



FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER No 6

29th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a peaceful and refreshing half term break. It has been lovely to see the mornings finally getting lighter and at last there are signs of spring appearing. It's so nice to once again see the daffodil maze coming in bloom!

We would like to warmly welcome Sienna and her family who have joined us in Kestrels class and hope that you quickly settle in to school life.

World Book Day – 4th to 8th March

This year we are extending World Book Day celebrations to a whole week because we love reading so much! We are opening the school library in the mornings, crafting story rolls and hats and having some mystery story times! Please see the attached flyer for more information about our World Book Week activities.



We are also running our Book Bingo sponsored event – children have been challenged to complete as many reading jobs from the Bingo Board as they can. We have asked for sponsorship for this event to raise some much-needed funds for new, inclusive and exciting books for our classroom Book Nooks and story times.

Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March



To mark Red Nose Day, this will be a non-uniform 'wear something red to school' day. We will not be selling red noses or other merchandise in school but children will be allowed to wear red noses if they have them on this day. During the day the children will take part in a range of activities to raise their awareness of this very worthwhile charity.

If you would like to make a small cash donation, please send it with your child to give to their class teacher - we will then forward all donations on your behalf.

Parent Consultations – 12th, 13th, 14th March

Parent Consultations will be held online on the above dates and appointments are now available to book. In line with other schools, parent consultations are a short 10-minute appointment to inform you about your child's current progress and attainment. We understand that sometimes parents have issues they would like to discuss which may take more time than this, and so in these instances we would ask you to contact the class teacher to make an appointment for a face to face meeting outside of these times. Teachers are happy to talk with parents at any point during the school year, you do not need to wait for consultation evenings to discuss concerns. Your child's work is available for you to look at following their year group assemblies, but again, if you wish to look at this at a time other than this, then please speak to your child's class teacher.



School Grounds morning – Thursday 21st March



We are pleased that we are able to invite volunteers into the school grounds to support our Spring term School Grounds Morning.

We are asking for volunteers (parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles and friends of the school), to spend some time on Thursday 21st March 9am until midday to help with a variety of seasonal tasks such as clearing dead plants, picking up leaves, litter collection, hedge trimming, washing the bike shed, cleaning the ponds and general tidying of the school grounds. Also, if you have any plants you can donate to the school for the grounds, that would be much appreciated.

You are welcome to work with your child if you would like to. If so, it would be helpful if they have wellington boots, a waterproof coat and gardening gloves if possible. We have very limited tools, so we would appreciate it if you could bring in your own tools to use on the day.

Due to the amount of green waste that this day typically produces, we are again appealing for volunteers to bring any old, empty compost bags so as to avoid using numerous new black bin liners. We would also kindly ask, wherever possible, that helping adults take a bag of garden waste with them at the end of Grounds Morning. Alternatively, if you know of anyone or a company who would be willing to aid us then please let us know via the school office.

Please note that School Grounds Morning is a non-uniform day. Please can all children therefore come to school in clothes suitable for gardening.

We usually have a great day... even in the damp and drizzle! Please feel free to come for whatever amount of time that you can.

Please complete the form on Weduc if you are able to help.

Class assemblies

This term the classes will be holding assemblies where they will celebrate their learning and showcase their talents! There will also be an opportunity for you to look at your child's work alongside them. Please carefully check the diary dates section so that you are able to come along and support your child.

Monster Phonics

We hope that you have been enjoying the Monster Phonics books with your child at home; the children are certainly enthusiastic about them in school! As we now move into the next phase, the children will be starting to bring home 'extra practice' books alongside these – a separate letter will be sent out shortly to explain this in more detail.



Reading at Home



Towards the end of this half term we would like to support you with reading at home with your children. As this is the most fundamental and useful homework you can do with your child, we want to help you get the most out of this important time. You may already have some questions that we could answer about reading at home – sending these in advance will enable us to ensure the

Reading at Home Workshop is tailored to be most useful. Even if you are not able to attend the workshop dates, please feel free to submit your questions on the form on Weduc.

