

## ● ● ● Spring has definitely arrived!

Hello everyone and apologies for the late newsletter after half term. I'm so sorry it has taken me a couple of weeks to write to you all but I have a few pieces of information to share with you all. I just wanted to say what a fabulous couple of weeks back we've had. An amazing Y1 residential trip to Beeston last week was a real highlight seeing all our Year 1 children having so much fun, running wild in the countryside! Elsewhere school is a lovely, engaging place to be.

## ● ● ● Outdoor Gym Equipment & Trim Trails

I am delighted that we have had a new piece of outdoor gym equipment fitted for the children. This was part funded by our fantastic PTA so a special thank you to them. Also after a long time we have had the other equipment repaired and all is now in full working order. Next week we will have some of the wooden trim trail repaired as well, making sure all the outdoor areas and play spaces are able to be accessed by all the children. We take the safety of this equipment very seriously and have worked hard to ensure contractors have replaced damaged or loose equipment as quickly as possible. I know how much the children enjoy these. Annually from now on we will be inducting the children to show them how to use the equipment appropriately.



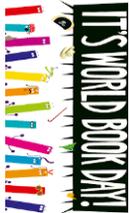
## ● ● ● Bus Shelter



A number of you will have seen our twitter post over the weekend that states we have been successful in bidding for one of the bright yellow bus shelters from the old bus station in Chester at the back of the Town Hall by Chester Market. It is due to arrive in school this week but we will need to sort installation. Mr Rimington put the bid in thinking it would compliment the Bagel Bus. What a genius idea and we look forward to seeing it arrive shortly!!

## ● ● ● World Book Day 2020

The one thing I absolutely love about the children in our school is that whatever we do they always enter into it wholeheartedly and World Book Day was one of those moments. Special thank you also to Mr & Mrs Kirkup, Esther and Eliot for their brilliant cake sale for Book Aid. They raised a brilliant £182.65. Huge thanks also to Miss Brothwood and all the staff for entering into the spirit and creating some exciting opportunities for the children throughout the week, it was brilliant!



## ● ● ● Sport Relief 2020

This week is Sport Relief and there are a number of activities going on throughout the week. For a £1 cash donation, your child can come to school on the day dressed in Sports Wear! Each class will be completing their own sporting activity and Non-Uniform day on a day of their choice during the week. As a school we will be trying to complete as many steps as we can. If your child has a step monitor, they are welcome to wear this to school for the week. Please check with classteachers to find out which day your child's class will be supporting this cause. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March **ALL** children will come to school in their PE Kit. It promises to be a brilliant fundraiser for a wonderful cause.



## ● ● ● Coronavirus Update

I wrote to you all last week regarding the Coronavirus and the information school have been given. We are continuing to ensure children are handwashing regularly and using sanitizers that are provided across the school. I am meeting Mr Rimington this week to look at how often we are cleaning door handles, screens and areas of the school that are used regularly. In class, teachers have tissues, sanitizers and have been sharing key videos and messages around good hygiene including using a tissue for sneezing and handwashing thoroughly. All of these promote good hygiene practices across the school.

## ● ● ● Friday Assembly & Y4 Environmental Project

Apologies everyone but due to an exciting Environmental Project that Y4 are doing every Friday until the end of term, we will have the achievement assembly in the mornings. KS1 & Foundation Stage will be 9.05 – 9.35; KS2 will be 10-10.30am. We will change back after Easter.



## Nursery Spaces for September

Calling all parents and carers who have a child who is 3 before September 2020.

As a large majority of our Nursery children will be moving up to Reception in September, we will have plenty of room for our new Nursery children. If you have a child who is 3 now or will be before September then please contact the school and complete an application form so we have you on record and can start to plan our numbers for the new academic year. Application forms are available at the school office but also contact either myself or Nursery to arrange a visit. We look forward to welcoming younger brothers and sisters into school. Also if you have any other friends or family looking for a nursery place then please pass on our school contact details.



## Key Stage 2 Library System



Mr Martin & Miss Fellows have been working hard this year to evaluate and improve the way we teach and promote reading across the school. In the first couple of weeks back after half term they have revamped and changed the library system in key stage 2 and our upstairs library. You will have received a letter regarding this but basically it identifies that each year group will have a set of books that are banded for that year group. Equally they will have a designated day during the week where they can change that book too. We are proud of how well stocked and resourced our library is, so the children have plenty of reading material to choose from. If you have any questions about the library system and the books your child is reading, please come and talk to myself, Miss Fellows or Mr Martin and we can help you to support your child's reading journey.

## Democracy Group Research Project

Many of you may well know that we have a Democracy Group in school made up of 4 children from Y5 & Y6. They attend half termly meetings with all the other Blacon school democracy groups and learn to debate different national or international issues; respecting viewpoints and learning how to give clear evidence based opinions. They are brilliantly led by Mrs Payne and work hard to have their voice heard. Currently I have given them a research task so keep an eye out as they will be seeking your opinion. The children have been asked to find out if children would want to address the adults in school less formally. Currently we are either Mr, Miss or Mrs and then our surname. This is a historic school thing that is to show respect for adults in school. Personally I don't agree that this is necessarily a way of showing respect and it is more than just referring to somebody by their name. I have asked the children to find out what parents, carers, teachers, teaching assistants and pupils think of this. Could we be calling teachers and teaching assistants by their first name? Why not? Is it disrespectful? Anyway these are just my thoughts, the children ultimately will gather the evidence and we will find out what they come back with. I love it when our children take ownership of something and seek the thoughts of everyone in our school. Watch this space!!



## And Finally...

That's it for this week everyone, I hope you find the information useful and please, as always, you must come and talk to me if you have any questions. We're looking forward to Year 3 children heading off to Colomendy this week for their residential. Good luck to Neptune class who will be away on Tuesday & Wednesday and Pluto head away on Thursday and Friday; they're all going to have a fabulous time!

For the rest of us we have a busy week, our children in Years 4 & 5 have assessments this week so will be working hard and the rest of the school continue to engage in their learning as always.

Thank you so much for your continued support everyone, the lighter days are just around the corner and we look forward to the final 4 weeks of the Spring Term.

Have a lovely week everyone.

Kind regards

Dave Williams (Headteacher)