



15th February 2019

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Inspire, Challenge, Succeed

This week, it was great seeing all the Chinese New Year work Reception children have created. Including making dragons, willow pattern plates, puppets to retell stories and writing character description. Penguin Class had a great trip to the Midland Air Museum - most children told me one highlight was going in the cockpit of a Vulcan Bomber! I also put on twitter pictures from a Maths Morning that children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 had. The theme of this was maths all around them, where they had a variety of challenges and problems around real world maths - showing that maths is more than just in lessons. My favourite activity was them finding the volume of cake in a cake tower.

Topics

After half term, we will be moving to a whole school topic entitled 'A Journey Through Europe.' Children in each class will have different themes. Robin Class are focusing on art, food and languages; Penguin Class will be looking at maps, landmarks and landscapes; Kiwi Class will focus more on different climates, mountains, rivers and architecture; and Owl class will be looking more on economics, why countries need to trade, and why countries need laws (and possibly even sorting out the Brexit discussions for us!). We will be looking forward to having assemblies in a hall, as it will give children chance to report their learning back to the whole school in weekly assemblies.

Reception Entrance

After half term, we will be changing the way that Reception children come into school. They will be using the same door as the children from Years 1 and 2, as we try and build their independence to hang up their coats, sort out their book-bags and all of the other things they take to school. If you need to pass a message onto the class teacher, a member of staff will be stood on the door. Teachers will still be showing the children out at the end of the day.

Breaktime Snacks

Once again, my usual discussion about choosing carefully what children are being provided with for snacks. This past week we have had a number of children bringing in bags of sweets as a snack. Children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 are given free fruit. I do believe it is important for children to have a snack, I acknowledge some children would struggle to last until lunchtime without this energy. I would like to encourage you to provide a snack which has a longer lasting energy (like carbs or natural fruit sugars) rather than sweets or chocolate. If children are bringing big bags of Haribo, or other sweets, (a snack with just sugar, rather than any substance) as their snacks, we will be asking them to put them in their bags for hometime.

Arriving on Time

Registers are taken at 8:55, and we are expecting all children to be in before this time. Doors open at 8:45, and this 10 minutes is used for handwriting, reading, responding to teacher's marking and spelling work. At 9:00 children are all doing their first lesson of the day, reading or phonics. If your child is not arriving on time, they are missing out on important learning. I have noticed a number of children arriving just a little late for school every day. I have asked teachers to be marking children arriving even just 2 or 3 minutes past 8:55 as 'late' on the register, and we will be contacting parents where this is a persistent problem.

Mental Health Day

Today is Mental Health Awareness day. Children in Owl and Kiwi Class are having class time today discussing the theme - if you are not happy about something, tell someone. Leaflets and bookmarks are going home promoting this message. A good website, produced by Northamptonshire, is www.asknormen.co.uk. If you are concerned about areas associated with Mental Health, as well as speaking with school, this is a good starting place.

After School Clubs

Monday night Construction Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2

Tuesday night – Art and Crafts (KS1 focus) – cost £2

Wednesday night – Computer Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2

Thursday night – Art and Crafts (KS2) – cost £2

Friday Night – Film Night – 3.15-5.30 pm - cost £3

Children are welcome to stay at After School Club until 5.30pm. Charge for this is £3.80.

Please contact the office if you would like more information or to book.

Breakfast Club – every day from 8am – cost is £3 per session

Governors

School Hall - A lasting legacy

We are all excited that work is progressing with the building of our new school hall. This work has been possible because of a successful bid to the Government's Condition Improvement Fund. However, we still need to raise funds to make sure the hall is fully kitted out with new sports equipment, catering facilities and audio-visual facilities.

Legacy Donors

Anyone who donates £20 towards the school hall will have their name recorded and displayed permanently within the new hall. This is a way we can celebrate, in a lasting way, the contributions that people make. Please place donations (cash or cheques to "Byfield School") in an envelope marked "Legacy Donor", and clearly indicate the name you would like to be displayed, then hand in at Reception.

Naming the School Hall

You may wish to make a substantial donation, in return for having the school hall named after yourself, your family, or perhaps a loved one *in memoriam*. Please contact the Headteacher to arrange a meeting if you would like to discuss this option.

Any support you can give to the School is hugely appreciated and helps us provide the best facilities we can for your children.

With thanks Sarah Burke Chair of Governors

Dates for the Diary

String music lessons – every Wednesday Guitar music lessons – every Tuesday

Keyboard lessons – every Thursday

PE – Please bring PE kit in to school every day, PE lessons will be weather dependent. We also have some sessions for PE booked at the village hall.

Celebration Assemblies Monday – Kiwi Tuesday – Owls Thursday – Penguins Friday – Robins

Hotshots – Every Tuesday – 8am (Village Hall until further notice)

Dance Club – Every Wednesday after school (Village Hall)

Monday 25th February – school opens 8.45am

Monday 4th March – Professor McGinty visiting Kiwi and Owl Class

Wednesday 13th March – Cross Country Event – Woodford Halse Primary School

Friday 5th April – break up for Easter 3.15pm

Wednesday 24th April – school opens 8.45am