



Friday 3rd May 2019

Dear Parents and Children

Thanks to all the children who took part in our 2019 Reading Challenge. It was lovely to see the children reading a wide range of books and authors. The class who had the most children who took part was Mrs Shea's class in Year 1. Well done - they will get to choose some lovely new books for their classroom.



We are sometimes asked by parents how they can support learning at home.

Oxford Owl is an award winning website with 250 free ebooks for you to share with your child. There is a range of different types of books all graded so you can find the perfect book for your child to share and enjoy.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/library-page>

Helping your child to learn to read and learn to love reading is one of the greatest gifts you can give them.



Dates for your Diary

Year 6 SAT's week commencing 13th May
Class Photos Thursday 23rd May
PTA Disco Thursday 23rd May
Teacher Training Day Monday 3rd June
Classes 10-21 Sports Day Thursday 13th June starting at 1.30pm.
Classes 1-9 Sports Day Monday 17th June starting at 9am.
PTA non uniform day Friday 14th June.
PTA Summer Fayre Friday 5th July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly Wednesday 24th July starting at 9am.
Teacher Training Day Thursday 25th July.



Family Holidays in term time.

Schools have a very full curriculum to follow within the term time given and any absence has a negative effect on a child's learning. Whilst we acknowledge that illness cannot be helped, holidays should be taken during school closure periods. Following Government expectations on attendance no leave of absence/holiday will be authorised for any child, irrespective of their attendance, except for exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing, addressed to the Headteacher. 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 will 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.



On Friday 24th May, we will be taking part in a sponsored jog around the school. Children can come to school in suitable 'jogging' clothes for a suggested donation of £1. All money raised will go to the Alzheimer's Society.



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.

Let's

Talk

A huge congratulations to Mrs 'Ace' Mace who completed the London Marathon on Sunday, raising thousands of pounds for the NSPCC!

Mrs Billinge has also completed her final training, as this weekend she takes on the mighty challenge of trekking the *entire* coastline of the Isle of Wight, to raise funds for Cancer Research!

Which event have you always dreamt of taking part in?

Hmmm, don't tell Mr Billinge, but there is a walk called the Camino de Santiago that I'd really like to do ...it's 780km (nearly 500 miles) and takes 35 days if you do it in one go!!!



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?



Foundation Stage

We have gone back in time in our Foundation Stage classes this week - a huge set of rusty old keys appeared and we believe they open the door to a castle! We have been discovering how life was in medieval times and have made information leaflets to share with others. It's been so much fun dressing up and role playing brave knights, handsome Kings and beautiful Princesses together and I happily joined in as Puss in Boots!

Year 1

This week I could not believe my luck when as I strolled past Year 1 and saw a delicious looking barn owl land right against the theatre window! I went in to get a closer look but decided it best not to try any of large! The children, however, looked delighted and seemed to learn quite a lot about the birds of prey. In English they even wrote a recount of what they'd seen and learnt. The children have also been thinking about adjectives to describe Croc and Bird's parents. I can think of a few adjectives to describe myself; charismatic, intelligent, charming...In Maths the children have really been getting to grips with groupings and arrays, using lots of practical activities – lots of learning can come from lego! In both Science and Topic the children have been exploring the school grounds and getting in touch with nature, learning about types of trees and using more adjectives to describe the things they found.

Year 2

My ears pricked up when I heard the sound of a trumpet coming from Year 2. The children were listening to some music that was from the Baboon on the Moon story and making predictions about what they think would happen in the story; the children thought of some good ideas. To help with the story of Baboon on the Moon, all of the Year 2 children have been learning about real baboons. They have learnt lots of new facts; did you know that a baboon is an omnivore? I only like eating scrumptious tuna but they will eat anything! The children are in the process of writing a non-chronological report to show off all their writing skills.

I was creeping down the corridor when I heard lots of different words like 'forwards, backwards, anti-clockwise, clockwise, quarter turn' and I looked through the window and the children were guiding their partner in the classroom. The children were all using great listening skills when following their partner's instructions. The children then completed lots of different position and direction questions using the new positional language they had learnt.

Year 3

What an exciting start to term 5 year 3 have had! On Tuesday, it seemed there had been a mutiny on board the Haydon-spaniola. We had been taken over by a crew of scurvy ridden buccaneers, on the lookout for the long-lost treasure of the evil Cap'n Flint. The crew mates got to work, quick sharp sewing up their swag bags to stash the loot. Fortunately nobody was marooned and the children were safely returned the next day!

As I peeped in on Thursday, however, it seemed they were yet again off on an adventure to Bristol (coincidentally home to the notorious Captain Blackbeard). Luckily, the children had a lovely time at We The Curious science museum and had not come across any pirates on their journey. The children returned with fantastic tales of what they had learned and memories of the fun they had.

Year 4

All very busy on residential, so I hear. It was very quiet without them!

Year 5

Well, I know it was quiet on the year 5 and 6 corridor last Thursday – the Year 5 children had gone to Nova Hreod to experience a day in a secondary school and what a paw-some time they had! They were finding out why the Nova house teams are called Cygnus, Aquila, Orion and Pegasus. Apparently, they are named after Ancient Greek mythological characters, which became constellations of stars! The year 5's had a great time doing drama, writing poems or their own myths, making artistic interpretations and music all to do with the stars – they said it was a purr-fect day. I can't wait to hear all about their visit to Coleshill to study the River Cole!

Year 6

Work in year six began this week with the voyage that shook the world – the voyage of Charles Darwin aboard the HMS Beagle. The task to write an obituary celebrating his life and work; the challenge, to write a piece, which will describe his greatest achievements and recount the most significant events of his life. Moving through year 6, I marvelled at the children's understanding of how animals have adapted and evolved to their habitat over time and at their understanding of Darwin's big theory. Like Darwin, this week the children have been exploring how the shape of a bird's beak allows it to access different food sources in a given habitat. The beaks represented by tweezers and clips of different sizes, the food sources sweets. It was the purr-fect lesson, as we were able to eat the sweets at the end. YUM! A fabulous start to term 5.

Yours sincerely,



Frances Billinge
Headteacher