

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Friends

### 'Meet the Teacher'

Please be reminded that between **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 15<sup>th</sup>** parents and carers of children in Years 1 to 6 can meet with their child's class teacher. This 'meet the teacher' meeting is a chance for you to meet with your child's class teacher, discuss your child's progress and their next steps. Meetings are booked online via Arbor's Parent Portal and are currently open. If you need help to log in to Arbor then please contact the school office.



### Attendance of the week...

Key Stage 1 – Ruby 98%  
Key Stage 2 - Sapphire 97%



### Dates for your diary

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Y3/4 Cinema Night

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – Cake Sale

**Week Beg 10<sup>th</sup> February** – Meet the teacher week

**Week Beg 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Half term

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – Return to School

Please be reminded that The Government announced last year that the early **May bank holiday** would this year be moved from Monday **May 4** to **Friday May 8**, to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

**The 2020-2021 term dates are available on our website.**

### **Safeguarding our families and staff...**

Please can we ask you to spend some time talking to your children about the importance of staying safe at hometime. This includes the children staying with the adult that has picked them up as they leave the school gate. Sometimes we have to stop young children from leaving the gate alone and remind them to return to their adults.

If your child walks home alone, please remind them about keeping their mobile phones and other belongings safe as they leave the school.

**Playtimes and Lunchtimes...** We are looking for donations to regenerate some of the games and puzzles available to the children at our indoor 'games club' at lunch time. If you have any suitable educational board games (eg chess, drafts, Mastermind etc) and puzzles that are in good condition and complete, ie with no pieces missing, please bring them to the school office between Monday and Friday next week (3<sup>rd</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> February). We will make good use of them. Many thanks!

Best Wishes for the weekend

Kate Porter

**Reception** - We have had an excellent week in Reception with all sorts of lovely learning taking place. Children have been finding different ways to make 6, 7 and 8 and recording this in a range of ways. We have been very active outside this week, playing maths games with bean bags and hula hoops, dancing, digging in the mud, climbing and playing parachute games. We have also been constructing lots of buildings using junk modelling and the wooden blocks outside.

Emerald Class really enjoyed their visit to Lee Green Fire Station today and even got a chance to use the hoses, as well as singing 'London's Burning' for the fire crew. The firefighters said that the children had listened really well and they are really looking forward to meeting Turquoise Class later this term. We were very proud of the children's behaviour on our visit and would like to say a big well done to them and a huge thank you to the parents who joined us.

**Year 1** - This week we have been extremely busy in Onyx class with our Chinese New Year celebrations. We wrote poems, created a huge dragon for dancing and wrote Chinese numbers. We have also been thinking about the purpose of different materials and why they are suited for certain jobs e.g. why are pencils made of wood and not glass? Try thinking about which materials you use every day!

In Jasper class, we have been writing letters to the Transport Police about the naughty bus! We are very interested to solve the mystery of who gave us the bus and why it is messing up our classroom. In maths, we have been using arrays to solve simple multiplication sentences. We are encouraging the children to show and explain their working out. Try any of the number sentences in the 2 times table and encourage the children to show it in groups as shown underneath.

**Year 2** - This week Year 2 has started planning their own *Tinga Tinga Tales*. The children looked at different animals and discussed possible problems for the tales.

We focused on making sure that their tales would provide an explanation of their animals specific features. Why not ask your child about their story?

In Maths, we recognised and compared British coins and notes. We also started to combine coins to make different amounts.

In Art, we looked at different printing techniques and linked it to our learning on the African patterns on *kente* cloths.

The children were very proud of their Maasai necklaces that they created when we learnt all about what the colours symbolised in African culture.

We've really enjoyed the children's presentations about their chosen African country - keep them coming!

**Year 3** - The Great Ancient Egyptian Bake Off! Year 3 have been baking Ancient Egyptian bread, both classes worked together and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We took plenty of photos of the different stages of the process, which we will use to write our very own instructions for bread making next week. In English, we have been looking at instruction texts and learning about the features. This week in maths, Year 3 have been using the bus stop method to divide 2 digit numbers by a 1 digit number, ask your child if they can show you the method they have learnt.

**Year 4** - Amber class are publishing their biographies about Greta Thunberg and they cannot wait to for you to read them. After this is complete we will begin writing our own persuasive speeches based on what we know about climate change as well as trying to include language which is equally as passionate and determined as that we have heard in the speeches written by Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough to name but a few. Whilst in Topaz class, we have completed our explanation texts on Wind Turbines and we will begin writing persuasive letters about climate change. Our aim in Year 4 is to have lots of learning ready to send to a local MP to show just how important the issue of global warming is!

We are also going to be find out more about how climate change is impacting coral reefs next week as this links to our abstract Art. Can you find out anything interesting about this at home? Topaz class have also been researching famous scientists such as Edison and Franklin as an introduction to their new electricity topic, whereas Amber class have been exploring electricity and circuits in science. Please do come and see our Big Book of Science in both classes which shows lots of the learning the children have been doing.

**Year 5** - This week, the rest of Year 5 also had the chance to go to St Matthew's Academy to take part in their dance workshop. We were really impressed by the effort put in by all children. They all participated enthusiastically and showed great teamwork and imagination when creating their own routine. In maths, we have continued to learn about the different types of triangles as well as practise our skills of using a protractor to draw different triangles with some given criteria. In English, we have now finished our newspaper reports on the Battle of Marathon. The children did a wonderful job of keeping the tone formal, describing events clearly and using inverted commas for direct speech.

Next week, we will begin planning their own information texts about their own Greek mythical creature. Why not encourage your child at home to find out more about some famous Greek mythical creatures such as Medusa, Pegasus or Cerberus?

**Year 6** - Children have completed their published version of the discussion text they have been writing. They should feel very proud of themselves as they've shown a great deal of resilience and commitment to the drafting and editing process along with care and consideration in their publishing. We have continued to discuss sustainability and how we can become more sustainable as individuals as well as a community. Children have researched how Sweden achieved the 'best country in the world' for sustainability and have thought about how they were able to achieve this. Ask your child what they think we can learn from Sweden.

### **50 Word Challenge!**

We are setting up the '50 word challenge' in our classrooms to encourage children to give books a chance before giving up on them. Can they read 50 pages of a book before going to get another if they do not like it? Many educators and librarians suggest you do not know if you are going to enjoy a book until you have read at least 50 pages. We challenge them to try!