



February 2023

Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.56

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, can I say a huge thank you for all of your donations to the Earthquake appeal. We managed to raise a total of £1001.67! We have also delivered all the clothing donations to our distribution centre contacts. It is really great to know that our community can rally together to help those in need in such a short timeframe. I felt a huge amount of pride having a car full of bags to drop off to the collection venue, knowing they will go to help the families that have been devastated by this disaster.



Attendance



School success starts
with attendance

I updated you last term with our concerns around Attendance, in particular our Persistent Absenteeism. Last academic year, the National Averages for attendance was **95.4%** and the Persistent Absenteeism was **12.1%**.

In our December Newsletter, our attendance percentage was **92.8%** and **Persistent Absenteeism level was 22.8%**. Our year to date figures have since improved and our attendance figure is at **93.5%** with our **Persistent Absenteeism rate is now 20.7%**

Thank you for your continued help and support in improving these attendance figures, it is very much appreciated.

Academisation Update

Our academisation application has been submitted and we are on the agenda for the Regional Advisory Board on February 23rd. As soon as I have any further updates I will let you know. Fingers crossed that the next stage of the process can begin.

Library Update:

Here is a sneaky peak of part of the wall wrap that will be installed in the library during half term. The children have been heavily involved in the design features, book choices and feedback process. We were on version 5 by the time I approved the final design, so I am confident it will look great! Hopefully the children will be as excited as the adults to visit the new library after half term.



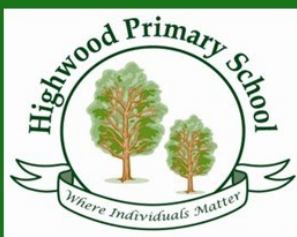
We have also appointed a school librarian that will be in the library during all the timetabled sessions to help support children choosing books they will enjoy.

Have a restful break!

Thank you for your support

Matt Hickey

Headteacher



Foundation 1 News

Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Vanka, Mrs Cooper, Miss Ryan, Miss Bailey, Miss Mair

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy first half of the Spring Term in F1. We have begun exploring our new topic which is **'Why do things change?'** and have welcomed a new group of F1 children into the setting. We've been really impressed with how quickly they've settled and how helpful the older children have been.

We started this term learning about the different seasons of the year. We were blessed with a cold snap and had fun playing with ice we found in the garden. The children were very good at telling us what would happen in Winter - Santa, making snowmen and having to wrap up warm. When we moved on to Spring, the children made some beautiful Spring crafts and learnt to sing a Spring song called, "It's Springtime." We made butterflies and finger-painted Spring trees with blossom or fresh, green leaves. We used our observation skills to find signs of Spring - we saw buds on the trees and saw daffodils emerging.

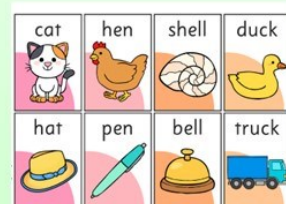


The children have also been developing their listening, attention and teamwork skills during P.E. They especially enjoyed "Run Rabbit Run" and stealing the foxes' tails in "catch the tail". These types of activities enable the children to learn how to follow instructions and work together in order to play the game. During P.E, we have also been learning to move in different ways and exploring the different ways our bodies can move.



During this half of term we also celebrated Chinese New Year. It was lovely that we have a child in the class that actually celebrates this festival so they were able to share their experiences and their mummy very kindly made Chinese dumplings for us to taste. They were so yummy! We made drums to scare away Nian, made Chinese dragons and red lanterns, role played in our Chinese restaurant and enjoyed lots of "lucky" red and gold messy play.

In phonics this half term, we've looked at rhyming. The children have all loved the rhyming books and always enjoy a favourite nursery rhyme. We've been thinking about how rhyming words sound the same at the end and also the shape your mouth makes is also the same. We have also been thinking about simple sentences when we've played our "jumping sentence" game. We look at an action card and then jump the number of words in the sentence we create e.g. "She is hopping" or "The boy is sleeping."



Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during this half of term and we look forward to welcoming the children back after their break!

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see what we are up to each week! @HighwoodPrimFS1



Foundation 2 News

Miss Hargreaves & Mrs Parker

Mrs Newham, Miss Finch, Miss Webb, Mrs Alleyne, Miss Briggs

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy learning about space as part of our topic: 'How is the World filled with colour' Take a look!



Curiosity fuelled the start of our term when we found that a space ship had landed in our outside area! We investigated the clues left behind to work out how it got there. Eventually we had to make a phone call to NASA to see if they were missing one of their rockets!



The children have been exploring numbers' and investigating one more and one less. We have enjoyed learning what makes a 9 or a 4 and what is the same and what is different about them. We have also looked at how whole numbers can be split into two smaller parts!



We have completed phase 2 phonics, and are working our way through phase 3. The children are becoming really confident with writing words and simple sentences **independently**. It is great to see children use writing to enrich their play!



Recently, we have been engaging in new books in our reading corner. We are delighted to see so many children choosing to read in learning zone. They definitely love learning all about Space!

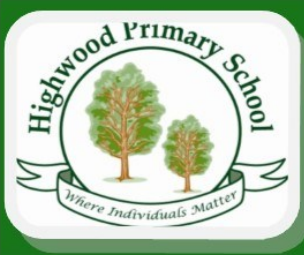


Our topic has inspired great **creativity**, with children choosing to create a range of things from paintings of planets, to creating junk modelling Rockets!



Thank you to all the parents who have continued to support us this half term and we look forward to seeing you after half term. Enjoy the holidays.

Find us on Twitter : @HighwoodPrimF2P, @HighwoodPrimF2H



Year 1 News - Spring 1

Miss Hughes, Miss Bolger and Mrs Garner

Mrs Tiwari, Mrs Wheeler, Miss Robins, Miss Mubashar

Year 1 have had a wonderful start to the New Year. The children have shown their curiosity and have put in lots of effort in all their lessons..

Will we play with the same toys when we are older?

Science



We have been exploring what things are made of this term, looking at many different materials and where these are found. The children have

been very creative in their ideas and really thought outside of the box.

Maths

This term, we have revisited place value, addition and subtraction by looking at our numbers to 20. We have thought about how numbers can be split into tens and ones and how we can use our number-bond knowledge to help us find the answer. We have also practised building our own number lines and have begun to estimate.



History and Art



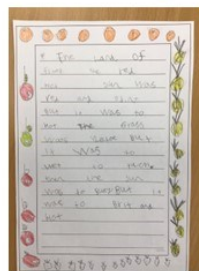
As part of our Key Question, we have been looking at the history of the toys and how they have developed over time. We can explain some of

the key differences between the toys of the past and the toys we have at home - we enjoyed being able to look at old toys and thought about which ones we would have liked to have. We have looked more specifically at the history of LEGO and considered how and why it changed to become what it is today. In art, we have been so excited to begin painting. We have practised colour mixing, using our primary colours to make

secondary colours, as well as using white and black to help us explore tone and how this changes a painting. We have tried painting a toy and are going to evaluate how we can improve our paintings after half-term.



English and Music



Our story focus this term was 'The Nutcracker'. We found this story fascinating and loved creating our own version of 'the Land of Sweets' The children have impressed us with the way they have

challenged themselves to improve their writing and have carefully considered the best adjectives to use. We have also explored how 'The Nutcracker' was created to be a ballet in our music. We have carefully considered the different songs (our favourite was The Russian Dance) and have even tried some of the dance moves as well.



Follow us on Twitter for more updates::

@HighwoodPrim1H

(Miss Hughes)

@HighwoodPrim1BG

(Ms Bolger/Mrs Garner)



Year 2 News - Spring 1



Miss Hulme, Ms Sandhu,

Mrs Butler, Miss Roberts, Miss Hayward

Our key question has been very popular and the children have loved filling their backpacks and travelling the world to learn all about the different countries, continents and oceans. It seems we have some budding adventurers and explorers who are very eager to explore the world!

