



St. Mary's CE Primary School, Welham Green

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Spring Term Issue 1
12th January 2024

A very Happy New Year to you all. As Christmas fades into our memories, it has been really good to be back at school this week and, as I have gone around the different classrooms, it has been great to see the pupils working with a real sense of purpose. In Reception this week, we have welcomed Miss Moore, who has quickly established herself with both the class and the parents and she is creating a strong partnership with Mrs Ellis, as they work together with our youngest pupils.

Behaviour and attendance remain a focus for this term and we want to continue to build on the progress that we have been making over the previous terms. As I do at the beginning of every term, I have attached our attendance information sheet along with this newsletter. Please do read it carefully, as it outlines the key reasons for good attendance and explains why absence has negative consequences, both academically and socially.

As we look at the term ahead, there is a great deal for us all to look forward and a highlight of the coming week is the trip to the O2 Arena for Young Voices next Tuesday. At their rehearsal yesterday afternoon, the children were in good voice and they are excited about singing with the massed choirs.

Our half termly value for the first half of this term is perseverance. In Collective Worship on Monday, we looked at what perseverance means and how we can all, children and adults alike, demonstrate the quality of perseverance as we remain committed to our daily tasks. We should not give up, even when things become difficult and we must continue to give of our best.

During this season of Epiphany in the Church calendar, where we commemorate the visit of the wisemen to the baby Jesus, we recall their perseverance in following the star to Bethlehem. Whilst we don't know precisely the distance that they travelled, it is believed to be somewhere in the region of about 500 miles and that journey will not always have been easy going, but they continued to follow the star as they knew it was important that they should visit the new-born King.

As we mark the Feast of the Epiphany, I will conclude this week by sharing a poem 'The Kings from the East' by Heinrich Heine that we used in the Key Stage 2 Carol Service at the end of last term:

*"Dear children," they asked in every town,
Three kings from the land of the sun,
"Which is the road to Bethlehem?"
But neither the old nor the young
Could tell, so the kings rode on:
Their guide was a golden star,
Which glittered ahead of them, high in the air,
So clear, so very clear.
The star stood still over Joseph's house,
They all of them stepped in:
The good ox lowed and the little child cried,
And the kings began to sing.*

Have a good weekend.

Adrian Petty

Headteacher



Flourish for the future

Our value this half term is:

Perseverance



Contact us 8:30am to 4pm at...



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HOUSEPOINTS



I am pleased to report that House Points this week were as follows:

137



201



146



168



Well done Hedgehogs!

Running Totals:

137

201

146

168

STARS OF THE WEEK

The following children were nominated by the TAs for good manners and joined Mr Petty on the Star Table .

Reception - Kimani

Year 1 - Marc

Year 2 - Skyla

Year 3 - Matthew

Year 4 - Henry

Year 5 - Maria

Year 6 - Sophia

Weekly Teacher Nominations this week were:-

Reception - Ridowan

Year 1 - Peony

Year 2 - Reynard

Year 3 - Olivia

Year 4 - Jessica

Year 5 - Dennis

Year 6 - Nana

Congratulations to all these children.

ATTENDANCE STARS

Mandela 96.9%



Attenborough 91.7%



Curie 90.7%



Luther King 90%



SCHOOL DIARY



Date	Event
Tuesday 16th January	Young Voices
19th February—23rd February	Half Term
Thursday 28th March	End of Term— School ends 1:45pm
Monday 15th April	Inset Day—School Closed
Tuesday 16th April	Term Starts—Children back at 8:40am
Thursday 2nd May	Reception screening children born after 1st March
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday—School closed
27th May—31st May	Half Term
Thursday 4th July	Year 6 trip to Stanborough Water Park
Thursday 11th July	Transition Day
Tuesday 23rd July	End of Term— School ends 1:45pm
Monday 2nd September	Inset Day—School Closed
Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day—School Closed
Wednesday 4th September	Term Starts—Children back at 8:40am

CLASS PE DAYS

Elizabeth	Tuesdays & Fridays	Indoors & Bikes and Scooters
Curie	Tuesdays & Fridays	Indoors & Outdoors
Hawking	Wednesdays & Fridays	Outdoors & Indoors
Mandela	Mondays & Wednesdays	Indoors & Outdoors
Attenborough	Mondays & Tuesdays	Swimming & Outdoors
Luther King	Mondays & Thursdays	Outdoors & Indoors
Goodall	Thursdays & Fridays	Indoors & Outdoors

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We are a welcoming Christian community where every child has the chance to flourish.

We bring and share joy, inspire daily and creatively equip children for the future.

We're thankful for all that God has provided; proud of where He has placed us; and excited at the potential to come.

”



The C.S. Lewis Award for

Perseverance




"Overflowing with thankfulness, inspiration and joy"

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
(Galatians 6:9)

Prayer of the Week

If our school were in heaven, we would sweep the path clean.

If our school were in heaven, we would cultivate its garden.

If our school were in heaven, we would keep our things neat.

