



May 2018 Issue 89



Dates for Term 5:

Monday 7th May

Bank Holiday (school closed)

Week Beginning Monday 14th May

SATs week

Monday 21st May

Whole class photos

Friday 25th May

William Morris Class Assembly (9:30)

Last day of term: finish at 3:10

Monday 4th June

TD Day

Tuesday 5th June

Children return to school: first day of term 6

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Dear Parent/Carer,

May is here and summer is just around the corner. Admittedly it might not feel like it just yet but it looks like some good weather might arrive just in time for the Bank Holiday weekend. Here at Ruskin we've had a bright start to the school term with our Year Sixes gearing up for their SATs and demonstrating what a determined group of independent learners they really are. It's all about Egypt in Year Three - but more of that later, whereas Year Four are gearing up for their big red carpet event as part of their 'Page to Stage' Big Idea. Year Five's rainforest theme is also gaining momentum with a fantastic trip to Kew Gardens on the horizon to really bring the subject to life. Get the kettle on, crack open the biscuit tin and read on!

Have a wonderful bank holiday weekend,

Mr Beadnell

"There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning."

Jiddu Krishnamurti

Term 5s Value:

Independence



Walk Like an Egyptian

Term five saw the launch of Year 3's Big Idea centred around Ancient Egypt. To really immerse the children in the subject, the teachers held an Egyptian Day where the children danced like Egyptians, sampled traditional Egyptian food and sang songs about Egypt. It was a wonderfully busy day and the rest of the school was even treated to an Egyptian themed dance in assembly!



Didn't we Have a Cracking Time

Our most recent community event was master-minded by Mrs Agambar who organised a Great Egg Race for our year four families on a Thursday evening. The objective was for each team to design and create a vessel that could house an unboiled egg and protect it from being damaged after being dropped from a height of three metres. There were some quite breath taking designs which ranged from giant parachutes to spidery-looking-lunar-landing type



prototypes. There was a great deal of excitement (not eggcitement – I'm not starting all that again) as the children and their parents finally got to test their creations. Some of the eggs survived some didn't but what everybody did have was a great time. Well done to all the families involved and also to the staff who helped out. Keep your eyes peeled for the next event, I hear Mrs Agambar has another cracking evening planned!

Parent Feedback

As we do every March parents' evening, we ask parents to fill in a set of questionnaires to help us gauge how parents feel about the school in order to look at where we are doing well and also where we need to improve. Overall, the results were over-whelmingly positive with 98% of parents stating that they would recommend our school to another parent. We are all very pleased and encouraged by the feedback although always aware that we are still on a journey to be the best we possibly can. Your thoughts are very much appreciated and we will be looking at how we can make even more progress from here. A summary of responses can be found at the end of this letter.

Dance Off!

Miss Wakefield, Mrs Musty-Jackson and Mrs Wollen have had a busy term helping the Ruskin Dance Troupe to put together a dance for the Swindon Primary Dance Off at the Wyvern. It was a big night at Ruskin 2 (our new name for the Wyvern) and the children did not disappoint! The excitement levels as the children prepared for the main event were almost at fever pitch and alone created a fantastic atmosphere. They gave it their all with their fairytale lyrical piece and thoroughly enjoyed every second of it, as did the staff accompanying them. A massive well done to the children involved and a big thanks to the parents for their support and also our staff members who gave up their own time to make sure the event was such a successful one.

Sports Roundup

Last week was a big one for all of the school's competitive teams. Our netball team, having reached the regional finals of the schools netball competition for the first time ever, performed magnificently demonstrating great teamwork and perseverance throughout. This was a real achievement and one of which all of us are very proud. Now that the netball season is over, Miss Sanderson is looking to recruit for next year's team. We will keep you informed. It was also a busy week for both the boys' and girls' football teams with the boys winning two out of their three games to keep them at the top of the table and the girls extending their winning streak with a victory over Even Swindon Primary School. It's going to be a dramatic end to the season!

