

# Newsbites

November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020

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### The Head's Update

Dear All,

Term 1 flew by – it was fantastic to see the school full again buzzing with life. We achieved so much:

- Relaunching the house teams.
- Class marble rewards – hot chocolate, benchball, extra play and use of the KS2 trim trail are some examples classes achieved.
- Seeing the outdoor area being used in EYFS each day.
- Forest school working in the woods (all classes will have sessions but Neil works with one class a fortnight).
- Whole school assemblies – using our computers and Teams.
- Our hot dinners – feedback from the children is that these are working well. This term we see many of our popular meals coming back on the menu including roast dinners. Knowing not everyone likes gravy and custard, these will be individually served from jugs.
- Interesting topics happening in each class – we have been learning about volcanoes, The Stone Age, the seasons and Diwali to name but a few.
- Uniform sale and the launch of our new black fleeces. These will help keep us all warm in the weeks ahead whilst we keep windows open. Please remember we are happy for children to wear either the school fleece or a plain black one.

We are continuing to use our class emails. If you have any questions or information that you would like to pass on to class teachers or the office, email is helping us limit visitors on site.

Thank you for your support

Mrs K Mackinnon Headteacher

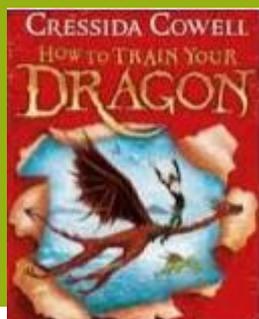
## Encouraging Reading



Get into the habit of reading at a certain time each day – this could be before school, when you get in, before tea etc.. Habits help establish routines.

Have a book that you read at bedtime – this could be a favourite picture book or sections from a longer / chapter book.

All reading is good reading – whether it is the TV guide, shopping list, instructions or posters when you are out and about. Not only does this help us understand the world around us but will also reinforce the importance of reading.



## Curriculum Update

### CanDo Maths

We have been pleased to see the children settle back into school routines showing the vision and ethos of our CanDo maths program. During the lockdown, we were busy identifying key areas of learning that would have been missed. We now have a clearly scheduled plan for the year that enables us to cover the current year groups expectations as well as covering the missed learning in a manageable way.

We started the term by completing short assessments which helped us identify the needs of each child. The teachers have been busy using our 'New Teach' maths sessions to cover the current year groups expectations and the 'Maths On Track' (MOT) sessions each day to go over previously taught skills as well as starting to cover the missed learning. We know there may be some anxiety around the amount of missed learning and want to reassure you that we will be following our structured program to help the children get back on track with regards to curriculum coverage.

Homework – maths homework is set each week by the class teacher and this is specifically targeted to support the work being carried out within the class. It is important to complete this each week and to keep communicating with your child's class teacher.

Colin and Coco will be supporting the children's learning again this year and we will also be introducing KeePuppi. The children will support these characters during their math's lessons especially Colin who often has misconceptions the children need to resolve.



### Times Table Rockstars

Times Table Rockstars is up and running for each child in their new class. Teachers have set the times tables they would like your child to be working on at home. It is a fun and engaging way to learn the times tables and will support the development of quick recall of the facts. The children receive rewards and can build up their characters. We know children also like to challenge each other and the teachers and there have been some really impressive scores already this year. As the maths lead and year 6 teacher, I cannot stress enough how important times tables are within mathematics and encourage you all to access this resource as often as you can.

If you have any questions regarding mathematics, please do contact Mrs Vaughan who is the maths lead.

# Communication

## Parent / Carer Evenings



### Autumn Report Card 2020

At the moment, we are unable to hold the normal Autumn term parent / carer evenings due to the restrictions on gatherings. To overcome this, we are producing report cards to indicate how children have returned back to school which will be coming out this week. These will be being emailed out to parents in due course. With the report card will be a letter explaining what each section shows.

Our plan is to then move the annual report to within the Spring Term so that we can work more closely on next steps targets for our children.

In the Summer Term, we will look to hold open evenings – if we are able to.

### Facebook

We continue to use the school Facebook page to pass on key messages about what is going on. We are looking to relaunch the Twitter account – watch this space!



## Notice Board

By the bike shed, we now have a notice board which contains important information. This has been positioned so that it is safe on site but can also be read at all times. Please let us know if there is anything that you think would be useful to include in here.



