



Fortnightly Newsletter: 11th March 2022 Safety is paramount

Dear Parents / Carers,

The sun is shining, the children have been outdoors and spring is on its way.

Please see our fortnightly updates below:



Staffing

It is with great sadness that I let you know, Mrs Alexander will be leaving today. Mrs Alexander didn't want any fuss, hence why we are only sharing this news with you today. Mrs Alexander has worked for us for 8 years and has played a key part in supporting many families. She will be remembered by us for her warmth and caring nature and her pretty fabulous World Book Day outfits. We wish Mrs Alexander all the very best and hope you will join us in thanking her for her commitment to the school.

Absence letters

A number of parents and carers will have received attendance letters this week. I had mentioned in previous newsletters that there was now a big push from the government to improve children's attendance. This is not personal but we have to make you aware of your child's attendance and how it affects their learning. We have a legal duty to improve this. We are also targeting lateness. Myself or Mrs Quinn want to work with you to improve attendance but there does come a time when we are strongly advised to refer families in to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) as improvements haven't been seen and further support is required.

Safeguarding and WhatsApp

Mobile phones are a great way to stay in touch with family and friends; however, children can sometimes lack the maturity to use them appropriately, which can lead to a number of issues that may affect their wellbeing.

Although WhatsApp is a great way to communicate across networks for free, it does so with a health warning. Children can create groups with whomever they have in their contacts. However, as soon as they create these groups, they are sharing other children's mobile phone numbers with everyone in the group, *instantly*. This means that children may have their number shared with someone they did not want it to go to. In addition, when something is shared, e.g. a photograph, everyone has it instantly and they can pass it on if they want to. So, what may have started out as being shared with three people, inside five moves, can be shared with 243 people. For more information, click the link below:

<http://www.commonsemmedia.org/app-reviews/whatsapp-messenger>

Help protect and keep your child safe, here are some top tips:

- Link their phone to your phone so that apps can only be downloaded with your permission. Apple phones can do this through their family sharing facility and with Android, you can download apps like Family Link to link to link to your phones.
- Make sure that any social media account that your child has is completely private, and that no one can see their page without permission. Encourage your child to only accept people they know.
- Turn off the location sharing facility that most apps have.
- Regularly check the content of any chat groups / social media apps your child has, and check what they have been viewing.
- **Leave mobile phones downstairs at bedtime.** From a school point of view, most problems occur after hours when parents think their children are asleep.
- Finally, communication is key. When your child gets a new phone, talk to them about some of the issues they may face. Remind them that they should always discuss any concerns they have with a trusted adult and never share anything that is inappropriate or could hurt someone.
- Talk to them about respecting privacy and not searching for staff members.

School events

Next term we will be fully opening our doors to our families. We are restarting our class assemblies on a Friday afternoon and are hoping to invite you to our Friday church services. More information to come.

Thank you for continued support.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes.

E. Harding
Mrs Harding
Headteacher

Weekly Worship Focus

This week we pretended to be judges. Daisy read a news bulletin about some farmers who had cut down 30 trees on farmland as they needed to feed their families. They were not trying to make profit. Unfortunately, the trees were habitat for many birds and animals. The farmers faced the possibility of many years in prison. The children had to decide whether this was justice.



Birthdays

Birthdays up to the 12th
March:



We hope you have the best day!

- Isabella in Nursery
- Robbie in Reception
- Charlie Joe in Year 5
- Aaron in Year 5
- Chyna in Year 2
- Alfie in Year 6

Polite Reminders

ParentApp - all our communication is now via the ParentApp - we do get many calls to the office asking us things that have been sent out via the App. This may be because you do not have your notifications set up. If you are unsure please come and see Mrs Halfpenny who is a whizz on it!



You have
a new message!

Head's weekly awards

This week's awards go to:

- Lazarus and Ivy in Year 5 for showing me some excellent writing.



Weekly attendance

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Weekly %</u>
Nursery	89.7%
Reception	93%
Year 1	90.5%
Year 2	90.4%
Year 3/4	88.2%
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	89.2%
Whole school	90.6%



Well done Reception and Year 5!

Important Dates

- Tuesday 29th March / Wednesday 30th March: Parent's evening
- Friday 1st April: School closes for Easter holidays
- Tuesday 19th April: School opens for Summer term
- Monday 2nd May: Bank holiday
- Friday 27th May: School closes for Whit holidays
- Monday 13th June: INSET DAY – school closed
- Tuesday 14th June: School opens for Summer 2
- Wednesday 27th July: Schools closes for the Summer

