



Headteacher Newsletter

Believe in yourself, Value others, Be proud of your achievements, Smile, Shine, Be happy.



February is upon us already and we are just about to break for the first half term.

This half term has been jam packed with many exciting opportunities for our children. I am so pleased to say that our visit to Alpe d'Huez was a success and we hope to be able to complete another visit one day in the future. We shared photos and videos from the visit at our recent meeting for parents and hope to share a selection on the website soon. For those asking, we will not be going next year but potentially are looking for a visit in 2022. Keep your eyes peeled for more details in the future.



Lots happened last month in addition to our skiing visit, here are a few highlights: Year 6 took part in some motivational workshops, they have been looking at resilience and perseverance as they face their upcoming SAT exams in May; Our English Team took part in the Primary English Challenge and finished runners up - they were amazing and we are all very proud of them; Our STEM Lego team also took part in a challenge, the Lego League and gave it their all. They gave up their Saturday to take part and once again we are so proud of you all.



As we moved into early February we have squeezed a lot into these two weeks with Year 5 visiting the Jorvik centre in York, Year 4 and 6 enjoyed workshops with the Explorers Academy looking at Mountains and Rainforests, a group in Year 3 visited the 999 club, we saw the Gymnastics Team for Year 5/6 go out to compete and Year 2 went on their residential visit to Stibbington. All of these events have been thoroughly enjoyed and children have taken a lot from their various experiences.

In addition to all of the extra for the pupils, we are also very proud of the work that Mrs Wilson has been doing in Phonics within our Local Authority. She has hosted two sessions with schools from around our city, looking at the excellent practise she leads within the school. We are so proud of her and thank her for her continued enthusiasm towards her Phonics Champion role.

For Parents we have hosted some information events for Year 2 SAT's, Handwriting and Phonics. Thank you to those who were able to attend, it makes such a difference and makes all the hard work that staff put in to organise these events worth it. A big thank you on that note, to all of the staff for putting on sessions both within the school day and later into their evenings to try and support all parents in attending.

At the end of last week, we had our CHUMS wear something bright day to remind us all of the challenges children face with mental health and wellbeing. We did lots of extra work on this in school and also had a visit from CHUMS to our Inclusion Cafe, we hope that parents who attended found this useful and supportive.



Lastly, and how could I forget, this week we had our Valentines DISCO and the PTA have sold hundreds of Valentines Cookies. We hope that you all had a wonderful valentines and gave your children an extra cuddle to remind them how much you all care for them.



As we move into the Half Term break, we have lots left to look forward to in our second half of the Spring Term. As soon as we return we have our Pancake Day celebrations - yum, we have an author visiting KS2 to inspire reading and writing, Year 5 visit the academy to watch a musical and the following week is our World Book Day. A letter will follow regarding World Book Day in the beginning of the new half term but for those who wish to get prepared over the holidays the theme this year is favourite book characters. I cannot wait to see what the children's favourite characters are this year.

Before I move onto other areas, can I just pop out a couple of reminders. Firstly when booking meals, please ensure that all meals are booked in advanced. The system does close 48 hours before hand to ensure the kitchen team have plenty of time to prepare numbers for each option. As you can imagine, preparing meals for large numbers in 5 different options is quite a feat, so please support us with this. Secondly can I once again remind you about safe parking. No one should park directly outside the school gates or block any entry to homes in our local vicinity. There is plenty of parking slightly further away at our two designated car parks at Glatton Drive and the Community Centre on Whittlesey Road, which both provide a road free walk into school. Finally, a reminder that under no circumstances are children or parents allowed to ride their scooters or bikes on the school grounds before/ after school. It is dangerous and we will ban any children not following these warnings from bring their bike/scooter to school. Thank you for your support with this.

Reading Miles

As you all know, we are a reading school and promote reading in every way that we can. When you walk around the building you will find books everywhere! Alongside this, children are asked to read every evening at home with a parent as part of their homework. The importance of this is staggering with research showing that just 10 minutes of reading each day supports pupils in making accelerated progress in their reading and other curricular areas. Please help to support your child by making this as important. At the end of this newsletter I have popped the Reading Miles Global Challenge, see how far your child can get around the world.



Narrowing the gap in vocabulary

Alongside our emphasis on reading, another area that we continue to promote is the development of vocabulary. The conversations that you have with your child are so important in helping them to learn and develop new vocabulary that they come across. Did you know that by the age of three, there is a 30-million-word gap between some children and their peers? As they get older the gap only gets larger unless we can do something about it. This is where you can help. At home have a think about the conversations that you are having with your child. Are they based around instructions or do you ask them lots of questions about the world around them? We can support our children with learning new vocabulary by using a few of these simple tips:

1. Talk like a specialist - introduce new words to your child by using technical vocabulary relating to a topic they are telling you about. Using the word in context will help the child to understand the new word and how to use it correctly.

2. Try not to assume - sometimes children use new vocabulary and they don't always understand what it means, question them.

Child: We went to assembly today.

Adult: Do you know what the word assembly means? Assembly is related to a group or action of people gathered together in one place for a common purpose. So for example you might have a Music Assembly where a group assembles to listen to or play music. A Religious Assembly would relate to a group of people coming together to learn about a particular religion such as when someone goes to church.

3. Ask lots of questions and delve deeper? So if you ask about your child's day, ask more questions to get them to tell you in more detail. Can they teach you something about their topic or show you how they worked out a problem in mathematics?
4. When reading together, pick out words that you think your child may be unfamiliar with and put it into a different context. This will help them to relate the word to a range of situations.

