

Weekly updates 17.05.2019

The school Photographer will be in school next Thursday 23rd May to take class photographs of the children so please ensure they are wearing full school uniform with a red cardigan or sweatshirt please.

Finally, a reminder that it is a Staff PD Day next Friday, the last day of term is Thursday 23rd May and we will return on Monday 3rd June.

Next week is also "Walk to School Week". We look forward to as many of you as possible walking, scooting or cycling. The J.R.S.Os will be handing out stickers on the gate for extra incentive!

Early years

On Friday 7th June we would like all the children to come into school to celebrate Pyjamarama! This National event organised by the Charity Bookstart is to raise funds and raise awareness of the importance of reading books at bedtime.

We will be asking for a voluntary donation of £1 from each child for wearing their pyjamas please for this really worthwhile cause! Also we would love to see any photos of children in their pyjamas listening to their bedtime stories on Tapestry so we can show all the children, thank you!

As the weather is getting warmer please ensure your child has a sunhat in school.

Nursery

This week we have been looking at the book 'Dear Zoo'. The children have all painted pictures of the animals in the story, or their favourite animal which we have put on display. We wrote a letter to the Zoo to ask if they could send us a pet and we received a special delivery of some sea monkeys! However, the most exciting thing this week has been seeing our butterflies unfold their wings as they came out of their chrysalis!!

Next week we will be changing our role play area into a Vets, please can you send us pictures of your pets so we can add these to our display?!

Our letter of the week is v.

Reception

We have enjoyed using all the donated 'junk recycling' to make musical instruments. We created small bands and used the instruments to accompany our singing.

We have been finding out about the damage plastic is having in our seas. We read a book about a turtle that became very ill after swallowing a plastic carrier bag. All the children have helped Mrs. Smith create a brilliant display depicting this which we will put onto Tapestry when it is finished. We have been very impressed with the children's reactions and responses to the topic of recycling, looking after their environment. We have noticed a difference in the amount of paper thrown away because they have been reusing it and they are always making sure we turn the lights off when we aren't in the room!

We would like to invite the gentlemen to join us in the week prior to Father's Day, the week beginning 11th June. A sign-up sheet will go up next week for you to choose the best afternoon that week for you to come into school. Unfortunately due to space we cannot accommodate siblings and only one special person (male!)

After Half Term, from the Monday 17th June until the end of term we would like to invite you to come into school and be our Mystery Reader, the idea is a parent, carer or grandparent comes into school at the end of the day to read a story to the class but we don't tell the children who it is! The children all sit with their eyes closed and then after a countdown the teacher and mystery reader have swapped places. The look of amazement on the children's faces when they see who it is fantastic! Please see Mrs. Reynolds one morning to arrange a day.

Have a lovely weekend

The Reception & Nursery Weekend

Year 1

We have had great fun writing dinosaur poetry this week. Next week we are looking at the more dinosaur based fiction writing.

We will also be working on money and giving change.

Thank you for your support with the dinosaur homework so far this term. The children have spoken about it enthusiastically at school!

We will be sharing our favourite bit of homework with the rest of the class next week. One colour group will share per day, apart from Thursday when we will have two groups showing their work.

Monday Purple group
Tuesday Red group
Wednesday Green group
Thursday Yellow and Blue group
P.D.Day -----

Thank you for your support with this.

Some children are saying that their trainers are a bit tight. We would be very grateful if you could check to see if your child's trainers are still a good fit, many thanks.

We would be very grateful if your child could regularly visit the phonics website www.phonicsplay.co.uk over half term. This will help keep their phonic knowledge fresh for our return to school, thank you!

Have a lovely weekend.

The Year One Team.

Year 2

In our topic work this week we have learned about the life of Vincent Van Gogh, and used his style of painting to make our own sunflower pictures. We contrasted this with the work of artist Patrick Caulfield – the children have been able to discuss which style they prefer and why. Ask your child what they think!

In English this week Mrs Alexander & Mrs Gilbert's group have been making books about minibeasts, while Mr Winch's group are writing an alternate version of James & The Giant Peach. In Maths, both groups continue to revisit aspects of the curriculum which were taught earlier in the year.

A final reminder that any outstanding **Castle Hedingham reply slips** need to be handed in by next Wednesday – we will not be able to take your child without this. If you require the school to provide a packed lunch for the trip, please let a member of the Year 2 team know.

Have a great weekend

The Year 2 Team

Year 3

We have had another busy week in Year 3. As we approach the last week of the half term, we have lots of exciting activities planned!