Where in the world would we like to explore?

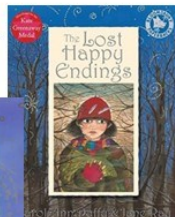
English

To help us understand more about different countries and cultures, we have studied various traditional tales from around the world. We have focused on 'The Crane Girl' which is a Japanese folk tale and then used our creative writing skills to re-write it using our own hero and villain character.



Whole Class Reading

We have been reading 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy. The children gave such insightful opinions and detailed reasons during the tasks and loved the beautiful illustrations.



Geography



Our atlas and map work has never been better!

The children can confidently name, locate and discuss facts about the seven continents and five oceans already and we're only halfway through the topic!

Maths

We have been very busy this half term- we've learnt about 2D and 3D shapes, money and most recently multiplication, which we will continue exploring after the holidays. We are hoping to spot one of the new coins or notes with King Charles on very soon!

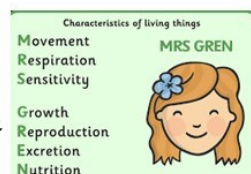


British Money



Science

We have enjoyed exploring our local habitat and learning all about what a habitat is and the different types of habitats. We were especially intrigued by the mole hills!



MRS GREN has helped us to remember the 7 characteristics of living things, where we have enjoyed learning some new scientific vocabulary!

Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2H @HighwoodPrim2S



Year 3 News

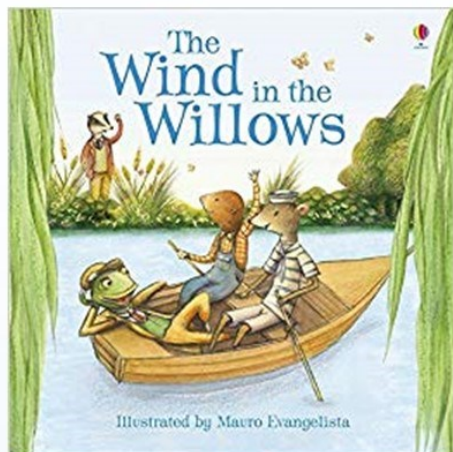
Miss Rumbold, Mrs Hartgrove, Dr Read



How has water shaped our World?

English

Year 3 have had an exciting start of term, imagining that they are Mr Mole and writing a diary entry about the day that they ventured into the Wild Wood - scary stuff! We have also enjoyed rewriting our own tale for Toad and spent a long time thinking about how to use sentences effectively, and speech, in our writing.



Whole Class Reading

We read the classic text 'The Wind in the Willows' this term and the children could see the differences between each of the character's personalities. There is so much wonderful vocabulary in this book! All of this helped hugely in our writing in English. We are also reading 'The River Singers', which is similar to 'The Wind in the Willows' in using animals as central characters. We have met a family of voles, who need to shelter constantly from the dangers that the area around the river can bring.

Maths

The children have been working hard on multiplication. We have realised the relationship between multiplying a digit by one, and by ten, and have made links between multiplying between two, four and eight. We have worked on multiplying a two digit number by a one digit number as well. Well done for such great perseverance!

Topic

We started off our new key question gathering information on the different ways in which water is used daily and worldwide. The children were surprised to see how much of an impact water has on our lives. We learnt about boats through history, and then learnt about the waterways in our local area too. We are big fans of Henley now, as well as the River Thames!



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3R @HighwoodPrim3RH



Year 4 News - Spring 1

Mr Miss Barrett, Miss Clarke, Mrs Strong, Mrs Tindall
and Mrs Chaurasia

What did the Romans Do For Us?



English

This term we have been focussing on Roman Myths. We created our own introduction to a myth using 'The Man who Cut Down Trees' as our inspiration. This allowed the children to develop plot and tension that began the dilemma of a moral, whilst adding pathetic fallacy to show the Gods emotions. After this we delved into playscripts, including dialogue and stage directions, before putting on performances for other members of the class.

