

Mrs Mason's Messages



Issue 14: Friday 29th April 2022

Headteacher's Weekly Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term. I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful Easter and are feeling recharged and refreshed at the start of this very busy term!

Our Year 2 and Year 6 pupils are busy preparing for their end of key stage statutory assessments (SATs) this half term. We have not had formal assessments since 2019 due to Covid. We have been working hard to support the children both academically and pastorally and we feel so proud of their resilient and positive attitudes.

I have been showing visitors around our school this week and it has been a delight to walk into happy, buzzing classrooms where children are engaged and excited by their learning. I particularly enjoyed visiting Year 1 who have been following the Worship themes, basing their English work around the book *Daisy's Sunflower* giving them opportunities to develop their scientific as well as their literacy skills; our Key Stage 2 library continues to be well-used with children swapping their books on a Wednesday lunchtime with Mrs Murphy and; Mrs Palmer has begun working with every class to produce beautiful sunflowers to display in our link area of school - pictures to follow!

I think a real highlight of this week for the children has been getting the field and KS2 trim trail into use as the weather has improved. Lunchtimes have seen multiple games taking place with children thoroughly enjoying playing with one another on the grass. We are continuing to invest in our outdoor equipment for playtimes and lunchtimes as well as providing extra-curricular clubs and opportunities over these less-structured periods. I hope you are enjoying the long weekend and making the most of the weather!

Mrs Mason

School News



This week, Key Stage 2 were entertained by a special visitor with a

unique talent! Nathan is known as 'The Plumber Drummer UK' and he was fantastic. The children loved watching and listening to Nathan make music using only plastic pipes and 2 flip flops! It really was amazing to listen to and the children were totally in awe of his drumming skills! If you would like to listen yourself then find him on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BamJ6z4UHrg> or search 'the plumber drummer uk'. Mrs Bigger

SMSC



Our SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) focus this term is 'Who We Are'. We started our theme thinking about ourselves and how we as individuals make up our school community. This was introduced through our worship and our PSHE lessons are focusing on our individual liberty and making good choices in different aspects of our lives. In staff training we are thinking about the individual members of our school community and their differing needs.

Worship

In worship we began looking at our SMSC theme with a focus on what we could learn from sunflowers. We learnt some interesting facts - for example, did you know that the Guinness World Record for the tallest sunflower is 30ft 1"? We also thought about what advice we could take from sunflowers in our own lives:

- be bright, sunny and positive;
- spread seeds of happiness;
- rise, shine and hold your head high;
- always turn to the light.

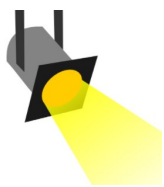


Prayer



Dear God,
Just as a sunflower looks to the light, help us to look to your light to help us grow each day.

A sunflower is made up of hundreds of individual flowers, just like our school is made up of hundreds of individual people. Let us work together to make our school a beautiful place.
Amen



In the Spotlight..... Homework



Last term we focused on gathering opinion on homework in order to develop a new homework policy. You may recall feedback from the parent forum conducted in February on this theme and we have also considered pupil and staff feedback on both the impact and manageability of homework for children. The revised homework policy is attached to this email and was approved at our Curriculum and Standards Committee on Friday. For ease, the key points are summarised below but please do consult the full policy.

As a result of consultation, we have split the homework into two parts: weekly 'set' tasks and half-termly or termly 'encouraged' tasks. The weekly set tasks directly link to English and Mathematics work in class with a focus on reading, spelling and basic skills. Reading involves daily reading at home and spelling is learning the set spellings weekly which are taught in school that week and then tested—there is no change to current practice. In Key Stage 2, pupils will be set Mathematics homework via web-based systems - in Lower KS2 this will be via Times Tables Rockstars, Year 5 will use Mirodo and Year 6 SATs Companion. Key Stage 1 pupils may be set mathematics homework if beneficial to consolidate work in class. All tasks will be set on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday and spellings will be set on a Monday and tested the following Monday.

We have decided to keep the system of topic-based homework but to provide greater structure for parents and children. Each term children will be given a homework menu of suggested tasks. They should choose one to complete and return to school by the end of term. Homework menus will be sent out in the last week of this half term. This will replace the 'What has inspired me' homework. Christian Values homework, linked to our half-termly worship themes, will continue to be sent home each half-term. Both the topic-based homework and the Christian Values homework are encouraged.

For ease of reference, the appendix at the end of the homework policy gives a snapshot of the tasks which will be set and encouraged and a suggested maximum time limit per day for homework. In the case of children not completing homework, we will work with families to support them and pupils to enable all pupils to benefit from the regular practice and consolidation of basic skills of reading, spelling and mathematics. All children are expected to complete set homework tasks. In the event of non-completion, teachers in the first instance will contact parents and we will look for ways in which school and families can work effectively together to support pupil learning. Thank you for your support with this policy.

Pupil Voice—School Council



School Council met this week with Miss James, our PSHE coordinator, who will now be leading the Pupil Council. They discussed their role in school and have begun to think about the rewards systems we are currently using. They will be getting feedback from the classes on this topic over the next few weeks as we start to think about our behaviour and reward policies in school.

Book Sale

We are holding a second-hand book sale after school on Thursday 5th May outside the link area. All books will be priced at 20p and we would encourage everyone to come along and support. Any books not sold will be donated to charity and any proceeds used to buy new books for our Key Stage 1 library.



Community News



"Raising Yorkshire Puddings" Parent Support Group
The Parent Support Group is an online support group, facilitated by NHS mental health practitioners. The group is a safe space for parents to get together, share their experiences and build positive relationships. A different subject is discussed each month and parents will receive useful information and strategies around the chosen monthly topic. For an invite, please email: mhstparentsupport@bdct.onmicrosoft.com. Next Parents Support Group details: Tuesday 17th May 2022 with the topic: "Supporting your child: Change and transition through school".

Diary Dates



Tuesday 3rd May—return to school
Thursday 5th May—Book Sale after school outside the link area
Monday 9th—Thursday 12th May—Y6 SATs tests
Thursday 12th May—Friday 13th May—3TI residential
Tuesday 17th May—Y6 Brownlee Foundation Mini-Triathlon
Thursday 19th May—Friday 20th May - 3SG residential
Tuesday 24th May - EYFS Nell Bank visit
Thursday 26th May—parent forum on **reading**
Friday 27th May—school closes for half term