If our school were in heaven, we would display our work for the angels to see.

If our school were in heaven, we would treat everyone as a child of God.

So here on earth we will do these things and so make our school more like heaven. Amen

Reception - Elizabeth

Elizabeth Class have had a lovely start to the New Year! It has been a pleasure to get to know your polite and charming children. They have impressed Mrs Ellis and me so much with their very beautiful new self-portraits and also by sorting numbers into order all the way up to 20! We are looking forward to what comes next!

The Elizabeth Class Team wish you all a very Happy New Year!



Year 1 - Curie

Happy New Year! Welcome back to Curie Class and thank you all for your kind gifts and wishes, they were very appreciated. The children have settled well after the Christmas break and have all been eager to start new topics this week. Probably the highlight of the week, was on Wednesday when the class tasted and described fruits from the book 'Handa's Surprise', which we are reading in English. They then designed, made and evaluated their fruit salad (after eating it!). We have also thought about our wishes for 2024 and considered what 'Perseverance' means to us in Year One. Have a great weekend.



Year 2 - Hawking

What a fantastic first week back! The children have returned, ready and full of enthusiasm. We have had some amazing focus in Maths this week focusing on mental maths for addition and subtraction and working with large numbers! In English we have been looking at a variety of poems and have even created our very own one. Our half term value of perseverance is definitely showing through Hawking class this week! Have a lovely weekend!



Year 3 - Mandela

It has been a wonderful start to the year. We have welcomed Olivia, our newest member of Mandela Class.

In Maths, we have started addition in the column method and we have moved onto 'exchange' whilst adding.

In English, we have started looking into Fables and different morals within these stories. We have looked at the 'recipe' for a good fable and will be writing our own ones next week.

In art, we have started a new style of art which involves a lot of work in Architecture. We are going to look at the aesthetics of buildings and how building designs have changed through time and country.

It has been a very busy week and next week, we will be even busier! Please practise the times tables with your little ones and check Purple Mash for homework.



Year 4 - Attenborough

Happy New Year! It has been a busy and productive week back for Attenborough Class. In Maths, we have been looking at how bar models can help us to solve multiplication and division problems. In English, we have started our new book 'The Day I Swapped my Dad for a Goldfish'. The class has been using persuasive writing to try to convince me to give them extra breaktime and house points. In Science, we have started our new topic 'Teeth and Digestion'. We looked at what different types of teeth are called and what they are used for. In History, we are looking at the Anglo-Saxons, the children looked at who they were and where they came from. In PE, we have started our gymnastics unit and this week we looked at balance. In RE, we looked at what the Gospel is and why Jesus' disciples chose to follow him. We have had a great week and I look forward to all the fun learning we have planned for next week. Remember swimming is starting on Monday so children need to bring their swimming kits in.



Year 5 - Luther King

We have had a very positive start back to our learning in Luther King class at the start of this Spring term. Already we have displayed resilience, which is our value for this term, by working hard in all our subjects.

In Maths we have been practising our column addition and subtraction using both whole and decimal numbers. In English we started looking at our new book *The Watertower* and today we wrote a diary entry as one of the characters focusing on the strange and mysterious effects of the watertower on the residents.

We are very fortunate to have wonderful helpers coming into our school both as volunteers to read with our children as well as organisations like Onslow coming to offer PE to our pupils. Today we practised some wonderful gymnastic balance positions in pairs, both symmetrical and non-symmetrical.

This new term promises to be very exciting and we look forward to more wonderful learning taking place in Year 5.



Year 6 - Goodall

We got straight back into the swing of things in Goodall class and have been linking our reading, writing and history work on World War 2. Using the fabulous narrative 'Letters from the Lighthouse' as a springboard, we've been writing diary entries from the perspective of evacuees. We've also been looking at some different primary and secondary sources that tell us about the experiences of evacuees during the war for those children living in our local area. In Art & Design, we've been exploring photographs by Charlie Phillips and collages by Nijdeka Akunyili Crosby as we look at the theme of Identity in Art. Homework in English (prefixes) and Maths (Negative Numbers) has been set which revises work studied earlier in the academic year, this is due in on Thursday 18th. Children will find their revision books have support on both of these topics.



The Gambia

As you already know, over the Christmas holiday, I visited The Gambia to spend some time in the village of Kaiaf in the North of the country. This is a village that I have been visiting for the past 10 years and have helped to make positive changes for the villagers. We have helped to raise funds to rebuild a medical centre in the village and this visit was my first visit since Covid, to see the physical changes and hear about the impact of our support. After speaking to Mr Petty, we decided that we would also like to build links with the Primary school in the village and whilst there I spoke to the Principal of the school who is very keen to build links with St Mary's for pupils and staff. Further details to follow! Whilst in the village, I shared the 34 football kits that were donated by your children and gave out footballs, colouring pencils, books and other resources that were kindly donated/funded by staff. As you can see by the children's faces, they were very happy with their gifts! Thank you again for your support, I will update you with further information in the near future.