Maths

This term we started with learning the concepts behind multiplication and division. The children have explored these by using practical equipment, before moving onto using a variety of different written methods. In Multiplication, we started with the grid method and most children progressed to using the compact column method to answer 3-digit by 1-digit questions. In Division, the children all used the place value method and some have used the part-whole model. They were able to use them to divide three digit numbers by one digit number, even solving problems involving remainders. .

History

With our key question being all about the Romans, the children have been focusing a lot on History this term so far. We have explored what the Roman Empire was, their armies, gods and artefacts. We had lots of fun recreating Roman battle formations with our shields. The children then used their shields to recreate and act

out the Roman timeline with key events that took place. We have been extremely impressed that they can remember when Rome was built and when the empire collapsed.

Science

This term we have been learning about food chains. The children created their own food chain in a Russian Doll style where the predator can eat its prey. We have also begun looking into states of matter, exploring the differences between solids, liquids and gases.



Art and DT

In Art and DT this term we have started to look at mosaics. We've appreciated Antoni Gaudi's work with mosaics and how this is linked to the Romans. We have also thought about Roman mosaics and how they inspire us!



Computing

The children have had a lot of fun learning about loop commands in computing. They were able to program a robot to remember and repeat a loop command on its own. They loved it!

Have a lovely Half
Term break.



HighwoodPrim4a
HighwoodPrim4b



Year 5 News

Team: Miss Majer, Mrs Downes, Mrs Laksmanan, Mrs Mohammed, Mrs Shahzadi and Mrs Hillier

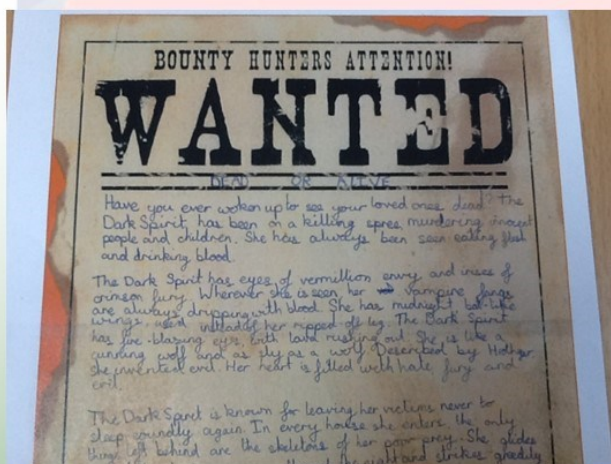
Is Invasion Ever Justified?

Welcome to the first spring edition of the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on.

Please read on to find out more!

English

All our English this term has been around the story of Beowulf, the Anglo Saxon hero who saved a town from the perilous death that Grendel was spreading! We've spent a long time analysing the text and collecting crucial vocabulary. After this, we created our own, vile monsters for Beowulf to defeat, using character descriptions to create wanted posters for the town of Heorot. During the final week of term, we've been writing our own Beowulf saga using these creatures too!



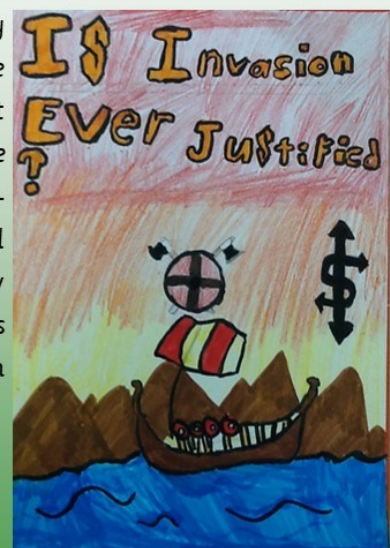
Maths

Our focus in maths this term has been fractions. Throughout the term, we have looked at equivalent fractions, converting mixed/improper fractions, as well as ordering and comparing

fractions with different denominators. It has been a tricky process for us, but by using our times tables and division facts to find equivalent fractions to help us along our journey.

