

**Friday 7th February 2019**

What a busy week we have had. Year 6 became forensic scientists when the UCL volunteers came in from Science for Kids and Year 1 have been performing such creative dances in the hall with an exceptionally colourful Chinese dragon – it's been a pleasure to watch! A big 'thank you' to all the parents and carers who attended our parent review meetings this week to discuss the children's progress. Your support is always appreciated and the feedback I have received from the teachers has been overwhelmingly positive.

### **Fantastic attendance this week!**

Key stage 1: Sapphire – 94%

Key stage 2: Diamond – 98.7%



Our '**top tip**' this week is a welcome to the 'Online Safety Course for Parents & Carers' page. Here you will find an online course to support your knowledge and understanding of your child's online world. The course is designed to support schools in their quest to engage their whole school community as they take on the responsibility of teaching parents the necessary information required to help keep their families safe in this digital world. Please have a look, as any feedback would be most welcome.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/training/online-safety-parents-course/>

### **Weekly reminders...**

#### **Can you help?**

#### **PLEASE HELP: Vitality Big Half...**

In order for all the supporters to spot and cheer for them around the course they are looking for **£350** to go towards running vests which will have the school logo on. If the company you work for, or someone you know, could offer this £350 we would be very grateful. We would ensure the company logo is placed on the tops for extra publicity. This is such a fantastic fund raising opportunity for the school so we would really appreciate your support!

### **Spring term clubs and Music tuition**

We still have spaces for clarinet and brass tuition. If your child is interested, please enquire at the office.



This week at Brindishe Manor we have been working on building the children's resilience in their learning and as part of developing an awareness of 'Mental Health' week. We have also been lucky to have our Place2Be counsellor Jamie Creeth delivering several engaging assemblies around the importance of maintaining a positive mental state.



We are still searching for some 'helping hands' to support in the building of some outdoor learning equipment in reception and year 1. We want to brighten up the outdoor areas outside the classrooms. This would really make a difference to the children's outdoor learning experiences. Please contact the office if you are able to help or donate any outdoor items which maybe tucked away in sheds and garages!

### **And finally .....**

Could I please ask that you check to make sure that all your contact details are up-to-date on our system? For example, phone numbers and changes of addresses etc. This is crucial for Data Protection reasons and ensures that we are sending out information to the correct parent/carer. Thank you for your help.

### **Rights Respecting at Brindishe Manor**

**Every week in assemblies we look at a specific article from the UN convention of human rights. Next week we will be looking at...**

#### **Article 29 (goals of education)**

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.



### **Dates for your diary:**

**15<sup>th</sup> February**

**Week beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**12<sup>th</sup> March**

**30th April**

Break for Half Term Holiday

Year 6 school journey

Full Governors' meeting at Brindishe Manor

Please let us know if you would like to attend and we will arrange seating for you.

Open day for prospective parents

Best wishes for a lovely weekend

James Baguley,

Deputy Head

Brindishe Manor

### **In class this week...**

**Each week we will continue to share with you what each year group has been focusing on in class and offer some ideas on how you can support your child over the coming week.**

### **Nursery**

This week the children have enjoyed taking part in a range of Chinese New Year inspired activities. They have particularly enjoyed learning the story behind the animals celebrated and have been taking part in role play and creating their own books by sequencing the story. In art we have explored painting blossom trees using water colours and tissue paper for added effect.

## Reception

In Reception this week we have been learning some new sounds: *j*, *v* and *w*. How many things can you spot when you're out and about that begin with these letters?

In maths, we have been finding the total of two groups, e.g. *3 apples and 2 pears make 5 pieces of fruit*. You could have a go at this at home using household items, food or toys.

The children have been full of creativity and ideas for 'pop-up' role plays areas, for example an aquarium, or the house of the 3 bears. They have also been enjoying writing and performing exciting stories.

We have also been talking about Chinese New Year and made our own Chinese lanterns.

## Year 1

Year 1 has had a blast learning all about Chinese New Year - from writing in *hanzi* (Chinese characters) to dragon dancing. We learnt the story of the Chinese zodiac through the story 'The Great Race', which we also linked with our maths learning on ordinal numbers. The children used drama to retell the story in sequence and had fun arranging the animals according to their place in the race. It was a pleasure having Moising (Ethan's grandma) talk to Onyx Class about Chinese New Year. The children learnt how Chinese people celebrate the year and were lucky to learn some Chinese too! Onyx Class thank Moising for her time and the thoughtful gifts of gold coins! Can your child explain how Chinese New Year began by retelling the story and how people celebrate it today?