The Daily Mile

And whilst we're on a PE related theme, we'd like to share some more information with you about an initiative that we have been undertaking for some time and one which is really taking off, not just here in Swindon but also nationally – you've probably seen the adverts on TV. All classes are now participating in the Daily Mile: a social activity, wherein the children run or jog – at their own pace – in the fresh air with friends. Children can occasionally walk to catch their breath, if necessary, but should aim to run or jog for the full 15 minutes. Research has shown that The Daily Mile can even increase attainment in primary school, and parents and teachers have reported an increased interest in health and wellbeing from their children after they have started The Daily Mile. Find out more at: <https://thedailymile.co.uk/>



Twitter



For those of you who follow us on Twitter you will have been noticing a dramatic increase in activity recently! This is because we are using the platform to extend our lines of communication and also share with you some of the fantastic learning opportunities and goings on we have here at Ruskin. For all the latest information and updates, follow us on @Ruskin_Juniors

Office Changes

We would like to officially welcome Mrs Francome and Mrs Ward who are our two new friendly faces in the school office. Please feel free to pop in and say hello! We would also like to bid a fond farewell to the familiar face of Mrs Collett: we wish her the best of luck in pastures new.

Term Dates 2018-2019

It almost feels crazy to start thinking about the next academic year when it still feels like this one has only just begun but nevertheless, things are already in motion and we are now able to confirm the term dates for next year below:

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2018 – 2019 SWINDON

Final

	August/September					October					November					December						
Monday	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31
Tuesday	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
Wednesday	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	
Thursday	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	
Friday	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	

	January					February					March					April					
Monday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Thursday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Friday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Saturday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
Sunday	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	

	May					June					July					August/September						
Monday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	2
Tuesday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	3
Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	4
Thursday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	5
Friday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	6
Saturday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31	7
Sunday	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	1	8

Bank and Public Holidays 2018/2019

Summer Bank Holiday	27 August 2018	} 195
Christmas Day Holiday	25 December 2018	
Boxing Day Holiday	26 December 2018	
New Years Holiday	01 January 2019	
Good Friday	19 April 2019	
Easter Monday	22 April 2019	
May Day Holiday	06 May 2019	} 195
Spring Bank Holiday	27 May 2019	
Summer Bank Holiday	26 August 2019	
	Bank Holiday	
	School Holiday	

5 days are also available for professional training day closures during term time and the Headteacher and Governors of each school set these days. Dates are correct at the time of publication

TD dates have also been confirmed and, as has been recent policy, they will be aligned with Beechcroft. They are as follows:

- Monday 3rd September 2018
- Tuesday 4th September 2018
- Monday 7th January 2019
- Monday 3rd June 2019
- Thursday 25th July 2019

Please note that, as an academy, we are entitled to an additional TD day. This date will be communicated with you as soon as it is confirmed.

Lateness Update

Recently we sent out a letter highlighting the impact of lateness on your child's learning. We would like to confirm that our registers close at 8:50. This means that your child needs to be in class for 8:45 at the latest to ensure they have enough time to be registered.

Parent Survey March 2018 Results Summary:

The grid below indicates the responses in percentages relating to the questionnaire. The total number of responses was 104.

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Disagree
4. Strongly Disagree
5. Don't Know

2018	1	2	3	4	5	Positive	Negative
My child is happy at this school	47%	50%	4%	0%	0%	96%	4%
We feel welcome when we come into school	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
The school has a good atmosphere	49%	51%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Staff are friendly and approachable	60%	37%	2%	0%	1%	97%	2%
My child feels safe at this school	53%	44%	2%	0%	1%	97%	2%
The school site is secure	63%	35%	2%	0%	0%	98%	2%
The school provides a good range of extra-curricular activities	45%	50%	5%	0%	1%	94%	5%
The school promotes the importance of a healthy lifestyle e.g a healthy snack tuck shop	51%	42%	2%	0%	5%	93%	2%
The school deals effectively with bullying	33%	41%	5%	0%	21%	74%	5%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	34%	54%	9%	1%	2%	88%	10%
My child is well looked after at this school	48%	49%	3%	0%	0%	97%	3%
The school promotes online safety effectively	50%	49%	0%	0%	1%	99%	0%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	38%	59%	2%	0%	1%	97%	2%
The school works hard to promote positive values and attitudes amongst the children	42%	56%	1%	0%	1%	98%	1%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	37%	55%	6%	1%	1%	92%	7%
My child makes good progress at this school	40%	54%	2%	2%	2%	94%	4%
The school expects my child to work hard and do their best	50%	50%	1%	0%	0%	99%	1%
The school is well led and managed	52%	47%	1%	0%	0%	99%	1%
The school responds well to any concerns I raise	44%	49%	3%	2%	3%	92%	5%