Staffing Updates



As you will all remember, not too long ago Mrs Ferrara and Miss Pospieche started their maternity leave. We are really happy to share with you a little photograph of the precious little ones who have arrived both healthy and well...they have been into school for lots of cuddles too so I am very happy :) Congratulations to you both!



As we end this half term, we bid good luck to Mrs Welsh as she begins her maternity leave. We are all very excited and can't wait to meet the next of the Southfields babies. To counteract this, Mrs Sutton has returned from her maternity leave and joins us back in Year 1, welcome back :)



We are also very happy and relieved to welcome back the wonderful Mrs Johnson into the admin team. She has been faced with a number of challenges over the past year and we are so glad to see her feeling much better and able to return to work. We've missed you lots!

Alongside these changes, we would like to announce that at the end of this term Miss Nicholson will be leaving us to take on a new challenge at the Pupil Referral Unit in the City of Peterborough. Miss Nicholson has worked incredibly hard over the last few years and we wish her all the best in her new role. Alongside this we are very pleased to announce the new appointment of Mrs Kapler who joins our team in Year 5. She is a highly experienced and enthusiastic teacher who cannot wait to come in and meet the children. Over the next half term she will be popping in and out to do some work with us, meet the children and will be attending the end of term parents evenings to give parents the opportunity to meet her too. We are so happy and excited to be working with Mrs Kapler and know that the children are going to absolutely love her. Welcome to the Southfields family Mrs Kapler.



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Bettie-Mae, Faye, Bentleigh, Angel, Toby, Rayne, Struan, Jacob, Fatimah, Savannah-Rose, Priyanka, Harry, Jake, Myles, Ronnie-Mae, Isobel, George, Boah, Inaaya, Miley, Lola-Belle, Cohen, Jack, Joshua, Tilly-May, Sienna-May, Gabriel, Ruby, Eridon, Connor, Travis, Cameron, Eliza, Rodrigo, Auris, Harper-Mai, Jensen, Emilie, Ellie-Mae, Freya, Kelsie-Leigh, Luca and Ella-Louise.

Happy birthday everyone!



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 2020

Monday 17th-21st - Half Term Break
Wednesday 26th - Y4 Sports Hall Athletics at Stanground Academy

March 2020

Monday 2nd - Y5/6 Swimming Gala
Thursday 5th - World Book Day
Thursday 5th - PTA Meeting
WB Monday 9th - Sports Relief Week
Wednesday 11th - Governors in School Day followed by FGB Meeting
Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th - Y3 Aylmerton Residential
Tuesday 17th - Y1 to Dinosaur Park
Wednesday 18th - Y3/4 Gymnastics Competition
Wednesday 18th - London 2021 Parents Meeting
Monday 23rd/Tues 24th - Early Years classes to Sacrewell Farm
Wednesday 25th - Friday 27th - Y4 Horstead Residential
Wednesday 25th - Aylmerton Feedback meeting for parents
Friday 27th - Inclusion Cafe
Monday 30th - YR+Y1 Easter service
Monday 30th - Wednesday 1st - Parents Evenings
Tuesday 31st - a special visitor bounces into school 🐰
Tuesday 31st - Y2+Y3 Easter service

April 2020

Wednesday 1st Y4-6 Easter service
End of Spring Term
Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd - Staff Professional Development Days
Monday 20th - Summer Term begins
Tuesday 21st - Y4 to Peterborough Museum
Tuesday 21st - Easter BINGO
Wednesday 22nd - Horstead Feedback meeting for parents
Wednesday 22nd - Aylmerton Residential meeting 2021 (current Y2)
Wednesday 29th - Y3 Ancient Greek Day
Wednesday 29th - Horstead Residential meeting 2021 (current Y3)
Thursday 30th - Y2 Coronation workshops in school

May 2020

Friday 1st - Parent Rep Meeting
Tuesday 5th - Thursday 7th - Y5 London Residential
Wednesday 6th - May Day Festival
Thursday 7th - PTA Meeting
Friday 8th - May Day Bank Holiday

PARENT'S COMMENTS TO THE HEAD

As always we really value your opinions about our school. Please add your comments here for the Headteacher. You can return them in the 'Comments Box' located in the main school office.

2019-2020 TERM DATES

Spring Term 2019

Opens Monday 6th January
Half term - Monday 17th to Friday 21st
February
End - Wednesday 1st April

Summer Term 2019

Opens - Monday 20th April
May Day - Friday 8th May
Half term - 25th to 29th May



Reading Miles Global Challenge

Read your way... around the world!



1 NEW YORK CITY, USA
 Welcome to the USA!
Reading Miles fact:
 Native Americans use storytelling as a way of sharing their history.

6 ATHENS, GREECE
 Καλόσ ήλιος ήλι. Είλαβελ!
Want to read a traditional Greek story?
 Try the Tales of the Iliad eBook at www.oxfordowl.co.uk

5 BEIJING, CHINA
 Huaxinying nán dào zhang guǎi
Want to read a traditional Chinese story?
 Try The Magic Paintbrush eBook at www.oxfordowl.co.uk

4 SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
 Welcome to Australia!
Reading Miles fact:
 The Australian Aboriginal people used to paint symbols and pictures on cave walls to help them remember their stories.

3 NAIROBI, KENYA
 Kambaru Kenyca
Want to read a traditional African story?
 Try the Fables from Africa eBook at www.oxfordowl.co.uk

2 RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
 Bem-vindo ao Brasil!
Reading Miles fact:
 Many tribes of the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil use parrotmasks to help tell their stories.

START/FINISH: HOME



Transforming Lives

www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools

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