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A Message from Ms Clarke and Mrs Johnstone

Dear parent/carers,

How lovely to see the nights getting lighter and to feel the first signs of spring in the air.

It was good to see so many parents/carers attend parents'/carers' evening at the end of January to discuss your child's progress. Thank you to those of you who attended.

Thank you too to those of you who attended the meeting with Councillor Khan, local residents and representatives from the police, traffic enforcement, the Local Authority road safety team and the highways department regarding parking and road safety around the school. The problems around the school were discussed and potential solutions will hopefully form part of the **Local Authority's plans for the next financial year. In the meantime could we please ask you to drive carefully on the approach to the school, not to let your children out in the middle of the road and to park safely and with respect for local residents, in particular making sure you leave them enough space to get in or out of their drives. One particularly concerning issue is that of people parking on the footpath, meaning that people with pushchairs and mobility scooters have to go into the road to get around the cars. Please park sensibly, with respect and thought for others when you are bringing and collecting your child from school. Thank you to all of you who help us in this matter.**

The children have been as busy as ever. They have met with their class teacher over the last few weeks to discuss their maths targets; these are really productive meetings for the children and **staff. Some children from Year 2 have been working with the police on their 'Junior Cadets' scheme. They have had a fantastic time, have represented the school brilliantly and learned a lot about the job of the police as well as developing their communication skills and self-confidence, which was evident in the fabulous 'Passing Out Parade' they treated their parents and the whole school to. Well done to the Junior Cadets!**

Due to popular demand we have been able to run our 'Couch to 2K' course with Bee Active for another 12 families. The children and parents are having a great time learning how to live a healthier lifestyle looking at fitness, exercise, food choices and mental wellbeing as well as looking forward to a trip to Tru Ninja! All for free! It is lovely to see so many families actively involved.



Lots of children took part in the Fairtrade poster design competition which highlighted the importance of Fairtrade. We are waiting with baited breath to see if we have any winners! Well done to everyone who took part.

Year 6 children have been to the Fire Station to learn about staying 'Safe and Sound'. They were joined by Year 5 to further their knowledge and understanding about The Mayans during their trip to Cadbury World.

The whole school enjoyed Bhangra dancing in assembly and then the Year 4 children went on to take part in Bhangra dancing workshops as part of their learning about India.

Year 3 had a fabulous time at Stanley Head, learning orienteering skills and about the points of a compass. Even the cold, wet weather did not dampen their enthusiasm and they came back to school really keen to share what they had been learning.

In Year 2 the children have been learning about Australia, including their very own 'bushtucker trial'. Year 1 have been finding out if the weather is the same all over the world, whilst the children in the Foundation Stage have been leaning about traditional tales including Reception finding a Goldilocks 'Crime Scene' in their classroom and Nursery having a visit from Daddy Bear!

Some children from Year 2 and Year 3 have represented the school in a Bee Active sports festival and hockey tournament along with other children from the 7 Stars schools. They represented the school brilliantly and showed excellent sportsman like behaviour.

This week the whole school and children from St Mark's are taking part in a project with Wedgwood to find out about the history of our local area and about why Etruria is called Etruria. We are really excited to be a part of this project and are having a lot of fun finding out about the connections between Josiah Wedgwood and Etruria.

Thank you to parents/carers in the Foundation Stage who have been coming into school to discuss the Foundation Stage curriculum and ideas for fund raising to further improve the outdoor area. Over the February half term holiday we are having some exciting new equipment **installed in the Foundation Stage playground. We can't wait to see what it looks like when we get back after the holidays.**

Mrs Johnstone is away from school for the next few weeks following a successful operation. Mrs Johnstone is keeping in close contact with us during her absence and we are sure you will join us in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Finally we have welcomed back Miss Savage into the Nursery following her maternity leave and are really happy to announce that Miss Williams had a beautiful baby girl in January. Both mummy and baby are doing very well.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Johnstone and Ms Clarke.

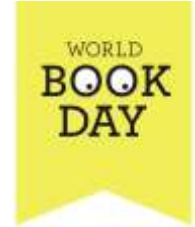
Snack Money

Please can all parents of Nursery to Year 2 children make sure that any money given to children for snacks is put into an envelope with **your child's name and class on**. Thank you.



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March by dressing up as our favourite book character.



SCHOOL Attendance

Attendance.

The current attendance overall from the start of
September is
94.93%

We really need this to improve.

Expected attendance is 96% and above.

Thank you to all of you who send your children to
school regularly and on time.

Please remember that we do not authorize any term time
absence, except for illness or medical reasons.



Nursery Parents.

30 hours free childcare.

You may be entitled to claim up to 30 hours free childcare which can be claimed by the school as a childcare provider.

Please visit

www.childcare-support.gov.uk to
check if you can apply.

Change of Contact Details

If you have changed your phone contact details or moved address please could you inform the office so that we can update your information. It is very important that we have up to date contact information.



Foundation Stage Outdoor Area

We are pleased to let you know about proposed improvements to the outdoor area for our Foundation Stage. This work will be carried out over the half term and should be completed ready for when the children start back to school. This means our youngest children will be able to enjoy even more exciting learning opportunities outside. To facilitate this we are asking for donations of fabric, planks, crates, large paint brushes and empty spray bottles for children to use outside. Please ensure these are safe to use by washing out or removing any nails etc.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Foundation Stage Team.

Reminder about sweets in school

Some parents/carers are very kindly sending sweets in to school when it is their child's birthday. If you want to send in sweets can we please ask you to check that the sweets do not contain gelatine. As children who are vegetarian or Muslim are not allowed to eat gelatine. Sweets which contain gelatine include Haribos, Drumstick lollipops, most marshmallows and lots of chewy sweets. Thank you for your understanding.



PE Kits



Can we also remind parents that ALL children, including Nursery, need a P.E. kit.

P.E. kits will be sent home on Friday to be washed over the holidays and brought back to school on the first day back please.

Nursery & Reception - Warm Coats & Shoes

Now the cold weather is here, please ensure your child has a warm coat to wear for school, along with hats, scarves and gloves, all with names on please, as we learn outside all year round.



DIARY DATES



Friday 15th February

No Pens Day

Bee Active Couch to 2K - Tru Ninja Trip

[School Closes for Half Term](#)

Monday 25th February

School re-opens

Thursday 28th February

Y1 to Newcastle Museum

Y4 to the Library - parents/carers welcome

Friday 1st March

Bee Active Couch to 2K - Hydration

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day - children and staff to
dress up as a book character

Little Library Van to Reception and Nursery

Friday 8th March

Y6 Wellbeing Day at Staffs University

Bee Active Couch to 2k— Supermarket Sweep

Monday 11th March

Dance Extravaganza at Victoria Hall - 6.30pm start

Thursday 14th March

Y3 “Viking Day” at school

Friday 15th March

Y2 to Liverpool Maritime Museum - 4.30pm return

Tuesday 19th March

Reception assembly for parents

Y4 to the Regent Theatre to watch “Terrible Tudors”

Wednesday 20th March

Nursery to Hoo Farm - 3pm return

Thursday 21st March

Reception to Hoo Farm - 3pm return

Thursday 28th March

**Reception/carers meeting “Sowing
the Seeds to Read” - 1.15pm**

Y1 Mother’s Day assembly

Monday 5th April

Y3/4 7 Stars rounders tournament

Thursday 11th April

**Reception/carers meeting “Sowing
the Seeds to Read 2” - 1.15pm**

Friday 12th April

Easter Egg raffle - proceeds to school
fund

[Break up for the Easter Holidays](#)

[Return to school Monday 29th April](#)