



Friday 18th January 2019

Dear Parents and children

Welcome back to term 3 which is quite a short one!



Confirming the remaining teacher training dates for the school year:

- Friday 5th April 2019
- Monday 3rd June 2019
- ***NEW*** Thursday 25th July 2019



If you wish to move your child to a different Swindon school, the system for doing so has recently changed to an online system. This means that the school does not know of the names of children possibly leaving until a much later date.

Could I please ask that if you do make an online transfer application that you inform the school office either before or as you do so?



A reminder that fitbits are not permitted in school as previously communicated. A basic analogue or digital watch may be worn, not smart devices such as fitbit or iwatch.



I have noticed a large number of boys have had their hair cut into the latest fashion, which in my opinion is very close to the guidelines we set. Please be mindful when your child asks for a particular style and that we do not allow tram lines.



PLEASE ensure that all of your child's clothing is named, particularly their coats. Our lost property box is emptied every week; staff try their very best to return items to owners but this is often difficult. There have been some expensive winter coats that have remained unclaimed!



We are extremely fortunate to have some amazing outdoor equipment within our school grounds for the children to use during the day.

We have noticed an increasing number of children, including siblings, climbing and playing on this equipment before and after school.

Please could we remind all parents and carers that children are not permitted to use the equipment at these times. We have repeated this message to the children in school and would appreciate your support by not allowing the children to do so.

Please could you pass this message onto any family member or child minder who may help with school drop offs and pick-ups. Many thanks.



Family Holidays in term time.

A reminder that the Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.

In order to try and reduce the number of families who take holiday in term time and being very aware of high costs, the Governors and I have decided to extend the holiday in academic year **October 2019 only**.

School will be closed to children from Monday 21st October 2019 for two weeks; children would return to school on Monday 4th November 2019.

Three Teacher Training Days will be allocated, making the holiday period a full 2 weeks.

I hope that the advance notice will enable many of you to find a holiday at a reasonable price and keep your children in school throughout all term times.

Let's

talk

It's the New Year and 2019 is full of promise... a good time to reflect. What was the most important lesson you learnt last year?



On May 4th/5th I will be embarking on a bit of a challenge. 2019 not only heralds a significant birthday but also 5 years since cancer affected my husband. In celebration of life I aim to walk 106km, that's 65+ miles around the Isle of Wightcontinuously!!

On Friday 1st February we will be dressing up in rainbow colours in support of all types of cancer – the more colourful the ensemble the better! We ask for a donation of £1 to support Cancer Research and hope that all children will join in.



Black Cat News

Foundation Stage

Our Foundation Stage children have blasted into space this week and our classrooms have become mission control!

The children have been having a wonderful time exploring outer space and listening to tales of famous astronauts such as Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. We have created models of space rockets and moon buggies and I have even seen some amazing writing about aliens! It really has been out of this world!

Year 1

In Year one this week I have spotted some posters popping up. Apparently a gingerbread man is on the loose at the school so the children have been describing him to help the little old lady and man to find him. The police have also been interested in talking to the fox and so Year one have made some wanted posters with lots of description to help them out. In Maths, the children have been thinking about adding and taking away to 10 first in their calculations. In Topic, children have been helping an explorer by learning some information about the Arctic.

Year 2

As I walked past the theatre, I noticed a sprinkling of flour all over the stage, a shiny gingerbread cutter, a huge mixing bowl, an open oven door and the tail of a fox. I was quite confused, it appeared the Year 1, and 2 children were too. After some discussion, the children believed the gingerbread man must have been trying to escape from the sly, cheeky fox. Unfortunately, both the gingerbread man and the fox are still missing. The children have let the rest of the school know by writing a newspaper report and making missing posters. Let's hope they find them!

My ears pricked up as I heard the word 'cone' coming from the Year 2 classrooms, I was hoping they were making ice creams but it appears they were talking about different shapes. The children have been looking at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been learning that shapes are all around us; maybe they can find different shapes at home too?

Year 3

Year 3 have been as busy as ever. They have made a great start to this term and are busy getting their "paws" stuck into some new methods in Maths. The children have been learning to use a grid method to solve 2 digit multiplication problems - "Pawsome" work guys!

In English, they have been letting their imaginations run wild, as we went on an adventure to Lilliput, in Gulliver's travels. Children have been thinking carefully about using exciting vocabulary to describe the characters and settings in the story. I wonder if he met any strange black cats on his journey?

Year 4

The children have had a very paws-itive start to the year. I have seen how enthusiastic they are about their new topic, the Romans, and they are in for a treat when they start looking at a few more aspects of Roman life such as Roman warriors and banquets. They are also looking forward to writing fantasy stories in English.

Year 5

Happy New Year to everyone; we are looking forward to a paw-some 2019 with our Year 5 children. When I prowled along the Year 5 corridor, I heard the whistle and chug of a steam engine; what is going on? I asked myself. Then I saw; they are focusing on 'The invention of Hugo Cabret' for their writing. I am looking forward to finding out who this mysterious boy is; why he is in the station; why his notebook is so important to him and what this invention is. It is a purr-fectly amazing story I am sure!

Not only do they have a great book in English but also they are finding out about one of my favourite subjects in Science and French – the planets! They are naming and describing them in French and finding out lots of amazing information about the Solar System in Science – To infinity and beyond!

Year 6

The Year six children have arrived back in school, keen and ready to learn. When I visited the upper corridor, together we stepped into the mysterious world of Hugo Cabret. Within the pages of this amazing adventure story, we discovered why Hugo is so keen to stay hidden within the dark eerie tunnels of a Parisian train station. However, my super senses tell me that there are many more secrets yet to be revealed. What is the significance of the notebook? Why is he alone? Why does the toy keeper seem so interested in the notebook too?

In Science, our su-purr-ior scientists have planned a light investigation due to be completed this week and in Maths, they are getting to grips with decimals. It has been a paw-some start to 2019.

Yours sincerely



Frances Billinge
Headteacher