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Friday 4th February 2022

Newsletter 15

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope that this letter finds you safe and well.

Covid-19 Update

Unfortunately, the positive cases in school continue to rise quickly. Please do continue to LFT your child on a daily basis for 7 days if you receive a notification letter of a case in your child's class – which is most year groups in school this week. Identifying positive cases and then isolating is preventing the spread to others – however, we have still had in the vicinity of 20% staff absence, at times, this week, which continues to be a challenge to manage alongside aiming to ensure continuity for the children. I do hope that any child, family member or staff member with Covid, soon makes a full recovery.

Mid-year Reports and Parents' Evenings

Your child will be bringing home their mid-year report on Wednesday 9th February. This gives you an indication of their effort and progress in school and also their attendance. We have scheduled two online Parents' Evenings for after half term on Thursday 24th February and Tuesday 1st March. Due to Covid prevalence in the school community, the meetings will be held online via the SchoolCloud system again for the safety of all involved. The booking system will open on Wednesday 9th February at 3pm. The instructions you need to book your 9minute appointment with your child's class teacher will be with the report on Wednesday.

Curriculum Update

Please see the reverse of this letter where the teachers have written brief accounts of some of the exciting learning that has taken place this half term. We're continuing to work hard to enrich our curriculum and love seeing the high-quality home learning activities that the children bring in to school to complement this.

Children's Mental Health Week- next week – Growing Together

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Growing Together**.

Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'. As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. There are some good resources to be found at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/> Our assemblies next week will focus (age appropriately) on children's mental health and strategies to support each other in Growing Together.

Half-term Holiday

Please be reminded that we break up on Friday 11th February for our half term holiday. We have a staff training day on Monday 21st February so will look forward to welcoming the children back to school on

Tuesday 22nd February.

Celebrating Achievements

We know that many of our children achieve highly in their out-of-school activities. We would love for them to bring in any certificates of achievement and/or photos for us to display on our 'Board of Fame' in school, so we can all celebrate their achievements. (We will photocopy the certificates / photos so the originals can return home safely.)

Kind regards and stay safe,

L Chadwick

Mrs Louise Chadwick

Our learning this half term...

Nursery: We have welcomed 15 new starters into Nursery. They have all settled well. We have been looking at Winter Weather and Polar Animals. We are slightly disappointed to have had no snow, since Christmas, but have taken advantage of the warm weather and have been able to spend more time outside and in the garden than we normally would at the start of the Spring term.

Reception: This half term we have been on a delightful dinosaur adventure. We have learnt about the different types of dinosaur, where they lived, what they ate and some incredible ferocious facts! We have been designing our own dinosaurs, going on dinosaur discoveries as well as leaning a dino dance! In maths we have focused on weighing and measuring. We have completed our own capacity investigations using mathematical language to describe our findings. We have also loved learning about the wonderful tradition of the Luna New Year. This year is the year of the tiger! We have looked at this wonderful celebration in depth and the stories behind it.

Year 1: This half term we have been looking at Amazing Places around the world. This includes the Ice Kingdom, deserts and the rainforest. We have learnt about Inuit life, desert animals and rainforest explorers! In reading skills, we have looked at some fantastic stories including Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's dairy and have also been working really hard on addition and subtraction in Maths.

Year 2: Our children have really enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole this half term. They have studied Florence's childhood and explored her desire to become a nurse. They were so shocked by the condition that Florence found the hospital in Scutari that they wrote a diary explaining what she saw and how it made her feel. They decided that Mary Seacole was extremely brave as she treated soldiers in the trenches. We had some fantastic writing! We have also been learning about animals, including humans, in science. We've looked at offspring and resemblances in families. The children have also studied healthy eating habits along with the importance of exercise and hygiene. In computing we have created some fantastic animations and in P.E we have improved our gymnastics skills. As always, we are really proud of our children for their hard work and efforts this half term.

Year 3: In Year 3 we are enjoying our topic of Rescue, designing our own emergency vehicles, and we look forward to making them in the next few weeks. In Computing, we are beginning to create our own algorithms using LOGO and Bee Bots, and we will be programming them to draw lots of different shapes and to find their way through mazes.

Year 4: This term Year 4 we have continued to explore our 'Wild Earth' theme. We have created 3-D collages of the Pompeii eruption and we are currently designing and making volcanoes out of recycled materials which we will be exploding shortly! Mr Wilson's class are just about ready to perform some of their violin music, whilst Mrs Proffitt's class are looking forward to beginning their lessons. We are now experts in Dodgeball and have discovered our competitive side during PE sessions. Our English work has been based on 'Mr Stink' by David Walliams. We have explored the speech and narratives throughout the text along with enjoying the humour throughout. We have become very competent at writing persuasive letters and using flattery to convince people- so beware! We are now all looking forward to starting our swimming lessons after half term.

Year 5: This term has seen Y5 enter the rainforest. We have used our Geography skills to locate and name the main rainforests of the world, understand how they are layered, identify animals and plants that live within them and we are about to look at land use and Fair Trade. Our English has all been linked to rainforests and has seen the children write modified versions of the poem 'There's A Ran-Tang In My Bedroom', write Kenning's poems about rainforest animals and compose diary entries as a tribal child who lives in the rainforest.

Year 6: In year 6 we have been working exceptionally hard across all subjects. In English, we have been writing myths and non-chronological reports. Some children researched, planned and wrote their reports about an animal of their choice, others wrote their reports about Pandas; watching a live stream of the panda at Edinburgh zoo while we completed our work. In maths, we have been looking at fractions, decimals and percentages and the children's resilience has really paid off! We have continued our topic about the Mayans. The highlight for the children was researching Mayan gods. In PE, the children have been refining their dodgeball and gymnastic skills. During computing, the children have been looking at range of video filming techniques and the unit will climax with the children recording their own videos, which they will then edit for a finished video.