



February 2nd 2024

Reroofing the Nursery

We have recently received confirmation that our Nursery roof will be replaced in the coming months, as well as work replacing soffits, fascias and guttering. They are also constructing a well-insulated ceiling underneath the pyramid which will help conserve energy and make the space much better. This project is scheduled for 10 weeks. Nursery and the other classes will still be operating in school during this period. Once I have been given the confirmed start date, I will write separately to explain how this will all work in more detail.

Around school

This week Miss Richardson and I have been in each of the classes checking learning, talking to children and looking at books. It is so nice for us to see the progression through school and see how our children develop from Nursery to Year 6. In English, I was amazed by the children's vocabulary, confidence and writing, from writing graphemes in Reception to descriptive paragraphs in Year 5. Year 6's lesson visited was a Geography session and the children knew lots about Peru and the Andes mountain range, noting the pros and cons of tourism. In Maths lessons we saw Nursery working to the number five and how five can be made of 0 and 5, 1 and 4 etc through to converting measures in Year 3 and fractions in Year 4.

Swimming Gala

Last Friday the children selected for the Swimming Gala swam superbly. There were many individual and relay successes and overall the team finished second out of the 18 schools that entered. Unfortunately, only one team qualified for the county finals but a huge well done. Georgia William and Teddy (Y6), Olivia (Y5), Ruby and Tyler B (Y4) all won their individual. Several of the swimmers chosen swim competitively outside of school in local teams and I hope that they and others continue to develop their skills. Well done to everyone who took part.

Parents/Carers' Evening

The booking system for appointments for our Spring Term Parents/Carers' Evening is now open. The link has been shared on Weduc along with a 'Parent Guide'. If you have any issues booking an appointment please contact the School Office. Mrs Patterson has so many Nursery children to discuss, she has further appointments available from 1pm on Monday 12th February.

Dinosaurs

This week the children in Nursery gave me an amazing book they had created, with pictures and writing about all the different dinosaur facts they had learnt. I read the Dinosaur Stomp book with some of the children earlier this week and it's clearly a topic that has captured their interest. Thank you Nursery!

Year 1 Farm Trip

On February 9th children in Year 1 will visit Explorers Nursery and Farm as part of their Geography topic. Further details can be found on ParentPay.

Safer Internet Day

On February 6th each class will be participating in Safer Internet Day. This year we are focusing on 'Privacy and Security' and will be completing some age-related tasks in class. Parents and Carers are invited into school from 2:55pm – 3:15pm, so the children can share their learning with you. As technology is constantly advancing, we feel it is very important to provide you and the children with

information and tools to keep our children safe online. We hope to see you in school to share this learning!

Quad Station Visit

Reception had a brilliant visit to the Emergency Service Quad Station on Wednesday. They got to explore the station, try on the firefighter's uniform and examine the fire engine. They also explored the inside of the fire engine and squirted the hose (aiming for the teachers where possible). Holly, the host firefighter, told the children all about the equipment they use and the different emergencies that arise. It was very interesting! The children behaved beautifully and were very enthusiastic!

Bee Poster Competition

We have had some fabulous entries for the 3D poster competition which closes on Friday 16th February. The competition from Chartwells (our caterers) encourages children to make a colourful 3D flower garden for bumblebees. The entries to date are currently displayed in our hall with other displays children have made in some subjects. The birdhouses Y5 made in DT are very impressive as are the Y6 recycled artwork.

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair periodically for head lice and seek treatment where necessary. Thank you.

Data Forms

We are still missing a few data forms from the start of the year. Mrs Collin has sent out some more data sheets to those parents/carers who have not returned them. Please complete and return these as soon as possible.

Attendance

Please find below this week's attendance

Class	Attendance (%)
Reception	90.7
Year 1	96.9
Year 2	95.3
Year 3	95
Year 4	96.3
Year 5	90
Year 6	96.7
Whole School %	94.4

Dates for the Diary

February 6 th	Safer Internet Day
February 9 th	Year 1 visit to Explorers Farm
February 12 th and 13 th	Parents/Carers' Evenings
February 14 th	Year 5 Netball tournament
February 13 th -16 th	Valentine Discos
February 19 th -23 rd	Half Term
February 24 th	Children return to school
March 13 th and 14 th	Year 3 and 4 School Play
March 15 th	Comic Relief
March 20 th	Year 2 Football at Staindrop
March 22 nd	Selected Y5/6 Girls Football
March 27 th	Y3/4 Orienteering
April 1 st – April 12 th	Easter Holidays

Mr. C Minikin

Head Teacher

Please see the QR code for the School Lottery. The more players we have, the more we raise for the school and the bigger the prize fund.