In RE we will be learning about some of the parables Jesus told. The Computing lesson will be using the programme 'Scratch'. The children will be adding the silhouette of Stonehenge to their washes, they are looking wonderful! On Thursday we will be changing our timetable for the last day of the half term. We will have a History focus involving a hunter/gatherer activity outside. Watch out for those woolly mammoths! The children will be watching the film Ice Age as class treats for completing their silver class merit cards. This ties in with our Stone Age unit of work and is a fun and fitting end to the half term.

Have a lovely weekend,

Year 3 Team

Year 4

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Art Gallery on Tuesday this week! We are sure that you agree the children had some very pleasing results with their Pop-Art printing and portraits! We have many budding artists! On Wednesday, continuing our study of the collages of Matisse, we have started our own collages of Viking longboats and this will continue next week.

On Monday this week in Science we learned about the different ways musical instruments make sound and we looked inside the ear to find out how it works. See if your child can remember what the ossicles are and what they do! On Thursday we learned about Anglo Saxon place names.

We are only a few weeks away from the Year 4's electronic Times Tables Test! We hope that the children are making the most of TT Rock Stars and Mathletics to support this. This week we have been rounding decimals and looking at both time and money. The best way to support your child with their understanding of time is to make sure they can see different clocks in the home and wear a watch. They need to be familiar with both 24hr digital and analogue. Please practise reading an analogue clock with your child, as 21st Century children find it very difficult!

From this week, we have set maths homework on Mathletics. The children have had a few months to familiarise themselves with the website and try activities. Many children have been presented with Certificates from their achievements on Mathletics and they have been making good use of this site to support their learning in a fun way. Now they will have weekly maths homework to complete on Mathletics, like they will do in Year 5. We have demonstrated use of the site in lessons and also shown the children how their teachers will monitor their progress online. Mathletics is a useful learning tool and we have gradually prepared the children for the higher levels of homework that will be expected in Year 5.

Please remember that the four pieces of homework for this half-term are due in next week.

Have a lovely weekend!

Year 4 team

Year 5

We can't believe how quickly this half-term has flown by. The children have been very busy and supportive of the Year 6 children who have been sitting their SATS papers.

Next week, the children will make their miniature clay Mayan masks, which they have already designed. In French, they will consolidate their knowledge of holiday vocabulary and make a postcard. In Science, the children will learn about the life cycle of an amphibian. In History, the children will plot Mayan cities on a map and conduct an historical picture study. Indoor PE is dance and outdoor PE is athletics. Please ensure your child has a sunhat.

If you have received a letter regarding the girls 4x4 football tournament, can you please return the reply slip no later than Monday please, or contact the school office directly, thank you.

Have a good weekend

The Year 5 Teaching Team

Year 6

We are all glad the week is over! The children have worked incredibly hard throughout the week, as well as in the run up to SATs, and we are so proud of them.

Following SATs week, we have launched our 'End of year challenge' for Year 6. The purpose of this challenge is to give the children the opportunity to raise funds for their end-of-year activities. This challenge follows the format of an enterprise project, where the

children take on business roles. Once we have received a successful bid - following the Dragons Den style pitch - we will be providing the groups with an initial investment of £5.00. It is their challenge to be as profitable in their venture as possible, in order to grow their investment.

This project is child-led and should require minimum involvement on your part. However, we do ask that you are as supportive as possible in this venture. Most of the project (including planning and preparation) will take place during school hours, however undoubtedly some groups will be organising and discussing elements of the challenge in their own time.

The children have spent time today working on their initial ideas and we have been impressed with the creativity evidenced. Their ideas will be put to the test next Tuesday afternoon, whereby each group will pitch their ideas to the Dragons. If the children would like to bring a change clothes for their pitch, i.e. smart business attire, they are more than welcome to!

Any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Miss Woods or Mr Crew.

We are now able to confirm some definite dates for your diary – please keep them free! Further details are to follow.

Dates to remember:

- £5 enterprise fundraiser event : Friday 28th June, 3.30 – 5.00pm
- End of Year 6 leavers event : Thursday 18th July, 5.00 – 8.00pm
- Leavers assembly : Friday 19th July, 10.00 -11am

Next week, the focus will return to producing writing evidence for end-of-year assessment. Although the children have completed their SATs tests, we will continue to work on other aspects of the curriculum.

If you have received a letter regarding the girls 4x4 football tournament, can you please return the reply slip no later than Monday please, or contact the school office directly, thank you.

We hope the children enjoy a well-earned break this weekend, thank you for your continued support,

The Year 6 Team