



Friday 22nd March 2019

Dear Parents and Children



Year 5 Maths Challenge Competition

Year 5 have once again done Haydonleigh proud! Last Tuesday Mrs Mace accompanied a group of children to Bradon Forest School for a Year 5 Maths Challenge Competition. The four Year 5s battled through rounds of mental maths challenges, problem solving and team work to successfully become crowned the champions. Yay! Well done Harry, Sofia, Tom and Sophie.



The choir had an amazing time singing on stage at the Wyvern last week. They were dressed up in their Abba flares and sang their hearts out to all of the songs from The Greatest Showman, Mamma Mia and other shows. We were the largest choir there and probably had the smallest dressing room backstage! We all had great fun, especially Mrs Peapell!

Well done to the School's gymnastics team who won the Swindon School Games event for the second year running. The children competed against 12 other schools and won with an amazing overall score of 49.5 (out of 50).



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?

Let's

talk

At the end of this month the clocks 'spring' forward one hour, marking the beginning of British Summer Time. Do you know why? What will you do with the extra evening daylight?

You know what I'm going to say don't you!! With only 42 days left until my Isle of Wight Challenge I will be using all daylight hours to walk, walk and then walk some more!!!!



I have noticed a number of children wearing trainers instead of school shoes this week. Whilst I am sympathetic to circumstances eg shoes being left after a visit to a separated parent's house, I would expect school footwear to be in line with policy within a couple of days.

A reminder that all items of uniform should be named.



All children need to bring a water bottle into school each day. If your child brings a packed lunch from home they also need a suitable drink please.



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 **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.



Black Cat News

Foundation Stage

It's been reading, reading, reading in our Foundation Stage this week with our annual 'Brilliant Book Week'. We enjoyed sharing our favourite stories from home and also looked at the fantastic authors Mick Inkpen, Jill Murphy, Nick Sharratt and Julia Donaldson. The children wrote recipes, lost posters, shopping lists and stories, created shark hats, painted their favourite characters and even made Gruffalo crumble! What a fantastic way to celebrate reading with our youngest children.

Year 1

When I popped by on Tuesday this week the Year One classrooms were empty! I was relieved to see the children back here on Wednesday and I found out all about their trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park in their lovely writing. It seems they are super at spotting which animals are mammals, reptiles, birds, fish or amphibians!

The teachers also told me the children were great at recalling the questions they'd written for the park keepers. In Maths the children have been practising how to use standard measures. Maybe one of them can check if my tail has gotten any longer? I spied some lovely works of pottery in the classrooms with interesting patterns. I hope they dry soon so I can see what they look like painted!

Year 2

The Year 2 children have been investigating what plants need to grow. I could see some cress seeds growing in the windows and they were looking lovely and green. However, for some reason they put some cress seeds in the cupboards, perhaps they didn't want me to find them. Well I sniffed them out but when I found them they looked all flimsy and yellow so I didn't try to eat them! Lots of the cress seeds didn't grow at all because the children must have forgotten to give them water and put them in a sunny place! The children are finding out about a place in India called Chembakolli, which looks lovely and warm. They are looking forward to their Indian Day next week, I hear that they are coming to school dressed in colourful clothes and celebrating what they have learnt. I'm hoping that they do some cooking so that I can eat any leftovers!

Year 3

As I prowled down Year 3 this week, the children were writing their "TAILS" of adventure. The children were really thinking hard about their choice of vocabulary and how to make their audience feel a sense of danger and excitement - PAW-some work Year 3. In Maths, children were continuing to work on their fraction knowledge, by finding fractions of a number - it was all a bit tricky for a tabby like me, but I do wonder if I only eat $\frac{1}{3}$ of my tuna, will I have more left for later?

Year 4

Year 4 have been very busy designing and building their Roman huts over the last few days. They look amazing! In Science, the children have been busy carrying out experiments involving solids, liquids and gases. Firstly, they investigated carbon dioxide in fizzy drinks and last week they looked at the melting points of a variety of materials. I've heard a few conversations about PGL recently too...I think they are excited.

Year 5

I enjoyed finding out about the Ancient Egyptians in Year 5 recently! They worshipped cats like me! What good taste they had! Not too sure I would like to be mummified though! Amazing facts about how the River Nile was so paw-some for them, they used it to help with farming, keeping their animals and it made their life successful. Their gods are a tail-ented group, looking after all aspects of ancient Egyptian life but the weighing of the heart could be brutal if you did not live a good life! I can't wait to read their finished myths based on 'Theseus and the Minotaur', they look purr-fectly su-purr-rior so far!

Year 6

Where can you find out about the labours of genuine Greek heroes? Where can you meet an array of fearsome mythical beasts? Where can find a huge selection of myth-inspired stories guaranteed to spark the imagination? Within the pages of year six literacy books of course. Inside the purple covers, myths of ancient Greece unfold revealing the most dramatic and unforgettable tales of greed, arrogance, war, and betrayal ever told. Mythical creatures, heroic battles, vile curses and the wrath of the Gods are weaved into intricate plots with so many twists and turns that just keep the pages turning. Epic tales, written by epic writers. Absolutely pawsome!

Billinge

Yours sincerely,

Frances Billinge
Headteacher