

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter holiday. I am pleased to report I have returned to work following a short bout of illness and am back to firing on all cylinders. Thank you to those of you who asked after me during this time.

Further to my newsletter in the spring, I am now able to announce that, following a lengthy interview process, involving four credible candidates, my replacement has been named as Mrs Alison Priddle. Mrs Priddle will be relocating from the Isle of Wight in time to take leadership of the school at the beginning of the new academic year. With over thirty years' experience in a variety of educational and social care settings, working with and teaching children of all ages, Mrs Priddle has a good understanding and insight into a wide range of high-quality approaches to education. Alison's teaching background is in music and, despite the financial pressures currently faced by all schools, she is keen to protect our rich curriculum and maintain the therapies offered to the children. I have informed the pupils of this news during today's morning assembly, so they may want to discuss it with you. I have explained that Mrs Priddle will be coming into school to meet the pupils and staff as much as possible before her start date in September. The first of these visits will be Thursday 9th May.

In respect of our rich and broad curriculum, we have been busy organising a range of annual and original extra-curricular events for the summer term. These include a reward day for our Year 6 pupils completing their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), a geography theme week, theatre performances by Year 10 pupils from Oxford High School and the M&M Theatre Company, visits to the Cotswold Wildlife and Water Parks, our annual dance and music project in partnership with the Oxford Philamusica Orchestra, Sports Day and our end of term BBQ for pupils and families. More details and dates relating to these events will be released closer to their times.

Three dates to take immediate note of are school closures on Monday 6th May (Bank Holiday) and Monday 3rd June (Staff INSET). We have notified Education Transport of these dates and taxis will not be running on these two days. Also, Robin and Eagle classes will be holding a joint assembly at 9.15am on **Friday 24th May.**

Some of you will soon receive letters relating to your child's attendance for the last half-term. Ideally, we would love to see every child in school as much as possible, so we will notify you if your child's half-termly attendance dips below 90%. If you receive one of these letters, please accept it as a supportive step. At present, our overall attendance since the start of the academic year stands at 93.42%. Please help us in achieving our school development target of reaching 96% pupil attendance. This is the reason why we celebrate 100% pupil attendance on a weekly and termly basis during our awards assemblies: the pupils continue to take pride in the school community celebrating these and other similar successes.

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis
Headteacher



Osprey Class (Mr Moar):

We have been studying the Iron Man in our English lessons: exploring character motivation, feelings, tension and a variety of different language features such as direct speech. In Maths, we have been looking at negative numbers which included how to add a negative number to a positive number. Science has seen us looking at plants, we have looked at their life cycle as well as the different parts that make them up. In our topic work, we have been studying ancient Egypt.

Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):

We have enjoyed learning about the history of space exploration and the development of the telescope. As part of our Art focus, we have produced some fantastic mixed media artwork based on Vincent Van Gogh and the theme 'Starry night'. Our Maths has focused on length, weight and capacity; with there being lots of discussion and practise around accurate estimating of different objects and the correct units to apply to them. We've also shown a deeper understanding of a range of suffixes which will further help in our developing writing skills.

Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):

Well done to Chaffinch class for talking about our PGL trip to parents and the rest of the school during last week's class assembly. In Science we are finishing off our changing materials topic. Our new topic for the term is Earth and Beyond. We are counting down to SATs, which take place the week beginning Monday 13th May. I ask for your support with ensuring early nights the weekend before and during the week. The children have all worked extremely hard towards these tests and although some are anxious please reassure them and remind them that so long as they do their best, we can ask for no more.

Wren Class: (Miss Davies):

Wren class have settled back into school routine really well. This term, Wren will be looking at a new topic of Pirates and use musical instruments to replicate pirate songs. In English,

we have been looking at a new story 'Man on the Moon' and have explored characters in detail. In Maths, the pupils have consolidated their 1 more and 1 less knowledge and have focused their learning on adding 10 more and 10 less. We are still enjoying our weekly swimming sessions.

Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):

We have been learning all about space. Our topic is called Stargazers and in English we are reading all about biographies and diary entries. We have started reading a biography based on the life and achievements of Neil Armstrong and have written our own diary entries from the perspective of Neil. In Maths, we have been looking at graphs and charts, as well as finding the area of rectangles and triangles. We've made some excellent space inspired music using various instruments and in drama have acted out scenes from myths from different cultures that are based on the moon.

Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):

This term our English work has been on the Ted Hughes' book The Iron Man. So far, the class have made masks out of tin foil and written creative paragraphs on the first sightings of the main character. Our topic, entitled *Scrumdidlyumptious* will see the children learn, taste and make different foods from around the world. The topic will also allow them to become creative with making their own recipes. We continue to set weekly behaviour and learning targets and the children are eager to know when their credit orders will arrive in school.

Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):

We have had a busy couple of weeks back in school after the two-week break. In our English lessons, we have started reading 'The Iron Man'. Our Maths work has focused on telling the time using an analogue clock. This term our topic is all about Ancient Egyptian Pharaohs. We have recapped our work on Tutankhamen and found out where in the world Egypt is. In Science we are learning about plants – we have planned an

investigation to see how well plants grow in different conditions. This half-term we will be swimming every Wednesday and will have PE on a Tuesday.

The Nest (Miss Youngman):

We have started our new topic on space. As a class we made a list of all the things we wanted to learn about ... the list is endless. On the week beginning 13th May, we are going to be making rockets with the children. If you could gather up bits of junk from around the house that they could use for modelling that would be really helpful. In our Maths lessons, we have been working on multiplication and we will be moving on to use something called the grid method next week. In English we have been comic book writing. We watched a mini movie, The Way Back Home, and wrote our own comic strip to retell the story.

Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):

I hope you all had a great Easter break! Eagle class have made a good start to the summer term and have enjoyed learning about the planets, how we get our seasons and the cycles of the moon in Science. For English, we are learning about biographies and the life of Neil Armstrong. We have been listening to Holst's 'Planet Suite' in music and using our imaginations to create planets to fit with way the music made us feel. In art, we have been learning about Van Gogh and creating our own Starry Night works of art.

Robin Class (Miss Ferrer):

Robin class have started a new topic: space. We have been discovering about the fascinating life of Neil Armstrong. This week in our Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) work, we have been doing a great job using the passive voice. In PSHCE, we have done a recap about important things to bear in mind if we want to have a healthy lifestyle and why is that essential for all of us. We have been doing lots of work related to multiplications and we are getting better at it! Last week we cooked some tasty pizzas. Thank you to our great Brookes students for their help.