Key Question Lessons

Our key question for this term is 'Is Invasion Ever Justified?', where we are basing our learning all around The Vikings and The Anglo-Saxons. To kick off our topic, we started by completing our very own archaeological dig where we dug for Anglo Saxon artefacts and asked historical questions to try and learn more about the civilisations. Through the topic, we have also looked at what physical and human geography features might come into play when deciding on why you would invade a country, learnt about the different Anglo-Saxon kings and learnt about how the country was split into seven key kingdoms.



It has been a super start to the year. We look forward to continuing this hard work after half term

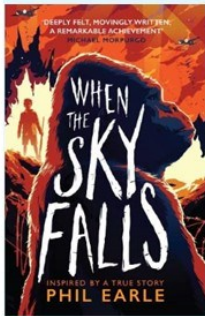
Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5M and @HighwoodPrim5R



Year 6 News

Teachers: Mr Robinson, Mrs Partridge, Mrs Nielsen, Mrs Nice and Ms Yu

This term we have really immersed ourselves in our topic question, **'What would a world without war look like?'** So far we have concentrated on the causes of WW2, The Blitz and the effect the war had on families.



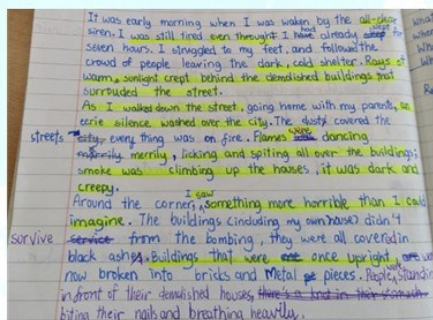
English

Our whole class reading book this half term has been, 'When the Sky Falls' by Phil Earle. The children have enjoyed getting to know Joseph (a troubled boy who has been evacuated to the city), and how he learns to understand his own feelings through his relationship with a gorilla

(Adonis).

In writing, we wrote a powerful description about The Blitz. We used lots of the figurative

language (personification, similes etc) that we had learnt about in the Autumn Term.



Maths

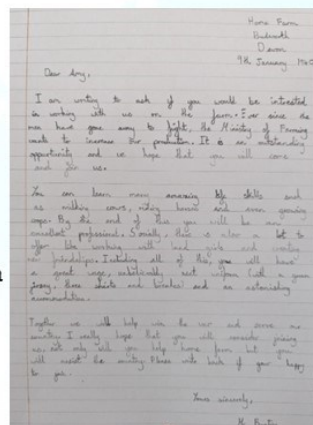
This term we have been learning about ratio and algebra. The children have excelled at using their knowledge of fractions to help them understand ratio and have made good progress learning a new concept in algebra.

Topic

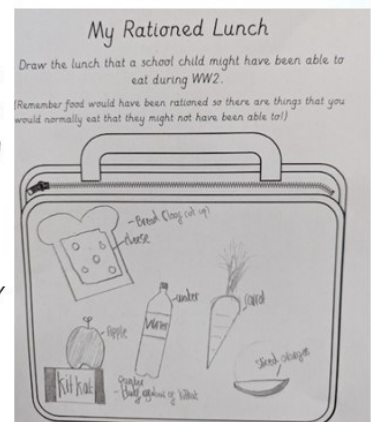
Over the last few weeks, our topic has focussed history and science.

History

History has been the main focus of our topic this term. We have learnt about the women's land army (and the role of



women in WW2) and we wrote a letter to a young woman trying to persuade her to come and work at our farm. We found out about evacuees and how they were different from refugees. We were amazed about rationing and what people actually ate in the war. Perhaps our question should have been, 'How could people live in a world without pizza or McDonalds!?'.



Science

We have started investigating light in Science and thinking about how the properties of light were used for attack and defence during WW2. We know you need to have light in order to see and that the blackout prevented German bombers from identifying targets.

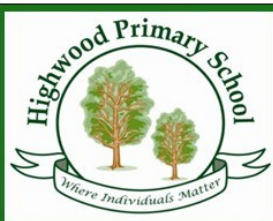
PE

In PE, the children have been learning racket skills with Mr Edwards and Gymnastics in Indoor PE. It has been wonderful seeing so many children gain confidence in skills such as tumbling and vaulting.

