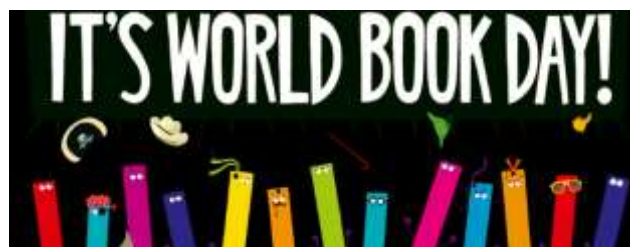




Newsletter Friday 12th February 2021



Message from Mrs Grainger

I hope this newsletter finds you well. This week is the final week of our first half-term of 2021 and what a half-term it has been; one which we won't ever forget in a hurry!

I would like to thank you once again for all your hard work and support. We know that some children at home are becoming really tired, but please be reassured that we usually see this in school prior to a half-term coming up, so if you feel that taking extra time out from remote learning is beneficial to your wellbeing, then please do so. I am also well aware that many of you are exhausted too, as you continue to multi-task and still only 'going for a walk' (in the cold) as the highlight of the day! But please do stay positive.

We are really missing having all the children in school and the team are counting down the days to when the classrooms and playgrounds are full again. We have been told that the Government will give all schools two weeks' notice of when they want us to re-open fully, so I hope to hear over the holiday or early next half-term when we can open school up to everyone. As always, as soon as we hear and receive guidance, we will update you.

Over the half term, we will not be setting any remote learning. After 6 weeks of home schooling, many parents and carers have commented on how much they are looking forward to the half-term break. So let's hope the weather is kind and we can all get outdoors (following the Covid rules of course!) to allow us all time to relax and recharge our batteries – we all deserve it!

Please enjoy the break, but remember the 'stay at home' message remains, as difficult as it is, and with half-term, the temptation to mix with others is perhaps greater.

Let's continue to be resilient and ensure that we are playing our part in reducing community transmission in order to get our children back into school as soon as possible. Together we can do it.

Have a lovely break. Stay safe and well and please do get in touch if you require any support.

Reporting Covid Cases over Half-Term

The Department for Education (DfE) instructed all schools that they will have to be on Covid Test and Trace duty during the first few days of the half-term holiday. The reason the DfE needs us to be on Test and Trace duty is so we can contact anyone who has had close contact with a positive case, if their symptoms appeared in the first weekend of the holidays. If your child has been in school this week, and they do develop Covid symptoms and have a positive Covid test before Tuesday 16th February, then please use the My Ed message service to inform us so that we can advise affected children and staff to self-isolate for 10 days.

World Book Day 2021

World Book Day is scheduled to take place on 4th March 2021 which is before the anticipated full school return. To celebrate World Book Day we would like everyone to do lots of reading and listening to stories.

Details for each year group will follow in the first week back, but we will be dressing up as our favourite book character or allowing non-uniform. This is for both in school and remote learners. There is no donation required although gratefully received.



What has your child been learning about in class this week?

Years 1 & 2

Year 1 and 2 have been exploring wheels and axles this week and then using these to create our very own fire engines! We have loved seeing the range of moving vehicles that have been created both at home and at school, they are all absolutely fantastic.

In English, we have been describing different extreme weather disasters and using these to write our own invented recounts. Elm and Apple class have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes in maths this week and using mathematical vocabulary to describe their properties. Cherry class have been starting their work on fractions! Finding halves, quarters and even thirds.

We are really proud of all of the children in Key Stage 1 for their hard work this half term, whether they have been at home or in school. We hope you have a restful break from school work next week!

Years 3 & 4

It has been a busy week for Year 3 & 4. After spending 3-4 weeks on fractions, we have moved onto a new topic in maths in Year 4 - Time. This is always a challenging topic for children to learn but we have made a pleasing start.

Year 3 have been revising multiplying by 10 and 100. We have completed our last writing piece in our English lessons. This has been a recount where we have written about a familiar event or experience or about making our musical instrument in DT.

Our theme 'Playlists', has also finished. Our next theme is called 'Predator' and is all about predators, prey and fossils.

We hope you all manage to have a restful week away from lessons and are able to enjoy some relaxation time with your family.

Thanks for all your support with the learning we are doing, we appreciate this is not easy!

Years 5 & 6

Years 5 & 6 have had another exciting week this week. We have produced some very detailed and impressive drawings of the heart which have then been annotated. We have also completed a quiz about our theme of Blood Heart, illustrating how much we have learnt during this half term.

Year 5 have spent a morning talking to Mrs Snashall, our school governor about what it's like to be a school Governor in lockdown.

In maths, Year 6 have learnt about metric measures whilst Year 5 have continued with their work on fractions.

Everyone has completed their dilemma story in writing and in reading our text Pig Heart Boy has been finished, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this book. We have also watched the Safe and Sound Live lesson from Staffordshire Fire Service and taken part in safer internet activities so that we have reminded ourselves of how to keep safe online, at home and within the community.

After half term we will begin our next theme titled 'Hola Mexico', we will learn all about modern day Mexico and make some comparisons with England and also learn about the Ancient Mayan Civilization. We have set some homework for over half term, asking the children to make and then eat a traditional Mexican recipe. The more photos the better. Enjoy your break.



Supporting Parents Help Finder (Young Minds)

Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual.

A mixture of concern about covid, work from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact make for a stressful household.

Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Help Finder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond).

Find the help finder here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>

February Half Term

Just a reminder that school will be closed over the half term break – Monday 15th – Friday 19th February with all remote learning ceasing during these 5 days as well.