



Newsletter

10th February 2017

Coming up on our return:
Tuesday—First day back at school
Swimming for year 3 & 4

Dates for your diary:

Monday 20th February is an INSET day.

Tuesday 28th February LKS2 & UKS2 Parent/Teacher Meetings.

Wednesday 1st March LKS1 & Reception Parent Teacher Meetings.



Special 'Thanks' to Mr Harris who has mended the front door buzzer—Beth has gone back to being able to stay in her seat for six hours straight!

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

Booking window now open!

Tuesday 28th February - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 from 1pm-7.30pm

Wednesday 1st March - Reception, Years 1 & 2 from 1pm-7.30pm

Please could we politely remind parents that parent/teacher meetings are 10 minute appointments. In order that they run to time it would be helpful if you could raise any issues you may have at the start of the appointment as this will allow your child's class teacher to address your query and then give you the information that they want to impart all within your 10 minute appointment.

We will also be sounding a bell one minute before the end and at the end of the appointment to try to keep things running to schedule and minimise the waiting times for all parents.

Your co-operation and support with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Dragons won the most conduct marks this term and therefore can wear their own clothes on the first day of term (Tuesday 21st February)

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a week of happenings. All sorts has been going on and continues to do so this evening with our trip to Bristol Rugby. I shall pop something at the bottom of the newsletter about that but in case you do not make it that far (Mr Harris, I am thinking of you here) we are all meeting inside the concourse, next to the bar.

On Monday, we had our last service with Frances as she is moving onto pastures new at the end of this month. Frances has been a part of our school community for 5 years now; helping us to grow in the image of God and giving so freely of her time. She will be sorely missed and we wish her every success in her new ministry.

As many of you will know, this week we have been looking at healthy eating; keeping our bodies fit and strong. Part of this learning has been through classroom lessons where research into sugar, fat and salt content in everyday foods has taken place (not that it has made any odds to Beth's chocolate consumption. She single handedly keeps Mr Cadbury's children in private education). This was reinforced by Helen from Farmlink (these are the people who come in with our chicks for Years 3/4) who came in to talk to Reception up to Year 4. What was great about her workshop was the way that she identified foods that were high in, say, sugar, but then suggested viable alternatives that could replace them. For instance, did you know that Fruit Shoots have the same sugar content in them as a can of Coke? I was amazed. Simple tips such as popping a bit of rocket in your sandwich will help you hit your five a day, while making your own flapjacks, etc rather than buying the super sweet ones from the shops, can save money and calories. From a personal point of view, I liked the fact that she did not demonise any foods. The message was clear: having a packet of crisps is absolutely fine, just have them in moderation (hear that Susanne, m-o-d-e-r-a-t-i-o-n).

Following on from this, the children all made their own healthy packed lunches on Thursday, trying to put into practice what they had learnt. Our old friend, Mrs Brown, lent a hand with proceedings (thankfully), helping children to butter bread sparingly (ha, ha, ha) and trying to make them realise that not everything they'd brought HAD to go in their sandwich. Rory's: dollop the marg into the middle of bread, pound it down with your hand and repeat 'technique' left a little to be desired. Likewise, Bill's Big Kahuna sandwich was not for the faint hearted. Amusing as all this was, it was not as humorous as watching him try to eat it. It was like an explosion in a ham and cucumber factory. Memory is a fun thing. It often functions best when the things you are trying to remember are acted out or you experience them first hand. By encouraging our children to create their lunches themselves, rather than getting Mum, Dad or Nan to provide it, we hope the messages of healthy snacks and moderation will stay with them a little longer. At this point, I must apologise to Ollie's mum who was forced to purchase stuffed quail's eggs, Nicaraguan vine lettuce and new born roasted blueberries from the shores of Lake Lucerne. This is not a packed lunch. This is a Wraxall packed lunch. Joking aside, thank you for providing the ingredients they needed to do this and apologies for some of the items requested. How some of you managed to find strawberries in mid-winter was most impressive.

Running parallel to this, we had e-safety week. As you can imagine, this is a very hot potato, with issues such as cyber bullying making newspaper headlines on almost a weekly basis. This year, the theme centred around keeping oneself and friends safe from images – what do you do if you see something you should not be able to? The e-safety committee, with Mrs Harris's help, led assembly, using the story of Smartie the Penguin, to suggest scenarios that children may come across and how they should deal with them. There was a wee saying that they kept on chanting: *'Before you tap and click, make sure you stop and think and tell someone.'* Rather than ignoring the image or getting upset about it, TELL SOMEONE. As much as we would like to prevent children from seeing upsetting images, it is virtually impossible to prevent this from happening. Therefore, what we can do is educate them about keeping themselves safe and making sure they tell someone.

Many of you will have seen the fascinating series on BBC 1: Spy in the Wild, where animatronics were disguised as animals in order to film creatures in their natural environments. Scarlett's and Ethan's dad, Rob, is the producer and brought in some of the machines that they used during the series and told the school how they went about filming. It was mind blowing. Sitting at the front of our hall were Spy Wolf Cub, Meer Kat, Ostrich Chick, Boar and Turtle, as an extract of the 'behind the scenes' series played on our big screen. Rob was able to talk to the children about how they built the models, the tricks they used to get them accepted and some of the things that went wrong (including him having to rescue Spy Hippo from a confrontation with waterweed!) After the assembly, he took the robots around to the classes so the children could get a more hands on look at them. Truly, a very big 'Thank you' for allowing our children this rare opportunity. They are very lucky indeed.

As we haven't had much on this week (I do not even have time to tell you about the toys that Year 1/2 have made over the last few weeks and them setting up a toy museum to show their parents- it was great), we thought we would round things off with a series of rugby workshops for all the year groups. Isabella's dad, Matt, came in to run the sessions and managed to coerce/bribe/threaten Luke Arscott (Bristol Fullback) & Olly Robinson (academy coach) to come in and join him. They went through a series of drills to improve their basic technique and then had a go in match situations, pulling tags rather than pummelling each other into the ground... most of the time. Harvey, Eve, all managed to win trophies but they all loved it and had such a good time – huge grins everywhere. A massive 'Thank you' to Matt for doing all this for our children. Unfortunately, he will no longer be watching the match with us tonight as he now has to lie in a darkened room and regain some measure of composure. Teaching rugby to Year 1/2 certainly puts hairs on your chest.

For the last time in Term 3, our Stars of the Week are Eloise in Reception, Phoebe & Rory in Year 1/2, Louis B & Evie B in Year 3/4 and Jake & Nelly in Year 5/6. Lovely stuff. The house with the most conduct marks and able to wear their own clothes on the first day after holidays, was Dragons while Griffins had the most work marks. Bronze badges were awarded to Luke, Issy K, Ben & Reuben. Silver badges were awarded to Lilly, Aleksander, Aaron & Sophia. Gold badges were awarded to Jess L & Poppy P.

See you many of you at 7:00, just inside the concourse by the bar/big screen. Not wishing to sound like a mother hen, but do feel free to bring a blanket tonight for the little ones. It is going to be cold! Mrs Yandall said the first round is on her! Have a lovely holiday. Play safely and take care,

Mr Tucker