



# Forward March!

## UN CONVENTION ARTICLE 17:

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

*With God's help  
we will  
live kindly,  
love each other,  
learn and  
laugh together!*

## Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter 1

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our children and families from previous years and to those families who are just joining our school community this week with their children in Year R

As I walk around the school each day, it has been a pleasure to see the children back – a school without the children seems such a soulless place and it is now full of learning laughter and friendship.

In our Collective Worship, I spoke to the children about how a school community can be like a jigsaw, each piece is needed and no one piece is less or more important than the others as you need every piece to complete the puzzle.

As we rebuild the relationships in school after the summer break, it is important to remember that every member of our community is important and to be thankful for each other regardless of role.

In that vein, I am looking forward to a busy year ahead. It will not be without its challenges but I know that with us all working together to support each other, we will ensure the best possible outcomes for the children in our care and people in our community.

Next half term is always one of our busiest with lots going on as we countdown for the Christmas break, this year is no exception. I hope you will be able to find time to join us in the many activities which are taking place between now and the end of term such as Nativities, the Christmas Fayre, Christmas jumper day and end of term carols.



# Termly School values



## This terms value has been Friendship

We have been looking at how to live out our vision and value of Friendship and discussing the Wise words of advice from Saint Paul of ...

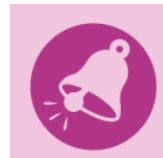
***Encourage one another and build one another up.***  
**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

We have discussed in worship how laughter can strengthen the bonds of **friendship** but there is a big difference between laughing *with* a **friend** and laughing *at* them.

How does it feel when someone is laughing *at* you?

## Next terms value is Joy

We will start our term learning about



***Rejoice with those who rejoice.***  
**Romans 12:5**

How does celebrating all kinds of different achievements help us to live out our school vision?

Celebration isn't always about cups or trophies!

If your child does something outside of school, at home or in the community you think needs celebrating in school please do let us know so we can share this with them!

## Attendance

Time not spent in school has an obvious impact on outcomes – academic and personal.

90% attendance may seem like a high figure, but this equates to a day off every fortnight or almost four weeks (a whole month) over the course of a year. Please ensure that you child is in school each day unless they are very poorly.

- The gate opens at 8.30am and shuts at 8.45am.
- The children start early morning reading, phonics, 10 in 10 at 8.45am and we have persistent lateness by some pupils that means they already miss learning time.
- Please ensure that your child is in school on time and ready to learn.

## PTA News



We had a very successful meeting last week for the Annual AGM for the PTA. We have nominated new committee members.

- **Joint Chairs:** Felicity Johnson Year 1 parent, Nina Boden Year 1 and year 5 parent
- **Joint Treasurers:** Kate Eveleigh Year 1 parent , Sophie Don Year 1 parent
- **Secretary:** Mrs Bannister Year 5 and Year 3 parent

Christmas Fair planning for the 1<sup>st</sup> December is already on the way and we look forward to a fun filled family event. More details will follow from the PTA and class reps.

We would like to say a big thanks to the outgoing Chairs Tara Atkins and Patricia Dickie for their hard work over the last two years running the PTA and organising all the summer and Christmas events. It has been much appreciated.

## Positive School Rules

This term we have been reviewing our new school Behaviour policy and worked with children to discuss new Positive school rules. These are displayed in every classroom and used by all staff when working with children and discussing behaviour. It has been so lovely see all the children saying hello to adults at the gate and each other, asking people if they are having a good day! The staff have really focussed on communication and consistency with the children when implementing the new policy which you'll find on our school website.

# Positive School Rules

## **POLITE**

**P**olite – say Good morning or Good Afternoon to each other in school and at the gate.

**O**rganised – have all your equipment in school ready for each day, water bottles, PE Kits

**L**isten – to each other in class and break times

**I**nstructions – follow instructions by the teachers and be resilient

**T**eamwork and Tolerance – accept that we are all different and do things differently

**E**nvironment – help keep the environment tidy, we are all responsible ( pick up items, class tidy award , outside)

## *Harvest Festival*



We had a wonderful Harvest festival last Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct where the children in each year group led areas of the service. The children led the bible readings and prayers, facts about the history of harvest, whilst Year R, 1 and 2 shared a special song about tractors harvesting the vegetables and fruits for farmers. Mr Bennett our school Governor finished with a closing prayer.

