

Dear Parents,

FEBRUARY UPDATE

We are pleased to report that the school and its pupils are going from strength to strength. We hope you are enjoying our new methods of parental communication including regular Facebook and Twitter updates. Check us out online if you haven't found us already.

Safer Internet Day 2018



As many of you will already be aware, today (Tuesday 6th February) is national Safer Internet Day 2018. The theme of this year's day is 'create, connect and share respect'. In other words it is about teaching children (and adults!) to be kind in their interactions with others when online. Please take this opportunity to discuss e-safety with your child and how they can keep themselves safe when online. As a further warning, we have recently been made aware of a number of online games (Roadblock is one that has been specifically named) that include the opportunity to talk with other users. These 'chat rooms' can often be used to target children with inappropriate content, so please check what your child is accessing online.



Lexia Monthly Challenge

The Lexia monthly challenge continues to be a great success and 399 certificates were achieved during January. The top three performing classes were Koala, Gorilla and Toucan and they will all therefore be treated to a non-uniform day this Friday 9th February. Well done to them.

Foundation Stage Focus

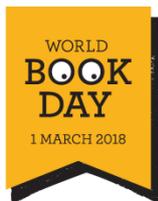
Nursery are currently very short on spare clothing. Therefore if you have any clothes for three to four year olds that you wish to donate, such as trousers, jumpers, underclothes, socks etc, we would really appreciate it. Please pass your donations onto a member of the nursery staff. Also if you have any spare wellington boots in a size suitable for age three to six years, these will also be gratefully received.



Finally, a reminder to name all school uniform items including PE kits, coats, hats and gloves. If there is a name inside then it makes it much easier for us to reunite lost clothing with its owner.

Library and Reading News

The newly opened library is proving so popular that we will be opening it to pupils every lunchtime as well as after school on Monday and Friday. It will close on Wednesday of next week, ready to reopen after half term with an exciting new book-themed makeover! There will more library news in the near future.



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March and we have lots of exciting plans to do this. Firstly, we will be asking children to come dressed as a book character. We look forward to seeing the breadth of texts that our children are interested in. We will also be organising different activities throughout the day with each year group having exciting book-themed tasks for their children to complete. Finally, we plan to have a 'bedtime story' session when children, parents and siblings will be able to return to school (around 18:00) in their pyjamas and listen to a bedtime story being read whilst drinking hot chocolate!

We are pleased to have teamed up with Usborne Books to complete a sponsored read and this will enable us to encourage reading for pleasure amongst our children as well as getting some more books for our new library. More details to follow nearer the date.

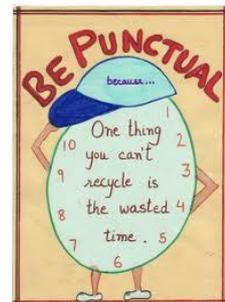
Read Write Inc and Fresh Start

We are pleased to have made a great start with our new way of learning to read. Staff had their final training day on Friday 2nd February and we have now regrouped the children ready to begin the next stage of their reading journey. Children will be regularly bringing reading books home with them. These books are for them to read to you and they should be able to do this fluently and with intonation as they have been practising this in class, so please encourage them to do this. They will also bring picture and other books home that they are not familiar with and these are for you to read to them. The idea behind this is that the children will learn how to read fluently by listening to adults reading texts out to them. The children do not need to be trying to read unfamiliar texts with you at home, so please don't worry about pushing them to do this. If you have any questions about the way that we teach reading and writing, please do ask your child's class teacher initially for advice.



Making a good start each day

We know that first thing in the morning can often be a busy time in the house. However, please can parents try their hardest to ensure that their children are at school on time. When children are persistently late it can make it very difficult for them to catch up and it puts them at a disadvantage. We also need to teach children good life habits, such as punctuality. If you are having problems getting your children to school on time and need some help, please ask your child's class teacher or call in at reception. Thank you.



Safeguarding – everybody's business

Child Protection and Safeguarding;

Everybody's business,
Everybody's concern,
Everybody's responsibility

We take the care and safety of our children very seriously. If a child tells us that they are worried about something then we have a duty to do whatever we can to help them and sometimes this might involve discussing their care with other authorities. If you have a concern about your own or another child, then please do not hesitate to let us know and we can advise appropriately. Our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Liz Hutchinson and she can be contacted by telephone or simply by calling in at reception.

Until next month.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Baxter

Mrs Wendy Baxter

Interim Head Teacher