

FLORA NEWS



Head's Blog

I love Christmas, but I'm glad Christmas is over. I love the Christmas holiday, but I'm relieved that Christmas holiday has finally come to an end. I love my family, but I wasn't too sad to see them head for their work and University this week—my daughter to Paris where she is studying. I will miss her, of course, but for one reason, at least, I'm glad she's gone.

I am glad, because the end of the year and the beginning of school marks the return of my good friend Routine—sweet, kind Routine.

Christmas had some great moments of fun and relaxation. We had lots of good traveling and otherwise enjoying the season. But it has also been tough. The day the school closed for Christmas I saw the children chanting something about “no more pencils, no more books...” I saw Routine following along behind them. His bags were packed and he was holding a ticket to somewhere far north, or maybe it was far south—I don't really know. But I do know that he waved goodbye and disappeared that day.

I missed him this Christmas. This Christmas was full of all the things he keeps us from—late nights and late mornings, sleeping in and lounging around, ignoring chores and griping about responsibilities. Christmas was marked by a longing for indolence and a resentment of activity.

But I had confidence that Routine would return. I was looking for him. Waiting for him. And sure, enough, this Monday he came whistling up the path and into the School—it was 6:25am and he was exactly on time.

I love Routine. I guess there are some people who denounce him, who consider him an affront to their freedom and their desire to live with spontaneity. I thrive with Routine. My family thrives with Routine, with the regular, repeated, predictable pattern of events that unfold roughly the same way day after day, and week after week. Life is just so much better when he is around and when he is doing his thing.

With Routine in our lives, I wake up at the same time every day. I come downstairs at the same time. I log a few minutes of email skimming (and deleting) at the same time. We eat breakfast at the same time. We get dressed and ready at the same time. We go out the door at the same time. It's all so predictable. It's all so anticipated. It's all so formulaic. It's all so awesome.

That is just how it happened today, and, I trust, just how it will happen tomorrow and the day after. Already Routine has left his mark, and our lives are so much better this way. Welcome back, my old friend.

Year 1 were reading *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* this week and re-creating all the food that the greedy tiger ate, but using our different tools and playdough! This is a photo of the chips that the tiger ate! >

You may have noticed that the conifer trees by the trim trail have been removed during the recent holidays. The local authority had recently undertaken an inspection of the trees on the school site and these had been deemed as unsafe due to a large split in the trunk of one of them. They therefore arranged to remove the trees to avoid any potential risk.

We have also had an electronic sign installed just inside the school gate, which has been provided by Exemplar Education to support our links with them over the last few years and the coming 12 months. Moving forwards, it will be used to support our communication with parents, pupils and the local community users.



If you have a child that was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 you will need to apply for a **Reception** place before the deadline of 15th January.

This is the link to make your application -

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/> If you need any help please come to the school office.

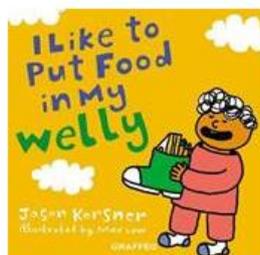
We are now accepting applications for our **Nursery** from September 2020 for children turning 3 years old before 31st August 2020. Please return your form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Places will be allocated a first come first serve basis.

If your child will be turning 3 years old between 1st September and 31st December 2020, please complete an application form for a potential January 2021 start (subject to availability).

Application forms are available from the school office. Please speak to Miss O'Donnell regarding your options and entitlements for Nursery places, include your eligibility for the Government's 30 hour funding.

Miss Woodcock's Recommended Reads

For ages 3-5 and up

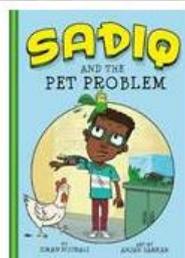


I Like To Put Food in My Welly

Author: Jason Korsner **Illustrator:** Max Low

Children will adore this brilliantly surreal book of poems, which get sillier for the longer you read them. Korsner's word play is also ideal for helping little ones learn when short sentences are right or wrong!

For ages 5-8 and up

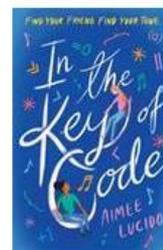


Sadiq and the Pet Problem

Author: Siman Nurali **Illustrator:** Anjan Sarkar

Sadiq is excited about getting a pet for the classroom, but which one should the class choose? Sadiq is a relatable little boy from Somalia, who has everyday experiences that children will identify with.

For ages 9-12 and up



In the Key of Code

Author: Aimee Lucido

Emmy is in a new city and new school and has just discovered computer coding. But why are people in class keeping secrets? This verse novel brilliantly combines poetry, music and coding with a coming-of-age story and a celebration of girls in STEM.

The clubs brochure for this term has now been published and you should have found a copy in your child's bookbag. All clubs, including those that are free, must be booked online via Sims Pay.

Years 5 and 6 took part in an Action for the Environment workshop this week.



Friday 24th January Sapphire House Fundraising Day!

Sapphire House will be running a charity event where contestants take part in an obstacle course around the school in the hope of winning one of the amazing prizes.

Pupils can register their interest and pay the 50p entry fee as early as next week by just speaking to either Mrs Grippman or Sapphire's House Captain, Mikayla.

On the day please wear blue or pink and bring a donation of your choice to support our chosen charity, Cancer Research UK.

Value Award Winners

Nursery – Evrard
Reception – Sasha
Year 1 – Loaira
Year 2 – Nazim
Year 3 – Malachi
Year 4 – Mila
Year 5 – Yonis
Year 6 – Dwell
PE – Xela