We continue to explore a variety of tools and media in art and experiment with the different effects they create in our artworks. It is lovely to see the children become more creative, confident and reflective in arts they produce every day. For literacy, the children continue to work hard on their recounts using time conjunctions and making sure that their stories are organised and coherent. Can they tell you all about their day using time conjunctions? (e.g. "**First**, we had our early morning task **then** we practised reading in phonics. **Next** we had playtime and I played with...")

## Year 2

This week Year 2 children have been very busy planning and writing their own Tinga Tinga tales. In Maths lessons Ruby class has been learning how to represent, read and write 3-digit numbers and Amethyst class continued learning about fractions of amounts. Both classes learned interesting things in Geography lessons; Ruby class compared their school day to the one of children from rural Zimbabwe and Amethyst class focused on map work. Children also enjoyed coding during computing lessons.

At home we would like you to find some loose change and practise with your children finding amounts of money to pay for items, as well as giving the correct change.

### Year 3

This week Year 3 children have been working exceptionally hard in writing descriptively and using inverted commas (speech marks) to create dialogue between Egyptian characters. In maths, we have begun looking at fractions, including unit and non-unit fractions. We have written fractions for shapes and examined common misconceptions together. In art, we have been drawing our names in hieroglyphics and painting these on to our cartouches. Mr Ahmed and Miss Benton would also like to inform parents that there will be two trips after the half term, so if you are not available to help or we cannot accommodate the number of parent helpers on the first trip, we will try to ensure you a place on the following trip.

### Year 4

This week Year 4 have been learning about the digestive system in Science, and where our food goes once our incisors, canines and molars have done their jobs. Can you remember the jobs of the different teeth types? We have learnt a lot of scientific vocabulary such as oesophagus, small intestine and large intestine which we have been using to label our own diagrams of the digestive system.

In art we have been using mod roc to make a sculpture, Topaz class have made some Viking arm wear and Amber class are making their own Viking God. The children have shown great perseverance through each different stage including the research, designing and creating their foundation to mod roc onto.

We have a new online math resource called 'Sum Dog' this will be in replace of 'Mymaths'. If you are having trouble logging on, or need your child's login please speak to one of the year 4 team who will be happy to help you. We will be setting learning on there to support the children at home with the skills we are learning in maths, this will be done through challenges and competitions.

This week was children's mental health week, over the weekend you could support your child in writing a short positivity poem.

### Year 5

This week, the children have moved on to retelling the Greek myth, Perseus and the Gorgon's head, using their 'author's voice'. These pieces of writing are really coming along and we can see how the drama and character descriptions from last week are making a great impact on the children's writing. Why not ask your child to verbally create an image of Medusa's cave using descriptive language. See if they can throw in some personification!

In maths we have been focusing on multiplying and dividing decimals by whole numbers. Children have been showing great determination and resilience when working out these problems. It is also lovely to see so many of them challenging themselves! We will be moving on to multi-step word problems involving multiplying and dividing decimals next week.

We've had many great gymnastics lessons this half term, but this week the children were able to use all the skills they've learnt and put them into routines while incorporating gym apparatus. This included A-frames, beams, benches, spring boards etc. They worked really well in their groups and it was fantastic to see them encouraging each other when nervous on a piece of apparatus. Ask your child to explain what they were doing.

## Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been writing scripts to document one of the most dramatic scenes in *Great Expectations*: the passing-away of Magwitch. Our biggest focus has been on making the voices of Magwitch and Pip sound informal and formal respectively, by altering the use of contractions (e.g. don't or do not), colloquial language (m'lad instead of 'my lad') and using shorter or longer words depending on the character. If you're watching TV this weekend, why not watch out for those personalities or characters who speak with different levels of formality - particularly have a look for where the most formal language appears on our screens.

Next Friday (15th February), the PSFA are holding a cake sale after school - the theme is Love, in honour of Valentine's Day. We'll be in the playground from 3.15pm, with lots of delicious treats.

If you are able to **donate** something to the cake sale, whether home baked or shop-bought, we are always very grateful - the more donations we have, the more we are able to raise for the school! Please drop donations off at the office in the morning - **don't forget to label your cake box** with your name and child's class so we can return it to you.

All cakes will be priced at 50p or £1, so don't forget your cash on Friday!

As always, the funds raised through your generosity at PSFA events go directly to the school to enhance resources and learning.

See you next Friday!

Please like and follow Brindishe Manor PSFA (<https://www.facebook.com/brindishemanorpsfa/>) on Facebook to keep in touch with our activities.

Many thanks,  
Jo Young