



Friday 14th June 2019

Dear Parents and Children



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 18th June Non uniform day – stem cell DKMS suggested donation £1.

Sports Day Classes 10-21 Thursday 27th June starting at 1.30pm.

Sports Day Classes 1-9 Tuesday 2nd July starting at 1.30pm.

PTA Summer Fayre Friday 5th July

Year 6 Leavers Assembly Wednesday 24th July starting at 9am.

Teacher Training Day Thursday 25th July.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY 2020

Can I bring to your attention the fact that the Government have moved the first bank holiday in May from Monday 3rd to Friday 8th May. See article below.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48565417>



Tuesday 18th June – children are invited to wear non uniform in support of DKMS. I know this is very close to the last non uniform day but this is the only date we could host the stem cell donation. We do have a child in school who has recently been diagnosed with leukaemia so this cause has definite resonance.

Parents – please consider joining us in the theatre any time between 9-6pm on Tuesday for a simple mouth swab that you will do yourself to register as a donor.



This is Sky. She is currently being trained to be an assistance dog by one of our parents and you may see her on the playground. Could we remind children she is a working dog and please ask before touching her.



Congratulations to our team of 8 Year 2 athletes who attended The Wiltshire and Swindon School Games event at the county ground on Tuesday. They had to run 400m, throw a vortex as far as they could, jump into the sand and sprint as fast as they could! All of our children were amazing and we came 5th overall out of 18 other schools. We even had a gold medal because Mia was the highest scoring girl there!



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.



When driving your child to school you have a responsibility to drive and park in a safe and considerate manner, if you don't, you could be endangering a child's life.

Please park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for pupils.

If you need to drive your child to school, for the safety of all our families, please remember:

- ° Please use the Morrisons Car Park
- ° Please do not block driveways and dropped kerbs
- ° Please do not park in private parking spaces
- ° No parking on single or double yellow lines
- ° No double parking
- ° No stopping, dropping or parking on the School Keep Clear yellow zig zags
- ° No parking on corners or junctions, especially near the school entrances

By remembering these points not only will you improve the safety of the area surrounding your child's school, but you will also avoid receiving a parking ticket!



Parent Volunteers

Can you help?

Reading is an important part in a child's learning. As a school we want to provide every child the opportunity to develop a love for reading.

It is proven that children who read daily are more likely to have accelerated progress.

Can you spare an hour or more a week?

Would you like to help children in our school improve their reading?

Yes! Please let the school office know and Mrs Peapell will be in touch.



Thank you Haydonleigh!

We raised £674.85 for the Alzheimer's Society



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?



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.



Foundation Stage

What an exciting couple of weeks in Foundation Stage. We have started a topic about mini beasts and have been learning all about life cycles. Each class have baby caterpillars that are growing fast and we are watching eagerly to see them spin a cocoon and eventually turn into beautiful butterflies. We were also excited to have a visit from Jonathan's Jungle and all his amazing creatures. The children were all very confident handling the mini beasts and even snakes! Not sure all of the teachers were quite so brave!!!!

Year 1

This week as I've strolled past the Year one corridor, I've heard lots of fantastic phonemes as the children have been demonstrating their super reading. In English the children have begun to think about their very own story characters, ready for next week. In Art I have spotted some lovely sketches of animals. I tried to pose for them but I was much too fidgety! In Science it would appear the children are growing me some cress for my sandwiches; however, some of the seeds don't appear to be doing as well as others. The children have had to observe them carefully and describe their findings. In Maths it's about time for the children to be able to read and draw o'clock. Feel free to quiz them on this at home!

Year 2

Lately, I have been enjoying my afternoon snoozes in the Year 2 corridor listening to their class story of Fantastic Mr Fox. I can't believe how mean the farmers were to Mr Fox and his family but us animals always outsmart the humans in the end! It appears I wasn't the only one enjoying the story as the Year 2 children have all loved it too. They have really understood the character of Mr Fox as they wrote a character descriptions about him. The children all used lovely vocabulary to describe his appearance and personality. They also used some great vocabulary in their Science work when they were describing a new place for Mr Fox and his family to live because his house was destroyed! Later in the week they even spent some time pretending they were Mr Fox and writing a letter to Mr Fox's cousin explaining the eventful time he has had recently.

Year 3

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Year 3 have been exploring the features of newspaper reports and getting their "paws" to grips with some puns and alliteration to excite and engage their readers.

In Maths, children have been securing their time telling skills by learning analogue to the nearest minute and converting to digital. All very tricky when you have paws instead of "hands"

Year 4

The children have been looking at portal stories since their return and have been focusing on the classic book The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – one of my favourites. They are in the process of planning their very own portal story but have been busy writing diary entries from the point of view of one of the main characters, Lucy. In Maths, the theme at the moment is Statistics where they've been constructing bar graphs and line graphs. 'Vive La France' is this term's topic and so far, they have looking at the major cities within this beautiful country and I hear that they are looking to move onto one of their most famous artists. MMM...who could it be?

Year 5

WOW. In Year 5 they have been finding out about how living things are classified, I hope they realise I'm a purr-fect mammal! These clever-clawed children have been identifying features of the particular groups (fish is my own purrsonal favourite!). As part of this learning they visited Bristol Zoo to identify some of these animal groups. As well as this, they had a brilliant introduction to their next Science topic of lifecycles. In their English, they are deciding what makes a good zoo and writing a balanced argument to put points for and against whether Bristol Zoo is a good zoo and what it could do to be even better.

Year 6

Storytelling, conveying atmosphere, creating character and persuasion are just a few of the writing skills the Year 6 children have demonstrated recently. With all that effort, it's a wonder that no one has joined me for a catnap in the sun. Time has flown by with so many challenging projects to embrace: artwork linked to fossils, internet research themed around animals (including big cats), drop in visits from secondary school teachers and the launch of an amazing Maths project involving the design and costing of an amazing new theme park. Best challenge of all was Junior Good Citizen, where the children encountered a range of health professionals learning many important lessons about how to keep themselves safe in the community, dog safety, stranger danger, electrical safety and so much more. So much to do, so little time. Purr-fect for Year 6 children who thrive on being busy.

Yours sincerely,



Frances Billinge
Headteacher