

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am typing this part of my newsletter whilst observing the teachers and higher-level teaching assistants moderate a range of written work completed by the pupils. It is pleasing to observe their enthusiasm and professionalism when sharing good practice and assessing the quality of the work against governmental standards. Such 'behind the scenes' efforts are proof of how hard the staff work for the children. Out of the goodness of their hearts, it is not unusual for some of the teachers and teaching assistants to be on site and work twelve-hour days.

During the half-term holidays, a large number of staff attended the funeral service for our recently departed colleague, Lucy Murray. You may recall me writing to you about this sad news at the end of May. I make mention of it here as this week the pupils were sensitively informed of Lucy's death by their class teachers. The pupils have suggested some very touching ways of remembering Lucy. They may share this news with you. If they do so, please listen to your child and feel free to explain to them that you were also made aware of her passing. Do notify me if your child appears adversely effected by this news. It may be possible and necessary to offer individual pupils follow-up support and reassurance.

I was reminded this week that we are currently without parental representation on the local governing body. The role of the parent governor is of great importance and involves listening impartially to concerns raised by parents, guiding parents regarding appropriate lines of action and procedures, presenting a balanced view of issues and representing different sections of the community. Should you wish to be considered for this role, please notify the school office who will pass on your interest to Jean Carr, the current chair of governors.

The British Academy are conducting a wide-ranging review of policy and research across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to understand the impact of policy development of children and young people's experiences of growing up in the UK. They want to make sure this important review includes the voices and experiences of children and young people. They aim to gather views through a survey and focus groups to understand what is important to children and young people in the UK today. **The survey can be filled out by clicking here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BGLN7TC>** Please note that the deadline for responses is 10th June.

A case of nits was seen in school this week. Please check your child's hair for these dreaded creatures and, if necessary, please wash their hair with the appropriate shampoo. I also remind you of the need to provide your child with the appropriate PE and/or swimming kit. The warmer weather means many of the pupils are now quite sweaty after exercising.

Finally, please add the following dates to your diaries. **Your child's end of year reports will be sent out on Friday 12th July and parents evening will be held on Monday 15th July.** I will write to you with notice of how to book an appointment at parents evening nearer the time.

With my very best wishes,



Jonathan Willis
Headteacher

Red Kite Class (Miss Morgan):

Red Kite class have been learning all about the United States of America for geography week. We made flags, drew maps, created fact files and identified all of the states using an atlas and their state codes. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting negative numbers using number lines and have also had lots of fun tasking each other with missing number and square root questions.

Falcon Class (Mrs Rolfe):

We hope you all had a lovely half term. This week we have been practicing our lines for our class assembly. Thank you to those of you who were able to come in and show your support. It was nice to be able to catch-up with you over a cup of tea after the children had shared their work with the school. This term we will be looking at fractions in our maths lessons, plants in science sessions and newspaper reports in literacy activities. Fingers crossed the weather will stay nice for us to be able to enjoy our trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park next week.

Kingfisher Class (Mrs Burns):

Kingfisher class enjoyed learning about Australia in geography week. We learnt about some of the animals, found out about the design of the flag and made some fairy bread. In literacy, we have started planning ideas for our own stories, we had lots of fun combining different animals to make unusual creatures like a 'snutterfly'. In maths, we are working on our times tables and practicing our addition by completing Big Maths every day. Our new science topic for this half term is sound. We will also have trampolining this half term, please check diaries to find out the dates for this activity.

Osprey Class (Mr Moar):

During geography week we studied South Africa. We looked at its location, climate, wildlife and history. We paid particular attention to Nelson Mandela as a famous South African. This week at school we have started looking at calligrams and shape poems in literacy. In Maths, we have looked at comparing and ordering decimals. Our topic work

continues to study the ancient Egyptians and we have started making our own mummies. We have also looked at the 75th D-Day landing anniversary and its importance in the context of World War II. In science our topic is sound.

Woodpecker Class (Mr Jeffries):

Woodpeckers really enjoyed exploring the culture of Japan and its varied geographical features, as part of Geography week. In Maths, we are having an extended focus on fractions and are putting a lot of work into ordering and simplifying numerators and denominators. We are soon to embark on exploring texts about Mars and continuing to think about how adopting some of an astronaut's attributes can help us in our everyday lives and learning.

Chaffinch Class (Mrs McClimont):

During our geography week we focussed on China. This was followed by looking at the impact of the growing economy, including the positives and negatives of the Three Gorges Dam. We compared life in China for children - most of the class preferred England as children in China's cities tended to go to school at the weekend. We also explored key tourist attractions and the impact of tourism. We also made salt dough dragons. The week finished with a delicious sampling of Chinese food from the local take away!

Wren Class: (Miss Davies):

We have an exciting last term ahead. Their topic for this term is Memory Box. In Science, linked to PSHCE, we will be looking at changes, different animal life cycles and the stages of growing up. In English, Wren will listen to a range of poems and evaluate and respond to them. The children will then have a go at writing their own poem linked to the Topic Focus. Wren's focus in ICT will be on Coding. The children will use software called Espresso to learn how to make their own computer games.

The Nest (Miss Youngman):

The term has got off to a great start by talking about the fun things ahead, such as swimming and our trip to the

Cotswold Wildlife Park. Our topic this term is Our World, which the class have worked together to create. We will look at natural disasters, map work, extreme weathers and global warming and are very much looking forward to getting started. In literacy, we have started our new topic of Aladdin.

Eagle Class (Mrs Bishop):

The week before half-term was a busy one! Eagle Class were given the task of learning about Italy as part of the whole-school Geography week. We listened to Opera music and shopped for and cooked an Italian feast of pasta dishes – which we ate al fresco! It was also our class assembly. All the children spoke brilliantly, explaining our space topic to the school and visiting parents. We are continuing with this topic until we move on to studying 'The Black Death!'

Robin Class (Miss Ferrer):

For the past two weeks Robin class have been working very hard. First of all, some of us did SATs and tried to do our best! We have also been cooking, did our last music tech session and created some rockets with different materials. We rehearsed for our assembly with Eagle class and on Friday we did a fabulous job explaining lots of interesting facts and information about Space. Most of us participated and we were proud of all the team work and all the effort put into it.

The Bridge: (Mrs Lee)

Pupils visiting The Bridge have been enjoying activities linked to a topic all about chocolate. We have enjoyed exploring the origins and history of chocolate. We have relocated to the old art block, meaning we have much more space and are also making good use of the outdoor facilities and areas around the school pond. The pupils have also been honing their cricket skills and had an enjoyable but hard fought game in the sunshine.