We would like to thank the families for their generosity with donating so much for the food bank, it is greatly appreciated. Thank you

# Bookfest Reading News

We are looking forward to our Bookfest author visit next month. Award-winning children's writer Patrice Lawrence will visit on Monday 6th November to talk to all the children from Year 1 to 6 (and present them with a signed book each!)

Our next 'Books for Bugs' virtual book sale will take place the week beginning 27th November. Look out for an email with the link to the bookshop - there are loads of brilliant books for you to buy for only £2.50 and the more you buy, the more books we get for the school.

Another study has been published this year which shows that children who read books for pleasure do significantly better at school in all subjects, including maths! The new research from the Institute of Education (IOE) found that children who read for pleasure made more progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling. Children who were read to regularly by their parents at age 5 performed better in all three tests at age 16.

## Year R

What a brilliant first term it's been in Reception! Well done to all the children for settling in so quickly and so well, you truly are all a part of the school family now. We've been working hard to make new friends, understand new routines and follow school rules. It's been an action packed term and the children have had so many experiences. We have been enjoying Forest School every Monday. It's been incredible to have the opportunity to help to light a fire, cook our own lunch and explore the woods in a safe and exciting way!

We have also been thinking about Harvest Celebrations and the ways we can say thanks for the wonderful food we have in our lives. We've enjoyed learning Harvest songs, reading Harvest stories and we even got to make our own bread!







## Year 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed their Dinosaur Planet learning journey this half term and have become fabulous paleontologists, making fossils and investigating bones! We learnt about Scientist Mary Anning who collected bones and fossils. We became scientists ourselves, learning about how animals can be classified, and which ones are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We even examined animal droppings (don't worry, it was all pretend!) to see what they had eaten. We learnt that Scientists can tell a lot about animals from their droppings including collecting DNA!

We let our imaginations loose using our 'Talk for Writing' to learn, innovate and write our own stories which Mrs Burnett and Mrs Renouf were really impressed with! In our maths lessons we have been securing our knowledge of number and place value and learning how to problem solve and challenge our mathematical thinking! In our D&T lessons we are learning about healthy eating and will be making smoothies next week.

Our 'Star of the week' trophies and golden pens have been an exciting end to each week, and we are all working hard to be our best! Mrs Burnett and Mrs Renouf are very proud of all we have achieved this half term





## Year 2

As we wrap up our first half term at school, I wanted to give you a glimpse into the amazing journey we've had, stepping back in time to the Victorian era.

Our young historians have been enthralled by our Victorian School Days topic. To finish the excitement, the children were invited to a Victorian School Day experience!

From reciting times tables to writing with quills and steel nib pens, our little scholars embraced the daily routines of Victorian school life. It was as if they'd stepped right into a history book! We also explored the fascinating gender roles of that era. The boys delved into technical drawing and woodworking, channelling their inner craftsmen, while the girls discovered the art of cooking and sewing. It's been a great experience for all of us, learning about the differences in education back then.

As we now look forward to the next term, our sails are set for "Land Ahoy," our thrilling Pirates topic. Get ready for swashbuckling adventures, hidden treasures, and the high seas as our young pirates chart their course through history..

Here's to an exciting second half of the term and the adventures that await us as we set sail on the pirate ship "Land Ahoy!" Wishing you all a wonderful break, and a well-deserved rest





## Year 3

Year 3 has had a wonderful start to the new school year. Our topic this half term has been Predator. In English we read *The Hunter* and wrote our story inspired by Jamina and her adventure in the bush. In maths we have secured our understanding of place value and spent time practicing our times tables. In science we have been learning about predators and prey. We learned about food chains and webs using vocabulary such as herbivore, carnivore and omnivore as well as producer and consumer. In art and design we learned about key skills by drawing 2D and 3D shapes and using wire to create a 3D portrait. We have had a lots of fun and learned lots of new this.



