Welcome to our first newsletter of the spring term. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year with your families. The new year is a great time for setting yourself new goals and challenges. What do you want to achieve this year?

**Collective Worship**

In Collective Worship, we have been thinking about our new value of honesty. We thought about what it meant to be honest and why we might need to be honest. We listened to the parable of Adam and Eve and thought about whose choice it was to be dishonest and betray God. We discussed how we are the ones accountable for our own actions.
School Year Sept 2018—August 2019

Friday 8th February—Valentines/Glow Disco 5pm—8pm
Wednesday 13th February—KS1 Phonics Screening Meeting @ 3.30pm and 6pm
Thursday 14th February—Homework due in

15th February 2019—Last Day of term
18th February 2019 to 22nd February 2019—Half term
25th February 2019—1st Day of term

Tuesday 26th February—Parents Evening (3.30pm—5.30pm)
Thursday 28th February—Parents Evening (5pm—8pm)
Wednesday 6th March—Walk in Wednesday
Thursday 7th March—World Book Day
W.c. 11th March—Science Week
Friday 15th March—Red Nose Day
Friday 22nd March—Chocolate Bingo Mufti
Friday 29th March—Mother’s Day Celebration @ school
Friday 29th March—PTFA Chocolate Bingo

Tuesday 2nd April—Year 4 to Faith Roadshow
Wednesday 3rd April—Walk in Wednesday
Thursday 4th April—Easter Service @ Church (9.30am EYFS and KS1; 10.30am KS2)

5th April 2019—Last Day of term
8th April to 22nd April 2019—Half term
23rd April 2019—1st Day of term

6th May 2019 (All school off) - Bank holiday
23rd July 2019—1st Day of summer Holiday
Digital wellbeing

Young people are growing up in a technological age that brings exciting online opportunities and experiences but it can also bring challenges. It is important that children understand how to use technology in a safe way and appreciate that it can have both a positive and negative impact on their wellbeing. Childnet has produced guidance on how you as a parent/carer can support your child with their digital wellbeing. Take a look at the Childnet guidance here: https://www.childnet.com/

Date for your diary:

Safer Internet Day Safer Internet Day 2019 will be celebrated on Tuesday 5th February 2019 with the slogan “Together for a better internet”. The day provides a fantastic opportunity to engage with children and find out about their digital lives. To help you talk to your children about having a positive and safe time online, the UK Safer Internet Centre has created a pack for parents and carers, including conversation starters, a factsheet, family pledge card and lots more.


Remember to be safe when online.

Mr Maddams
**BEHAVIOUR AWARDS**

Congratulations must go to the children who were picked as great role models for the school. These are:

- Amelia Wood
- Joseph Buetter
- Aaron Scott
- Tommy Babb
- Harley-Ray Biddle
- Lexi Barrow
- Jamie Smith
- Kristina Olar
- Latifah Masoud
- Max Igo
- Rosie Baynes
- Sebastian Lee-
- Jayden Mutuchi
- Acceptance Class

**ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Well done to all the children below who were nominated by their class teachers to receive Achievement Awards. Please encourage your children to keep up the good work.

- Bella Threadgold
- Luca Oliver
- Jamiah Goodman
- Millie McKeon
- Tommy Babb
- Harvey Baynes
- Macie Tomlinson
- Max Igo
- Darius Coraliu

**ATTENDANCE AWARD**

This week we had some high attendance scores, with two classes having 100% attendance. This week’s winners were *Justice* and *Perseverance*. Well done!
**READING RAFFLE**

This year, we have introduced the all new reading raffle. Each time your child reads, they will be given a raffle ticket. These raffle tickets will then be mixed with the other classes in the year group and one winner from each year group will be chosen in achievement worship on Fridays. Well done to this week’s winners!

- **Year 1** — Alex Jeffries & Sienna Oliver
- **Year 2** — Bella Threadgold & Layk Maher
- **Year 3** —
- **Year 4** — Isaac Wells & Emilia Wleklak
- **Year 5** — Megan-Rose & Danny Borrett
- **Year 6** — Toby Lorentzen & Henry Smith

**LUNCHTIME BEHAVIOUR—Outside**

This week, the lunchtime trophy was given to the class who had been demonstrating exemplary behaviour during lunchtime out on the playground. The winning class gets to keep the lunchtime trophy for a fortnight and have a lunchtime filled with exciting treats. The winning class this week was...

**Kindness**

**LUNCHTIME BEHAVIOUR—Inside**

This week, the new certificates were awarded to the children who had been demonstrating exemplary behaviour during lunchtime in the dinner hall. From excellent listening skills to helping their younger peers, these children really are fantastic role models. Well done!

- Oakley Sharman
- Mollie Maxwell
- Keera Gray
- Max Igo
- Obinna Madichie
Reading is one of the most fundamental skills children need to learn to be successful.

Not only do good reading skills benefit students academically, they are also a skill required for lifelong success. Reading develops vocabulary, increases attention span, and promotes stronger analytical thinking.

GETTING YOUR CHILD INTERESTED IN READING

The key to encouraging reading habits in kids is reading with them at home from a young age. By reading together often, your child will learn first hand the joys reading can bring, helping him or her develop a motivation to read.

However, every student learns and processes information differently. This means that some children may have a natural love of reading, and some may not.

If your child falls into the second category, don’t fret. As parents, there are many different strategies you can use to motivate your child to read.

First, it’s important to figure out why your child doesn’t like reading.

WHY DOES MY CHILD HATE READING?

Not every child loves to read. Some common reasons children don’t like to read include:

- Your child feels like reading is a chore
- Your child has difficulty reading
- Your child thinks reading is boring
- Your child hasn’t found the right book yet

The good news is that when you know why your child doesn’t like to read, you can address the issue and begin to make reading more enjoyable.

