. We also thoroughly enjoyed their song about Fiction and Non-fiction books! Thank you Year 1 for the lightening up of Thursday afternoon and thank you Miss Low and Miss Fostini for supporting the children in putting on such a great show.

It was lovely to see so many parents there too. Thank you for your positivity and enthusiasm with supporting your children in their learning journeys.

Academic Review Day

We are very much looking forward to the Academic Review Day which is on Friday 28th February 2020. As previously outlined in class curriculum meetings and Newsletters, schools have 5 annual INSET days which they can take at any point in the academic year. We are using two of these in order to have important parent meetings with the aim of supporting progress, learning and the wellbeing of your children. Please do contact the school office to book a time to meet with your child's class teacher.

Our Speech and Language therapist will be available for a parent drop in during Academic Review Day from between 3.00pm and 4.00pm to answer any questions, to offer advice and strategies to parents or to guide you in the right direction to seek advice. All parents can attend regardless if your child is or has seen a Speech and Language therapist. She will be available in the conference room. Please be advised you do not need to book an appointment, it will be on a first come first served basis.

Keeping children safe

We would like to take this opportunity to outline what bullying is and the importance of using and referring to this term appropriately. Bullying is something that can hurt you on the inside or on the outside. It hurts you on the outside by hitting you and hurting you physically. It hurts you on the inside by name calling or hurting your feelings.

Bullying is done on purpose, it's not an accident. If someone hurts you during a game by accident that is not bullying, but if every time you played a game they hurt you, or your feelings that would be bullying.

It can aim to hurt a group of people or just one person and can be done by a group or just one person.

Bullying happens more than once. The bully/bullies do it over and over and over again and they can take away your self-esteem and confidence.

As a school we take bullying very seriously and we ensure, through our behaviour policy, that any behaviours that could indicate such interactions are dealt with immediately. The children are taught through PSHE lessons and Collective Worship about making sure that they always report anything that is making them uncomfortable to a trusted adult.

Morning drop off and pick up

Just a reminder that when dropping your children off in the morning, unless they are in Reception, please leave them at the top of the stairs to walk into the playground independently. From the beginning of next half term, we shall also be asking Reception parents to drop their children off in this way. This supports their independence skills and helps build their confidence.

We would also like to remind parents that pick up is at 3.30pm. Please ensure that you are there on time to pick up your child and make your way out of the school premises as swiftly as possible. We request that parents come into the playground rather than beckon children from the gates. This is so that there is no congestion on the stairs, which could in turn lead to unnecessary accidents. Teachers spend a lot of their teaching and learning time waiting for parents who continually arrive late, so please could you make sure that you are on time.

Your continued support in making our school a safe place is very much appreciated.

Parent behaviour

Please ensure that you follow protocol of behaviour whilst on school premises. Last week I shared with you all the importance of speaking to all members of our school community with respect and maintaining appropriate boundaries. I would like to reiterate this, expressly in reference to approaching children or parents if you have any concerns. Please ensure that you follow the correct course of action, making an appointment with your class teacher or with me.

Raising the school profile

Thank you so much to everyone who emailed and informed us of your wonderful skills! We are currently working alongside the governors in raising the profile of the school. If you have already shared your willingness and ability to help (I know that we are all very time stretched, so all your support is appreciated) we will be in touch with you shortly. If you haven't yet come forwards with your talents, please do not hesitate to do so.

Uniform

Well done to Year 6 for winning our Uniform Cup this week. Please remember that the uniform consists of red jumpers and white shirts and not grey ones. Please do come and speak to Mrs Baukovic if you need any advice.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th February

Friday 14th February

Monday 24th February

Friday 28th February

Thursday 12th March

Thursday 19th March

Thursday 26th March

Friday 3rd April

Year 3 Class Assembly 3.00pm

Break up for half-term

Back to school

Academic Review Day

Year 4 Class Assembly 3.00pm

Year 5 Class Assembly 3.00pm

Year 6 Class Assembly 3.00pm

End of term 2.00pm

Thank you for all your support, it is much appreciated.

Best wishes

Ms Petra Slater, Head of School and Mrs Rebecca Harris, Executive Headteacher