### Prospectus

**On our school website, you can download a copy of the school prospectus. This gives you a flavour of life at the school. This is a great place for new and prospectus parents / carers to look so please let your friends know!**



YOUR CHILDREN ARE OUR CHILDREN

# Premises Update

## Keystage 1 Playground

Each school receives money in the form of a sports grant. This money can only be spent on certain criteria which includes encouraging active play at break times and lunchtimes. We are using some of our money towards the new KS1 trim trail which has been chosen by our school council. There are many new features which you will see soon!



Work will be starting on the grass by the bike shed soon. At this time it will be really important that all visitors stay to the pathway.

Please can I ask that we all follow the path at all times – it will keep our classes tidier if we stay off the grass / mud. Also this area will only be used at playtimes / in lessons so won't be available before or after school. If we can all get into the habit now, that will make life easier in the future. Thanks

### Growing Together

We are looking to expand the use of our site to include some planting and growing areas. If you have any spare bulbs, plants or spare tools, please let us know as we would love to use them. The project will help us all take pride in our school environment, encourage wildlife and make our site more attractive.



## Ongoing Site Work

Our KS1 mobile has had needed repairing due to holes in the cladding. The mobile has now been recovered which will both increase insulation and ensure the integrity of the building for years to come.

Other smaller jobs have been undertaken as they arise. Please can I ask that we all act as site detectives. If you see any needed repairs or H&S concerns, please let us know so that we can solve them.

## Tree Works

Each year, we have to have an annual tree inspection. This sadly highlighted that the big maple tree on the KS2 playground needed to come down. Other trees near the KS1 mobile and on site needed crowning or branches removed. The willow dome near EYFS and that wooded area have been tidied. We have plans for the wood:

- Seating in the wood for forest school
- Wood to make bug hotels and nature spots to encourage minibeasts and wildlife

Some of the wood will be available to buy as fire wood logs. Please contact Mrs Mackinnon by email, or on the gate, if you are interested in buying any of the wood.



## Key Dates

# What's coming up?



## Anti-bullying Week

In the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be looking at how we can support each other. Watch out for further information.

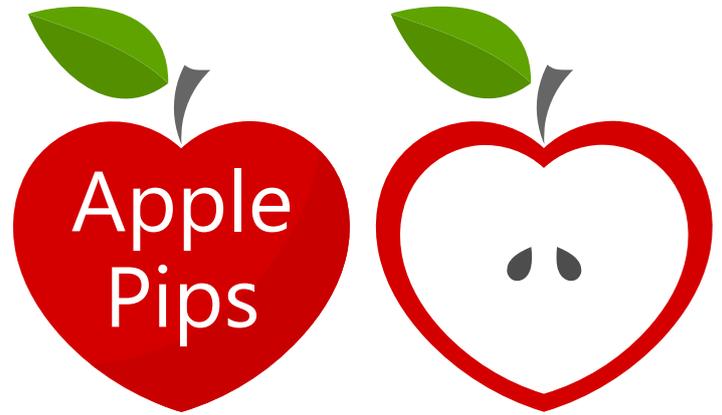
## Bags 2 School

We are currently collecting clothes, soft toys, shoes, bags, belts, bedding, towels, fabric etc. in bags – this can be any tied up bag. We get paid for these items and will be using the money towards our KS1 play area and some other projects we have planned. We are taking items now with the final collection being at school drop off on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.



## Diary Dates

Thank you for your patience. The annual year planner is now on the school website and has been emailed to all. Hopefully we will be able to add to this if restrictions reduce.



## The tasty stuff that we love to share

Mrs Webster's and Mrs McDonald's class have been busy this term. They have been working hard in class, won hot chocolate in their marble reward, had a visit from some puppies, made traditional Rangoli and Mehndi patterns and produced some fantastic stone age art work.

Well done! 😊

Congratulations to Miss Waterfield's class on being attendance winners. Well done! 😊

## Food Bank Donations

Currently, as part of our Harvest Celebrations we are accepting donations for the Swindon Foodbank. They have suggested some of the following if anyone would like to take part: tinned foods, toiletries, cleaning products, UHT milk / juice, pasta or dried products.

**If anyone does need any extra support, we do have food bank vouchers which we can also share. Please contact Mrs Mackinnon for more information.**