We hope you all have a healthy half-term break.

The Year 6 Team

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim6R & @HighwoodPrim6P



The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Payne, Mrs Khan, Mrs Pithiya



Literacy: All Around the World



After sorting out fiction and non-fiction books and finding lots of non-fiction features, the

children have chosen one of the seven continents to write a report about. All of the reports will be collected into a book, which the children would like to take in turns to bring home to show you during next half term.

Maths: Numbers to 20, Shape, Multiplication and Division



Mastering Number and times tables sessions are going strong in resource maths and the children have been enjoying naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes, using arrays and sharing and grouping. Daily 'Flashback' questions on white boards are helping with remembering and using everything they have learned.

Our New Outdoor Area!

The new outdoor area is now ready to use and we are planning to have lots of fun learning outside as the weather gets warmer.



Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR





PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Welcome to the first "PE & Sports News Page" of 2023. I will continue to keep the children and parents informed about our recent achievements in sports tournaments, what we have been learning in PE, **PE Kit required**, lunch & after school clubs plus of course the future sports dates.

PE Lessons:

This half term the children have been learning skills required to play Tennis & Basketball and really honing our striking, control, target, hand eye coordination and strategy.

Over the last 6 weeks we have been developing our skills especially Key Stage 2, getting into full games by the end of the programme. We have seen some great work over all of the school years especially our FS2 class who have all completed their pass & receive task. The class teachers have had the pleasure of teaching Gymnastics. The classes have been working really hard in their teams to improve their "Tumble, Floor & Vault" skills and then choreograph routines in all 3 areas.

1BG have also had their extra session taking part in Dance lessons with Miss Coleman working on routines that continue challenging even our "funkiest" dancers.

It has been 5M turn in the pool this half term and the children have been working hard on their confidence with new strokes and improving existing skills.

What has also been a highlight of this half term has been the effort and enthusiasm from many of the children. This is visibly noticeable in the many pictures and videos we have taken during the lessons then shared on the PE twitter page. If you do not already follow, this is our twitter page [@HighwoodPrimPE](#)

Tournaments & Competitions:

This half term has seen Highwood take part in the Wokingham School Games "Smash Badminton and Team Gym competitions. Our badminton players came runners up and both our gymnastics teams received bronze medals. Great results all round.



Next Half Term

PE Lessons: - Tennis Cont & Golf

After School Clubs:

This term we have:-

Tuesdays: KS1 Multisports, & Yr 4,5,6 Girls Football

Wednesdays: KS2 Gymnastics

Thursdays: KS2 Tag Rugby & Yr 3-6 Choir

PE Kit required:- Shorts, Highwood Green PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers. (Gloves and beanie style hat recommended) No Earrings!

Have a great half term break and I look forward to seeing you all again for another fun filled PE Spring term 2.

Mr Edwards



SENCo & Parent Support Adviser

Time has flown and we are already two months into 2023!







Thank you for the generous donations of food and clothing for distribution via the Highwood Help Hub. Please use the confidential HHH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk address, if you think your family would benefit from accessing this. If we are unable to help in any case, we can always help with signposting to other agencies.

Please visit the relaunched Parent Support Advisor/ Family Support Worker pages on Highwood School's Website to find information on local events, support and courses available to parents including information on the 'Introduction to Phonics for Key Stage 1 Parents' 3 part course, being run at Highwood School by the Adult Learning Service.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Lucy and Mrs Padbury