The dates for the Reading at Home Workshops are as follows:

- Reception – 9.15 to 10.00am – Tuesday 12th March
- Year 1 – 9.15 to 10.00am – Tuesday 19th March
- Year 2 – 9.15 to 10.00am – Wednesday 13th March

(If you have multiple children at the school, attendance for each year group is not necessary but you are more than welcome to attend more than one workshop!)

To book a place at the workshop or submit questions please fill in the form on Weduc.

Spotlight on Safeguarding- Children's Mental Health Week 2024

This month, in our PSHE lessons, we marked Children's Mental Health Week. The focus this year was "My Voice Matters".



We talked with children about how we all know how to look after our physical health but we also need to look after our mental health. As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. With young children the most important thing to support good mental health is to give children an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings with you and other trusted adults.

Below are some pointers to help a listening conversation develop:

Stop what you are doing and give your full attention to your child.

Find a way to talk with them that makes them feel comfortable - you could try any of these:

- Getting on to the same level as your child and showing them with your whole body you are ready and available to listen. Turn towards them or make eye contact.
- Being side by side with them, walking or sitting in a car (when someone else is driving).
- At lights out, sitting on the edge of their bed.



Focus on the facts of WHAT they are telling you and on how they are FEELING about it.

If you do ask questions try to make them open questions that will encourage them to share more. Repeat that back to them in your own words.

Check with them - did you get the feeling right? And the cause of the feeling?

Summarise the conversation to let your child know you have fully heard them. Use phrases like “it sounds like you are...” or “It seems like you feel...” Try not to tell them to cheer up or to provide solutions - instead just show them that it is ok to feel what they are feeling.

Remember that it's ok to not always have an answer; being listened to and feeling heard and understood can be enough for children to work out their own solution to a problem.

If you have any concerns about your child's mental health you can visit <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/> for advice, speak with Miss Moulson, our Senior Mental Health Lead or we can book a session for you to meet Mandy Lax from the Designated Schools Team.

Philippa Moulson
Designated Safeguarding Leader

Dates for Your Diary

Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar, please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

Once again, we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the school.

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher



Diary Dates



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| Monday 26 th February | - Rainbow Theatre to visit YR |
| Monday 4 th March | - World Book week – details to follow |
| | - Y1 Library Morning 8.15-8.45am |
| | - Wagtails Parent consultations |
| Wednesday 6 th March | - Y2 Library Morning 8.15-8.45am |
| Friday 8 th March | - YR Library Morning 8.15-8.45am |
| Monday 11 th March | - STEAM week – details to follow |
| Tuesday 12 th March | - YR Reading at Home Workshop 9.15 to 10am |
| | - Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm |
| Wednesday 13 th March | - Y2 reading at Home Workshop 9.15 to 10am |
| | - Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm |
| Thursday 14 th March | - Parent consultations 3.45 – 6.00pm |
| Friday 15 th March | - Red Nose day – wear red! |
| Monday 18 th March | - Book Fair Week (details to follow) |
| Tuesday 19 th March | - Y1 Reading at Home Workshop 9.15 to 10am |
| | - 2pm – Wagtails class assembly |
| Wednesday 20 th March | - 2pm – Robins class assembly |
| Thursday 21 st March | - School Grounds Morning |
| | - Robins Parent consultations |
| Friday 22 nd March | - 2pm - Puffins class assembly |
| Monday 25 th March | - 9.15am - Kestrels class assembly |
| | - 2pm Blackbirds class assembly |
| Tuesday 26 th March | - 9.15am Falcons class assembly |
| | - 2pm Woodpeckers class assembly |
| Wednesday 27 th March | - 9.15am Hawks class assembly |
| | - 2pm Starlings class assembly |
| | - FEPS Easter Bake Sale |

Easter Break – Monday 1st April to Friday 12th April inclusive



*Learning, Playing and Laughing Together
to be the best that we can be*