



Plumpton Primary School

Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4 of the academic year. We have another fun-filled and enriching half-term ahead with more school trips, an author visit, our Book Week, a Maths parents' workshop, a STEM day...and much more!

Our topics this term

This term Robins are learning all about 'Growth' (given it's the start of meteorological Spring) and will be reading a book called *Bog Baby* by Jeanne Willis. It follows two children who venture into the woods and find a magical creature. It tackles important themes such as respecting our natural environment.

The Woodpeckers are learning all about Dinosaurs this term and are reading two books in this topic: *Harry and His Bucketful of Dinosaurs* and *Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish*. They are both picture books relevant to the topic of Dinosaurs and to the current Climate Change crisis; they tackle issues of environmental degradation and humanity's role in this.

Both Owls and Kingfishers are reading a book called *Escape from Pompeii* to bring their topic of The Romans to life. The book follows two children, Tranio and Livia, as Mount Vesuvius erupts and engulfs the Roman town of Pompeii. Kingfishers will use this text to develop character descriptions and poetic writing. Whereas Owls will use this text to compare and contrast with their new Whole Class Reading text: *Escape from Rome* by Caroline Lawrence. Again, this text tracks a group of children's escape from a disaster.



Book Week bonanza

This week we have enjoyed a brilliant Book Week so far. We have been: dropping everything to read when Mrs Ketley comes around with her bell; reading with children in different classes; AND signing up to story times in other classes. In our Friday Assembly children will find out who the books in the corridor belong to, following our Guess The Teacher's Book challenge.



Some of our reading challenges!

How we communicate with you

Thanks to all of those who filled in the Parent Survey last term. It was really useful feedback for school leaders. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify how, as a school, we communicate about the children's learning:

Emails – we will email you letters daily to inform you of trips/events/goings-on;

Website – our website contains a wealth of information – the online calendar is now also updated regularly;

Text – we will text you if a last-minute cancellation has taken place;

Parents' evenings/reports – Our parents' evenings are twice yearly, and an End of Year report is produced in July;

Open Door policy – we always welcome parents dropping in with any questions/queries.

School Council update – school lunches & pupil voice

Our School Council have, in recent meetings, been focusing on improving the rate of recycling at lunch times. Last week, members met the 'head' of Chartwells Catering to discuss plastic recycling. The School Kitchen are going to help those bringing in packed lunch to ensure plastic brought from home gets recycled.

Attendance

We are looking for a new class to **topple** Woodpecker Class this term (they have been the dominant force in our weekly Attendance Cup competition this term); here are the attendance results for this term so far are:

- **Robin Class** – 95.4%
- **Woodpecker Class** – 97%
- **Kingfisher Class** – 96%
- **Owls Class** – 95.3%



Victory for Woodpecker Class! Well done!

Progress towards our SDP

Our School Development Plan is available for you to view on our school website. It outlines what we are doing to ensure the school, and our pupils, continue to develop and flourish.

This term we are continuing to focus on improving three aspects of what is called the 'SDP': attendance, reading for pleasure, and local community links.

On our final target of improving community links, we are thrilled to be able to inform you of the significant amount of money raised during our February Fundraising Fortnight (including the Owls Class PATINA Jumble Sale). In addition, Mr Hughes is looking to develop links with Plumpton Racecourse with a view to organising events with them in the Summer term. In addition, you will see that Mr James is regularly writing in the local Parish Magazine with any job adverts and notices about school places for prospective Reception children.



Fundraising fortnight & PATINA Jumble Sale

We are thrilled to inform you that Robins, Woodpeckers and Kingfishers raised £500 for their class charities over the course of the February Fundraising Fortnight. Thank you all very much for supporting your child in raising money through sponsorship and by sending them in with spare pennies.

Then, last Saturday, Owls Class raised a whopping £1000 for PATINA. The most ever raised for PATINA at Plumpton. Well done! And a huge thank you to parents and carers and the wider Plumpton community for making the event such a roaring success.

Robins morning drop-off

In the morning, between 08.30am and 08.40am, we ask that Robins' parents stay with their children until they have been handed over to Mrs Allen and Mrs Timmins. The teacher on the main playground is supervising Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 only. Thank you.

In the upcoming School Council meetings, Miss Newnham and the School Councillors will be undertaking a 'pupil voice' on a range of topics including our outdoor environment.

February Reading Challenge – thank you – photos

Well done to all of those who participated in the February Reading Challenge. We enjoyed sharing photos of you reading in extreme places during our Celebration Assembly last week.



Full of all your extreme reading photos!

Sports Relief

You will have now received an email from Mrs Ketley informing you that Plumpton will be participating in the national Sports Relief fundraising by taking part in a 'Mile with a Smile'. Have those jokes ready for our daily miles each morning.

Class Blogs

A reminder of the links for our class blogs:

Robin Class: plumptonrobins.wordpress.com

Woodpecker Class: plumptonwoodpeckers.wordpress.com

Kingfisher Class: plumptonkingfishers.wordpress.com

Owl Class: plumptonowls.wordpress.com

Dates For Your Diary

March 2020	
Monday 9 th	Sports relief week begins
Monday 9 th	Author Visit
Monday 9 th	Parents' eve sign-up sheets ready
Tuesday 10 th	Maths workshop for parents
Friday 13 th	Non-uniform day – Sports kits
Monday 16 th	Owls Yr6 talent show
Friday 20 th	STEM day
Wednesday 25 th	KS2 Fishbourne Roman Palace trip
Thursday 26 th	Owls Roman Pizza-making
Tuesday 31 st	Easter Service – 2pm – school hall
Tuesday 31 st	Parents' evening 3.10pm-5.30pm
April 2020	
Thursday 2 nd	Parents' evening 4pm-7pm

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