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"Let your light shine." Matthew 5:16

Dear Mothers, Fathers and Carers,

Welcome to this half term's newsletter as we continue to move through this wonderful year and into our Summer term. Your children are learning lots and are making good progress, both academically and personally. Things are really exciting in school at the moment with lots of wonderful learning planned, both inside and out, across the school. There'll be some Geography fieldtrips taking place, a Garden Party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, Class 3 will continue with their swimming lessons (they're getting really good!), Y6 will be taking their SATs tests to name but a few!

The building work to improve and update the school facilities will continue and designs are being drawn for the main playground and EYFS provision to begin work.

Hopefully the sun will continue to shine for us as we enjoy our summer of learning. As always, we are here for you and your children so please never hesitate to contact us.

Warmest wishes,
Miss Birks

Key Dates this term:

25th April	Children return to school
27th April	'Community Café' 2:30pm
29th April	Parent's Newsletter out
2nd May	Bank Holiday
w/c 9th May	KS2 SATs Week
w/c 16th May	KS1 SATs week 1
w/c 23rd May	KS1 SATs week 2
25th May	'Community Café' 2:30pm
26th May	Eucharist in Church
27th May	12pm - Picnic on the Orchard Lawn to celebrate Queen's Jubilee - parents welcome
27th May	Last day of term

School Terms and Holidays for Academic Year 2021-2022

Summer 1: Monday 25th April - Friday 27th May 2022
PLEASE NOTE - MAY BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 2nd MAY
Spring Bank holidays - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June 2022
Summer 2: PLEASE NOTE Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday - Monday 6th June
Monday 6th June - Thursday 21st July 2022
Break up 20th July - INSET DAY 21st July
Summer Holidays - Friday 22nd July - Monday 31st August 2022

Community Café's

We love our monthly Community Café's, where parents can get together over a cuppa and a cake for a relaxed chat. Please do come along if you can make it!



School Updates

We continue to work extremely hard behind the scenes in improving our school and the education that we offer. More recently, we have just finished creating our new Science and Geography curriculum which the children are now enjoying the lessons of. We are having all the toilets refurbished and updated, and have had new blinds installed around school. We are in the designing process for our outdoor areas and playgrounds, but our garden is in need of some TLC - if any parent can offer some time for a spot of gardening, please contact Miss Birks. Thank you!

Y6 SATs 9-12th May

We wish all of our amazing Y6's all the luck in the world for their SATs tests next week! They have worked so hard with Miss Stowell and the Y6 team to remember all their KS2 learning and show off what they can achieve. They'll do brilliantly we're sure! There may be some disruption for other children around school as we keep the Class 4 area as quiet as we can, but we will keep this to a minimum. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers!

Y2 SATs 16-27th May

Our Y2's will be taking their KS1 SATs during this fortnight. Their tests will be spread out throughout the fortnight and will be kept as informal as possible. They will do themselves proud and we are all here to support them as much as we can! Further information will be sent to parents nearer the time.



Queen's Jubilee Picnic

On Friday 27th May, we will be having a whole school picnic on the Orchard Lawn to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. There'll be a special buffet lunch that day for the children to choose from, bunting, decorations and plenty of music and fun. We'd LOVE for parents to come and join us, so pop it in your diaries. If you would like lunch provided too, it'll cost £3 for an adult lunch. More info to follow!

How can you help at home?

1. Encourage your child to read EVERY night.
2. Help them complete homework every week.
3. Help them to learn Spellings and new vocab.
4. Help them to learn times tables and practise using TT Rock Stars.
5. Encourage children to show excellent behaviour.
6. Make sure children arrive at school on time.
7. Ensure they wear their uniform.
8. Make sure your child comes to school every day that they are well.
9. Avoid taking any holidays during term time: children miss so much learning!
10. Encourage your child to play after school: Have down time together and have fun!
11. Talk to your child about what they are learning at school and celebrate their successes!
12. Coming to school organized!



Parking

We thank all parents who have helped us keep our children safe by parking safely and in areas that doesn't cause obstruction. There has been a noticeable improvement in parking around school which could not be achieved without the commitment of families.

Unfortunately, there are still a very small minority of parents who still park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school. The Parking Enforcement Vehicle is still visiting school regularly, who will send fines to those caught parked there. Where cars are seen parking on the yellow lines, school will be referring their details to the local council for a letter to be sent.

Please ensure you are parked legally!

We have had some complaints from local neighbours recently (which has not been the case for a long time) so please ensure you are keeping side streets and driveways free of obstruction.

Thank you for all your support with this matter.



Read, Read and Read again!

Please, please, please ensure you are reading as much as you can with your children, or encouraging them to read as often as possible. It is so important that they re-read books as well. We ask that they try to read at least 5 times per week at home with as many of these as possible to an adult. Reading has the biggest impact on a child's abilities and we cannot stress how important it is for your child to read regularly. Please ensure you are proactive in filling out your child's new reading diary whenever they read to recognise and celebrate their efforts! The more reads they do, the more certificates they'll earn!

A fact about reading that you may or may not know is:

"Children who read 1,000,000 words a year are in the top 2% of reading achievement."



Learning this term!

As a brief outline, these are some of the areas of learning that your children will be developing this half term:

Class 1 - We are going way, way back in time this half term - our topic is called "A Long Time Ago". We'll be learning all about castles and fairytales, knights and dragons with a particular focus on exploring non-fiction texts. We will be making 3D castle models and our Science learning "Can I describe different materials?" will help us choose materials to make them with. In RE we are learning about creation and we are practicing gymnastics and ball skills in PE. We are starting a brand-new way of learning Maths too, using NumberBlocks to help, which we are loving!

Class 2 - In Class 2, we are learning all about Castles and Kings & Queens. We will be looking at features of castles and learning all about their functions, along with the people who lived and worked in them of course! In Science, we are continuing our learning of plants as we look at "What grows where we live?" which will mean plenty of learning outdoors in our updated and improved garden space! We will be reading 'Tadpole's Promise' and writing our own love letters, whilst in Maths we will be learning how to tell the time and direction.

Class 3 - Our class novel this half term is 'Meet Me by the Steelmen', a book based in our local city of Sheffield! In Science, we are investigating parts of a plant and trying to answer the question "What functions do the parts of a plant have?" There'll be plenty of dissecting flowers! We will be learning all about fractions in Maths and word processing skills in Computing. Our History unit will be exploring Walter Tull, a significant person of the past and we will be exploring concepts that surround him of overcoming adversity and challenges. In RE, we are learning about baptism and the Holy Trinity, whilst our Art is based on the pop art and graffiti style of Romero Britto.

Class 4 - Even though the Y6's have a week of SATs, there is still lots of learning going on in our classroom! In Science, we will be critically investigating and discovering "How do plants reproduce?"