By learning to make reading fun, your child is more likely to develop a love of reading, encouraging better
10 WAYS TO ENCOURAGE GOOD READING HABITS IN CHILDREN

Try these 10 easy tips to encourage good reading habits in your child by making reading fun.

1. **CREATE A READING AREA.**
   Make an area for your child to read in with his or her help. Grab a bean bag chair, fun accessories, a variety of books, and your child will have his or her own cozy reading corner.

2. **ENCOURAGE READING AT HOME AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.**
   Teach your child that reading is more than just for books. Practice reading menus, movie names, road signs, game instructions, and more—show your child reading is everywhere.

3. **SET AN EXAMPLE.**
   Act as a role model and read in front of your child. Watching you reading magazines, newspapers, and books shows your child that reading is important. Encourage your child to join you with his or her own book while you are reading.

4. **MAKE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN READING AND REAL LIFE.**
   Help your child apply what he or she is reading to everyday life. Making connections between books and your child’s own experience can help increase his or her interest in reading.

5. **KEEP READING MATERIALS IN THE HOUSE.**
   Give your child easy access to books and other reading materials at home. This helps him or her understand that reading doesn’t only happen at school—it can happen anywhere.

6. **VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.**
   Making reading fun can be easy with a library card. Take advantage of the selection at your local public library by letting your child pick out a book that catches his or her attention.

7. **TALK ABOUT WHAT YOUR CHILD IS READING.**
   After your child has finished a book, talk about what happened and ask what his or her favourite part was. This will enhance your child’s comprehension skills, and make reading a family activity.

8. **EXPOSE YOUR CHILD TO DIFFERENT BOOK GENRES.**
   Find a book that interests your child. Explore different genres like mystery, science-fiction, comic books, and more. The more interested your child is in a subject, the more he or she will be excited to read!

9. **SUPPORT YOUR CHILD.**
   If your child has difficulty reading and gets frustrated, take a step back and see where he or she is struggling. Talk with his or her teacher and address the issue as soon as possible.

10. **READ EACH NIGHT.**
    Make reading part of the night-time routine. This habit helps your child learn to associate reading with relaxation.
Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

Before Christmas, on the last day of term, we all came together for our annual Christmas carol sing-a-long. The children all thoroughly enjoyed singing with their teachers and even had a chance to use the tambourines and bells. We even had lots of actions and some sign language too! A huge thank you to Mr Stenson and Mrs Reynolds for leading the Christmas carol sing-a-long.
Immersion Day

We kicked off this term with an action packed immersion day. The children were fully immersed in their new units and had a great day exploring their new time era or significant individual.

There was also part of the day set aside for the children to reflect on their Christmas holidays and think about the goals they wanted to set themselves for this year. From completing more steps a day, to reading 5 times a week and eating less chocolate to having neater handwriting, the children chose their own resolutions. We look forward to seeing the children work hard to achieve their goals!

Year 1/2 Immersion

Immersion day was a very exciting day, with the children learning all about the new, famous Victorian we would be studying. The children were first presented with part of a picture and had to use their prediction and inference skills to decide what it was. Some thought it was a flag from a pirate ship, other’s thought it might be a flag on Queen Victoria’s castle. As the children were given more clues, they found out that the photograph was of Robert Falcon Scott and his team who led an expedition to the South Pole in 1910-1912. The children found out about who they were and their struggles to get there. The children then had to sort 2 suitcases of equipment that they would need to take on an expedition to the Antarctic, from then and now.

Year 5/6 Immersion

During immersion day of our new topic (Crime and Punishment), year 5/6 looked at the story of Hansel and Gretel and were shocked by the amount of crimes which had been committed during this tale! As a consequence, it was decided that Hansel and Gretel should be put on trial for the murder of the old lady who had taken them in during their time of need. Both the prosecuting and defence teams had to write opening statements, questions for witnesses and closing statements before the jury made their final decision. Each class had very different outcomes...
ST. MARY’S CHURCH—FAMILY SERVICE

This month’s family service at St Mary’s church is exploring what we can learn from the film The Greatest Showman. The KS2 children will be performing a dance at the service on Sunday 3rd February at 10am. We

SNOW PROCEDURE

For future snow days, please check the St. Mary’s app and on the school website to see any updates about our closure. Alternatively, you can also check your texts and emails for any updates. Please make sure the office have all of your updated contact details so you are aware of any changes to opening.

HEAD LICE

Recently, we have been made aware of some children having head lice. Please check your children’s hair regularly and treat them as necessary. Follow these top tips below to find and treat head lice and nits.

- Have a look under a good light, such as a lamp or the natural sunlight by sitting at a window or going outdoors.
- Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner, before using a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair (this makes it easier to divide the hair into sections and fasten off the hair that is not being worked on.
- Use a ‘nit’ comb to detect the presence of lice and nits, (you can pick one of these up from your local chemist). Using the comb, go through each section of the hair. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots, with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice. Clean the comb after each stroke by dipping the comb in a cup of water, or use a paper towel to remove eggs, lice and/or nits.
- Work methodically through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head is combed through. Look through each section of the hair for attached nits (lice eggs) and live lice.
- Nits are always oval-shaped. While usually greyish-white they can vary in colour. Nits are generally laid close to the scalp but can be found anywhere on the hair shaft.
- Rinse out conditioner and repeat the combing procedure.
- If using lice killing products it is important to remember that these are pesticides. If you choose to purchase an over-the-counter treatment, follow the directions carefully. Consult your pharmacist or doctor if your child has allergies, asthma, epilepsy, pre-existing medical conditions or has lice or nits in their eye brows or eyelashes. Never use an over-the-counter treatment on or near the eyes.