Local SEND Support

 <p>Information, support & what's on locally for SEND families.</p> <p>https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-offer-for-0-25-year-olds-with-additional-needs/</p>	 <p>Provide free, confidential, impartial SEND advice, guidance and support.</p> <p>www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk</p>	 <p>Specialist support for local Families who have Children & Young People with Special Needs parentingspecialchildren.co.uk</p>	 <p>ASSIST Team Autism Spectrum Service for Information Support and Training</p>
<p>Who we are:</p>			
	<p>Lucy Sayer – Family Support</p> <p>I support the pupils in school and their families. This includes putting together a timetable of information events, training and social events that we can all, (current restrictions allowing!), enjoy as a school community. I'd also welcome any ideas you have about events, so please get in touch if there is anything you think would benefit the families of Highwood School.</p>		
	<p>Mrs Padbury - Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)</p> <p>A special educational need/ and or disability (SEND) can cause barriers to a child's learning. My role in school is to identify the children's strengths and manage any extra needs they may have. I liaise with teachers and teaching assistants to help support the pupil's needs and discuss appropriate actions that will help reduce any barriers to their learning. If you have any SEND concerns, please initially talk to your child's class teacher.</p>		

Information for parents

ASDA café: Kids eat for £1.

Bella Italia: Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult main course. Available between 4pm to 6pm Monday to Thursday.

Bill's: Kids eat free at Bill's all day from February 13 to 24 when an adult orders any main dish (breakfast, lunch or dinner).

Cafe Rouge: Children's menu for just £1 with every adult who purchases a main course.

Carluccio's: Kids eat for £1 from February 10 to 26 with a paying adult.

Dobbies: Kids eat FREE when an adult purchases a meal, from noon.

IKEA: Kids eat from 95p every day from 11am starting February 11.

Morrisons: Kids eat free at cafe when an adult spends £4.50 or more on a meal.

Pausa Cafe: Kids eat free Monday to Friday after 3pm with every £4 spent.

Premier Inn: Kids eat free when an adult orders an all-you-can-eat breakfast from £9.99.

The Real Greek: Kids eat free every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

Travelodge: Kids aged 15 and under eat free with a paying adult.

YO!: Kids eat FREE this half term at YO! from February 13 to 24 February 2023 with a minimum spend of £10.

Reminders



SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform can be purchased direct from our supplier Michael Hope at the following [link](#)

We now only have cardigans and a few larger size jumpers left and small size PE tops available to order via SCOPAY.



School dinners

Children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, funded by the government. If your child would like a school dinner please let the class teacher know and this will be booked for them.

Children in Nursery, Years 3 to 6 are required to pay for dinners. The price of a school dinner is **£2.30 per day**. Payment should be made via SCOPAY in advance.

If you think your child may be eligible for benefits related free school meals please contact the school office for a form.

ABSENCE

Please contact the school office by 9.30am if your child is absent stating the reason for the absence. This can be done via ParentMail or by phone on 0118 9265493.

If your child is going to be late and requires a hot dinner this must be booked by 9.30am.

All requests for leave of absence must be made on the absence form available from the school office. Routine appointments should be made outside of school time.

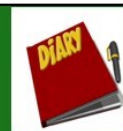
Please see the latest Attendance Policy on the school website regarding Penalty Notices.

EARRINGS

Please note that our school policy is for earrings to be removed for PE, for the health and safety of the children.

It is recommended that ear piercing is only done in the first week of the summer holidays to allow the time for them to settle.

Diary Dates



Friday 10th February 2023	Inset day - school closed to pupils
Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023	Half Term - school closed
Thursday 23rd February 2023	Year 1 trip to Milestones museum
Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March 2023	Book Week
Tuesday 28th February 2023 - after school	WASMA rehearsal at Waingels
Thursday 2nd March 2023	World Book Day
Friday 3rd March 2023	Reports out to parents
Monday 6th March 2023	Upper KS2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm
Tuesday 7th March 2023	Lower KS2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm
Sunday 12th March 2023	WASMA
Monday 13th March 2023	F1 SPLAT - 10.30 - 11.30am & 2pm - 3pm
Wednesday 15th March 2023	F2 SPLAT
Thursday 16th March 2023	KS1 SPLAT
Friday 17th March 2023	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 21st March to Saturday 1st April 2023	Big Walk and Wheel
Friday 31st March 2023	Last day of spring term
Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April 2023	Easter Holidays
Monday 17th April 2023	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Tuesday 18th April 2023	First day of Summer Term