 4/03/2024

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| **Dear Parents,**  Welcome to the latest newsletter. The daffodils are looking lovely outside school and there is a real feeling of spring in the air! | | |
| **Staffing Update**  As you may be aware, Miss Harris has been unwell for a few weeks. I’m pleased to report that she is recovering and I know she is missing everyone in school and can’t wait to get back.  We are very fortunate that Mrs Mahoney has been available to teach Class 3- she knows the school, and all of the children really well and so there hasn’t been any missed learning. | | **Cladding**  You may have noticed that the cladding along the front of school has had a spring clean. A huge thank you to Phil of Watson’s windows for doing this for us at no charge! Thanks also to Robin Bridges, our caretaker, for finishing off round the back as well as cleaning out drains, gutters and the path during half term AND mending the manhole cover in the car park. School looks much better for all your hard work. |
| **Diversity and inclusion workshops**  Don’t forget these workshops are happening tomorrow, Tuesday 5th March.  As part of our anti-bullying work, all the children will be taking part in activities delivered by the charity ‘Diversity role models’. There is more information about the charity here:  [Diversity Role Models](https://www.diversityrolemodels.org/)  EYFS/ Year 1&2: The workshop will explore how we are all different and how everyone should be treated with respect and allowed to be themselves. We will read the book ‘Perfectly Norman’ by Tom Percival and discuss how all of us are different and how our families may look different but are characterised by love and care and should be treated with respect.  Year 3&4: The workshop will explore how our families may all look different but all deserve to be treated with respect. We also explore what makes us all unique and how there are many aspects to each of our identities including our families, cultures, gender, religion, hobbies etc.  Year 5&6: The workshop uses the poet and campaigner Audre Lorde to introduce concepts relating to prejudice and discrimination and the importance of recognising and celebrating our differences.  If anyone has any questions about the content of the workshops, please just ask!  You do also have the right to withdraw your child from the workshops. You will need to speak to me if you wish to do this. | | |
| **Parent Consultations**  We are going to be holding parent consultation evenings for Class 1, 2 and 4 on Monday 25th March (3.30-6.30pm) and for Class 1 and 2 on Tuesday 26th March (3.30-5.30pm).  There will be an online booking system for these again using Parentpay. **The booking system will go live on Wednesday 6th March at 6.30pm.**  Don’t forget to book your slot!  Parent Consultations for Class 3 will be held after Easter**.** | **World Book Day**  We are celebrating World Book Day on Friday this week. The children are able to dress up if they wish- ideas from Ms Blake Darcy below:  **Class 1**: **Hamilton’s Hats**- wear a hat! Could be your woolly hat for winter, a favourite hat for summer, a funny hat or the hat of an ‘expert’ or adventurer… make a hat or wear one you already own. Let your imagination run wild! Children in Class 1 should wear their usual uniform with the addition of a hat.  **Class 2:** **The Storm Whale** – This tells the story of a little boy called Noi who lives in a house with many cats and his dad who is a sailor. He ventures out on his dad’s boat and befriends a lonely, lost whale. Come dressed as a sailor, a fisherman, a whale, Noi ready for adventure or even as one of his cats!  **Class 3:** **Sinbad the Sailor**- Come dressed as a sailor, an adventurer, or a mythical, magical sea creature!  **Class 4:** **The Last Bear** – This story is set in the Arctic circle. There are themes linked to climate change and standing up for relevant issues. Come as a placard/banner/protest poster/information document about an issue you are passionate about or cover yourself in facts about the Arctic. You could come dressed for an arctic adventure… You could be a polar bear or a scientist, an Arctic tern or a melting iceberg! | |
| **No water bottles in book bags- a plea!!**  We have had to throw away several reading books because the children’s water bottles have leaked in their book bags**.**  I know it is an easy way to carry them but please  think about whether this is a good idea! The books are expensive and we can’t afford to keep replacing them at £7 a book. |
| **World Book Day continued!**  Clare, from Cogito books in Hexham, is coming into school on World Book Day and will be leading a story session with each class. She will also be running a ‘pop up’ bookshop so that the children can ‘spend’ their World Book Day vouchers. She is bringing a range of other books into school so that the children have the opportunity to buy an additional book if you would like them to. There is no obligation to do this but, if you would like the children to do this, then they should bring in (no more than) £10 in a named envelope.  The list of books that Clare is recommending, with details about each book, will be sent out at the same time as this newsletter so that you can discuss the books with your children in advance to help them decide. | | |