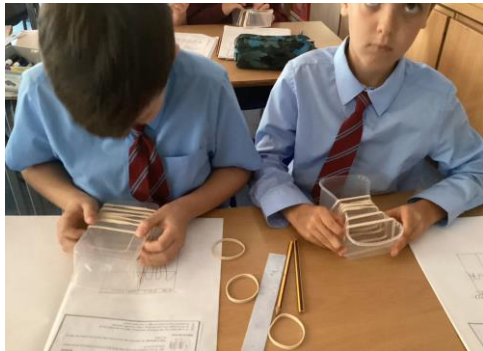
## Year 4

Year 4 have been learning a range of skills and developing their knowledge as part of the unit 'I am Warrior'. The children have been writing their own mystery stories based on the text 'The Thieves of Ostia', reading 'Escape from Pompeii' as part of Destination Reader and in addition to this we have been consolidating our learning on place value in Maths along with addition and subtraction strategies. Across the curriculum we started by designing our own Roman shields which are now proudly on display in our classroom,



further work on Boudicca, the Roman Invasion of Britain and the legacy left in our country from this period in History.

We have also created our own string telephones as part of our learning in Science looking at vibrations and sound waves. We celebrated Poetry Day 2023 by performing a poem by Humbert Wolfe, in Music we have been reading and performing music on the 'Road Building Son' which supports our Topic on the Romans. Our PE unit was on Football along with the start of Swimming lessons at the Westgate and in RE we looked at Creation supported by the story of the Fall. In Design and Technology we have been creating our own Roman exhibit piece looking at research and information design. It has been a busy half term for Year 4 with learning in abundance. We look forward to Autumn 2 where our Topic will be on Misty Sierra Mountain.



## Year 5

The children in Class 5 have been working hard and enjoying learning through their Hola Mexico! topic. In the first week they learnt the Mexican Hat Dance and had a go at digging a hole in the hot sun to see what it must have been like in the desert for Stanley (the main character from our class novel Holes). The children have also been reading Ancient Maya myths and writing their own.

For National Poetry Day the children looked at The Jabberwocky, a famous poem with nonsense words! They had lots of fun working out the meanings, preparing a whole class performance

In Science the children have been learning about the different properties materials have and why these make them suitable for different purposes. They have used their scientific skills to carry out investigations such as finding out which material is the best thermal insulator and which materials conduct electricity. In geography, they have been learning about deserts around the world. In Art the children have focused on architecture to inspire designs for mono printing using polystyrene tiles. They enjoyed 'the big reveal' of seeing their print come out.



## Year 6

The children began their topic in their first week back with their 'Stunning Start' – a visit to Goodwood Revival. Here they learnt about the types of planes used in both World Wars, took part in dance workshops and performed songs such as We'll Meet Again to different audiences around the event. Since then they have developed their understanding of the causes and effects of World War 2 through the History curriculum. One particular aspect the children have been surprised about has been about the changing roles of women during the war - as they took on the roles such as munitions workers and delivery drivers.

Children have also looked at code cracking and the role of the code breakers at Bletchley Park. They have created their own codes for others to solve- such as the 'Pig Pen' code and have enjoyed challenging each other with these.

Their design technology work has enabled children to prepare a typical vegetable stew recipe from the war using carrots, cabbage and onions. Many

have said how tasty it was- although they were not sure they could eat it every day!



### **Finally**

**If you would like to talk to me about anything, please do stop and chat or make an appointment if you would like more privacy or a longer length of time. I am here to help and support you all.**

**Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you would like to discuss any items from the newsletter in more detail, please do not hesitate to come and see me, my door is always 'Open'.**

***Mrs Nicky Metcalfe***

**Head Teacher**