



Newsletter 11th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you and your families enjoyed the half term break and made the most of the glorious weather. It was certainly lovely to see so much sunshine following a very wet and cold few weeks at the end of the last half term.

It's hard to believe that there are only a few teaching weeks left of this academic year. We have lots planned for this half term, so please check the diary dates at the end of the newsletter as new events are added to this weekly. I know that the children will really enjoy their learning over the next few weeks before they break up for the summer holidays.

We are still very much working within Covid-19 restrictions. Please continue to help keep our school community safe by ensuring that all pupils do not attend school if they:

- feel unwell, have any of the three classic COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss or change of taste or smell) or they have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 10 days
- live in a household with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 10 days

Please also continue to wear your mask on the school playground, use the one way-system and continue to socially distance.

Pupil Progress and attainment meetings

This week, I've had the pleasure of meeting with all of the class teachers to discuss the children's current attainment in the core subjects (reading, phonics, writing and maths) as well as the progress each and every child has made since the beginning of the spring term. I am delighted to see that not only do we have some very pleasing attainment across the school in these core subjects, but also that the catch up programme that we implemented when the school reopened in March has been very successful and that a high % of children are making positive progress.

This half term, we will continue with our catch up approach for those children who require additional support following the lockdowns. I have identified with the class teachers who these children are and we have discussed how we can accelerate the children's progress in the core subjects during this half term. Of course, the teachers will be ensuring that they are providing high quality teaching for all the children in the class but we are aware that some children will need additional support.

The class teachers are currently busy writing the children's end of year reports and so therefore I have decided that we won't be having catch up clubs happening after school this half term which will support the teacher's wellbeing. However, there will be extra support available during in lessons and with some extra interventions happening at other times during the school day.

Class Attendance this week

	This week's attendance %
Donaldson class (R)	96.2%
Darlings Class (1)	98.8%
Jemison Class (2)	100%
Da Vinci Class (3)	95%
Rosen class (4)	97.5%
Wonders Class (5)	100%
Beckhams Class (5)	94.3%
Attenborough Class (6)	96.8%

Congratulations to Jemison and Wonders Class this week for 100% attendance.
Attendance for the whole school this week is 96.8%

Head Teacher's Awards

This week, I have been busy meeting with children who are applying the school learning values to their work in class.

In Reception, Grace, Erin and Sarah have all produced some excellent, independent writing this week. They all worked extremely hard to achieve their potential and were determined and resilient in their attitudes.

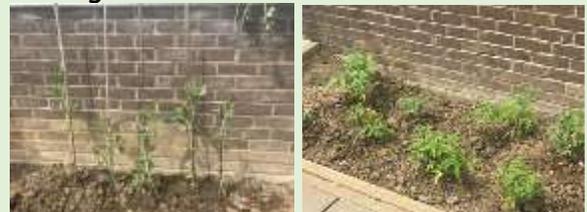
In Year 3, Callum has shown excellence improving the presentation of his handwriting in all of his exercise books.

In Year 5, Eva R who has achieved her full writing potential. She started a story in lesson time and continued this in her lunchtimes to add further paragraphs to the story in her own time. It was an incredible story to read.

Also in Year 5, Jessica J was recognised for the work she has been doing in the local community picking up litter.

Class Gardens

Last half term, all of the children in the school planted flower and fruit seeds and nurtured them in the classes until they were ready to plant outside. In the last week of half term, these were all planted outside and we kept our fingers crossed that they would continue to grow! Thank you to the parents who came and helped with the planting. On our return to school this week, we could see our class gardens looking fantastic.



House Points

This weeks house points

Red House - 440

Blue House - 453

Green House - 488

Yellow House - 433

Total house points achieved this half term:

Blue House - 939

Green House - 1088

Yellow House - 944

Red House - 942



Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a refillable bottle of water with them every day. It is so important to stay hydrated in warm weather!



Hair Accessories

Please can you ensure that if your daughters are wearing hair accessories to school, that they are predominantly green (or neutral in colour) and are small. We are seeing an increased number of coloured hair accessories which are better suited for outside of school. Thank you

Stevenage Borough Football Club

Over the last few weeks, whilst we haven't been running a full programme of after school enrichment activities and clubs for the children (due to COVID restrictions), we have been so pleased to have had Stevenage Borough Football Club, run multi skills sessions with children across the school in their bubbles. We do hope the children who have attended these have enjoyed their session.

This half term, we are going to offer a further opportunity for children to stay after school and enjoy a further sporting session. These will be organised in phase bubbles as opposed to class bubbles and will be funded by the school.

The additional dates are:

22nd June - Years 5 and 6

29th June - Years 3 and 4

8th July - no club due to sports day

13th July - Years 1 and 2

Please look out for further information sent to you.