| **Mathematical Eggstravaganza**  During the week before the Easter holidays, we will be holding a whole school *magnificent mathematical eggstravaganza !* This will be a competition based on number facts.  There will be prizes for individuals in each year group and also for the class whose collective score is the highest.  Each year group's quizzes will be based on the following:  Reception – subitising (subitising means being able to visually see a number of objects instantly without needing to count them out one at a time eg knowing the number of spots on a dice), 1 more and 1 less to 10, addition facts to 5 and to 10 using the ‘5's and some more structure’ (6=5+1, 7=5+2 etc) numeral recognition to 20  Y1 - bonds to 10 and bonds within 10, doubles up to 10+10, one more and two more or less to 50, 10 more or less to 100  Y2 - bonds to 10 and to 100.  Quick addition and subtraction crossing 10's boundary (5+7, 12-4, 28 + 5 etc)  Y3 - Multiplication tables, mental addition and subtraction  Y4 - Multiplication tables, mental addition and subtraction  Y5 & 6 - Multiplication tables, variety of key facts  There are a few on-line games that can help your child practise their recall of maths facts...  <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games>  Free app - White Rose 1 Minute Maths  Times Table Rockstars | | |
| **Friends Update**  Many thanks to those of you who attended the Friends meeting last week.  There are some events happening this half term, plus some dates to save for next.  **Monday 25th March- Easter cake sale**  Week beginning 25th March- Easter Smarties Challenge  Please SAVE THE DATE :  Sunday 12th May - colour run  Saturday 6th July -School summer fair | | |
| **Changes to Nursery Provision**  From September, we hope to be able to offer places to children in the **term before** their third birthday ie while they are still two.  In order to do this, we need to consult with parents and all other interested stakeholders as it means lowering our age range.  There will be a letter coming out later this week giving further information about this, including how to give us your views. Please do respond.  **Nursery hours for Summer Term**  There will be a letter coming out in the next week regarding summer hours for children currently in nursery. Please return your form no later than Monday 25th March and ensure that your code is in date. | | **Wrap around care**  Just a reminder of the hours for Wrap around care.  Breakfast Club is 7.45- 8.45am each morning.  After school club is 3.15- 4.30 pm on Monday and  3.15- 5.30 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.  A huge thank you to all of you who are now booking on line via Parentpay. I know there have been some teething problems with this new system so thank you all for your patience. |
| **Online safety:**  Internet Matters have put together some great interactive stories/lessons covering a range of issues from self-image and identity, online bullying, relationships and more. The interactive stories could be really useful for parents to go through with their children. More information can be found [**HERE**](https://esafety-adviser.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cbd59b76f0e1ad9db768db345&id=55e341d11d&e=6b96d9dde9).  **What is Palworld?** Palworld is a new game similar to Pokemon and Digimon with a PEGI rating of 12 for fantasy-character-style violence. Given its similarity to Pokemon there's every likelihood that younger children will be playing this game and so Internet Matters have compiled some advice and guidance for parents about the game: what it is, how it works, safety settings etc.  You can find the article [**HERE**](https://esafety-adviser.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cbd59b76f0e1ad9db768db345&id=e3beb9a7f9&e=6b96d9dde9). | | |
| **Attendance Matters!**  Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2, 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent. | | |
| **Parking**  NCC traffic officers are now regularly patrolling outside our school. THIS IS TO TRY AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN. Please park responsibly and use the cricket club car park where possible rather than double-parking which causes an obstruction to other road users and reduces visibility for those trying to cross the road. I have received further complaints from members of the community about the parking outside school.  Please help us to keep the children safe! | | |
| Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do get in touch or catch me before school. If I don’t know there’s a problem, I can’t sort it out!  Kind regards,  Mrs Trotter (Headteacher) | | |
| **Dates for your diary** | | |
| **MARCH** | |  |
| w/c 4th March | | Book week |
| Tues 5th March | | Diversity and Inclusion day |
| Fri 8th March | | World book day celebration |
| w/c 18th March | | DT days |
| Monday 25th March | | Easter cake sale  Parent consultations Class 1, 2 and 4  Smartie competition begins  Mathematical eggstravanganza this week |
| Tuesday 26th March | | Parent consultations Class 1 and 2 |
| **Thursday 28th March** | | **School closes for Easter** |
| **APRIL** | |  |
| Monday 15th April | | School re-opens |
| **MAY** | |  |
| Sunday 12th May | | Colour run |
| Friday 24th May | | Finish for half term |
| **JUNE** | |  |
| Monday 3rd June | | School re-opens |
| **JULY** | |  |
| Saturday 6th July | | Summer Fair |
| Friday 19th July | | School closes for the summer |