Birthday celebrations

Wishing all the children who have celebrated their birthday this week a very happy birthday.



Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Many of you will be aware that the Government are keen to introduce a statutory times tables assessment to be carried out by Year 4 pupils. Due to the pandemic, schools are currently able to choose whether or not to make use of the assessments. We have decided to opt in.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help us to identify pupils who may need additional support.

What is the MTC?

The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times tables questions. Your child will answer 3 practice questions before moving on to the official check and will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

When will the test take place?

The tests will take place during June 2021

Empathy Day 2021

This year National Empathy Day was this Thursday and it was a day to celebrate and promote reading for empathy! Empathy is the ability to understand how people think and feel and relate this back to your own feelings. Children are not born with empathy and need to learn it. Reading books helps children to learn this, to see how other people are thinking. By identifying with book characters, we can all learn to see the world from other points of view. Understanding other people's feelings is particularly important this year as we are coming out of the pandemic. Children joined a live streaming with renowned author Cressida Cowell and then followed up with a class discussion and activities. Here are some of Year 1 class Empathy posters.



Great to Be Gold

Following the recent period of lockdown, the staff have been really impressed with the behaviour and learning attitudes of all of the children who have remembered our Great to Be Gold values and expectations. Well done to the following children who have excelled this week. We are incredibly proud of you all.

Great to Be Gold

Pre Sch	Olivia M - she has been a good friend this week. She has looked after her friends and involved them in her games.	Rory F - he has been a kind friend, helping them with different things, like finding hats and letting them play with the toy he has. Well done both of you.
Nur	Charlie and Joe - for their focus and attention during their learning this week. They have both shared some really good ideas with their friends as the week has progressed.	
Rec	Ethan L - for his attitude to learning especially when faced with a new morning routine after half term. He took it in his stride and was an outstanding role model to others.	Logan T - for being a role model in his Ted Talk group and for working hard to be the Best Listener. He showed real determination and knew the rules to follow. He set a great example to the others.
Year 1	Dylan - for having such a positive attitude this week and working to the best of his ability across all subjects.	Poppy - for her impeccable behaviour and love for learning. Seren - for always following the school rules and showing kindness to everyone.
Year 2	Misha- for settling in super well at school and following the school rules. Isabelle- for working to the best of her ability by writing a beautiful poem in English.	Maia- for being a good friend and helping another pupil to feel welcome
Year 3	Lewis - for displaying excellent team work this week and always following the rules. Lewis has been a fantastic role model to the rest of the class, always joining in with class activities and setting a good example for behaviour. Well done Lewis!	Caitlin - for always working to the best of her ability. Caitlin always works hard but has really shone this week. Her performances in our English lessons have been great and she has tackled tricky maths problems with determination. Great work Caitlin!
Year 4	Shannon - excellent role model and partner. Going into the DANGER ZONE and pushing herself to take on chilli challenges.	Isabella - thoughtful work on Empathy Day, explaining what empathy means to her and setting a considered empathy resolution
Year 5W	Lucia- New found resilience in maths showing a great effort in each lesson.	Lily A- Super contributions in class discussions, she is an all-round super role model.
Year 5B	Gracie M- for showing a love of learning in her English lessons.	Thomas G- for making a great start to the half-term and working to the best of his ability.
Year 6	Domenico - he has settled back well into lessons this week and we have been pleased with his engagement in tasks. He is keen to be involved in sports and can be proud of his consistent efforts to improve his skills.	Reuben - he consistently enriches the learning experience in class through his contributions to discussions. He has an impressive breadth of knowledge and demonstrates concern for critical issues like the protection of the environment. We always value his insights and his high level of respect for others.

Dates for your Diary

June

21st - Parent Forum meeting 6pm

28th - Years 5 and 6 trip to Woodhall

29th - Years 3 and 4 trip to Woodhall

July

2nd - Enterprise Day

6th - Sports Day

6th - New to Reception (September 2021) virtual parent meeting 6pm

8th - Year 6 transition day to secondary school

8th - Reception - Year 5 Meet your New Teacher

8th - New to Nursery (September 2021) virtual parent meeting 6pm

8th - Year 6 transfer day to secondary schools.

8th - Meet the new class teachers for September 2021

9th - Sports Day reserve

5th - 9th - Assessment Week

12th - No Pens Day

12th - 9am - 10am New to Nursery September 2021 stay and play

13th - 9am - 10am New to Reception class September 2021 stay and play

14th - 9am - 10am New to Nursery September 2021 stay and play

14th - End of Year reports to parents/carers

15th - 9am - 10am New to Reception class September 2021 stay and play

21st - Last day of summer term

22nd - INSET Day 5