

Spruce, Sycamore and Walnut

Friday 11th March 2022

News and Reminders

Despite only being back at school for two weeks, the children have already completed so much learning. They have worked extremely hard and have been inquisitive when learning about different topics.

Visit to the National Space Centre: Our visit to the National Space Centre is rapidly approaching and detailed information about the trip (e.g. departure and anticipated arrival times) have been shared via ParentMail. If you received a copy of the 'Annual consent to local off site visits and medical treatment' form, please make sure that it is returned to school ASAP; we must have a signed copy in order for your child to participate in the visit.

OPAL Playground: Since arriving back after half term, the children have loved the evolving playground environment. It has been fantastic to see them enjoying an array of activities, including riding on bikes and scooters and getting cosy in the reading shed.

Reading Challenge: There will be regular reading challenges within each class so please continue to support and encourage your child to read at home.

Play Leaders: A group of Year 5 and 6 children have become play leaders following training provided by Barclay Card and Girls Football UK. At lunchtime, children are helping run structured games (often with younger children) and these aim to develop agility and teamwork skills.

Painting Planters: Some of our ambassadors (George E, George M and Riley) helped Mrs Gattward to turn old pallet crates into beautiful planters. They helped sand and paint the planters, which will hopefully be used to grow strawberries. It was wonderful to receive this feedback about the boys from Mrs Gattward, "I wanted to say how fabulous they were and a real credit to the school. They showed great personal skills as well as doing a great job. I really enjoyed their company". What a wonderful compliment! We would also like to thank Mrs Gattward for giving up some of her time to come in and work with the children.

Homework

The children will be set homework each week on **Monday (4pm)**. This should be **completed by the following Monday at the latest**.

Compulsory Homework:

- Weekly arithmetic task set on Seesaw (a link to the ultimate SATs organiser is also included within the activity)
- Weekly SPaG task set on Seesaw (this will usually be based on the previous week's learning).
- Weekly spelling activity on Spelling Shed. The spelling activity will link to the spelling ladder that your child is on. They need to complete at least 4 games to practise their words. Copies of all of the words are available on Seesaw and children have also been given a paper copy for their reference.
- Daily reading and quizzing at least once week on Accelerated Reader. The children can quiz at home using this website:
<http://ukhosted93.renlearn.co.uk/6703196>
- Regular practise on Numbots and Timetables Rockstars will help to develop your child's fluency of number facts which will increase their confidence in other areas of maths.

As the children are now in Upper Key Stage 2, the homework provided aims to help them prepare for their transition to secondary education. We understand that many children are developing their independence and completing their homework alone. It is often beneficial look at the homework task with your child once they have completed it. This will help you identify where they may benefit from some support or guidance from an adult at home.

Reminders:

- Homework club is available for any child who would like to complete some of their homework in school or feel that they need some support with it. Children will need to **attend homework club the Friday before their homework is due**.
- Please can you ensure that your child is completing their homework. If you are having any problems with completing the homework, please let us know: year56team@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk

Our Learning

World Book Day: It was wonderful to see the children all cosy in their pyjamas while talking about their favourite books. Throughout the day, they completed lots of different book-related activities. We think a highlight for many children was having the opportunity to share stories with children in younger year groups. As the children enjoyed this so much, we are hoping it can become a more regular routine within our school.

Literacy: We have started to read 'Curiosity: The story of a Mars rover' by Markus Motum. The children have been fascinated by the topic and have been developing their skills, which will be used to produce some non-fiction writing. So far, they have practised using technical vocabulary, commas for clarity and formal language.

Science and Topic: We are continuing to learn about Space in both science and topic. The children have learnt about the 'space race' and the first moon landing. They have also learnt about what causes night and day and the different phases of the moon.

RE: Our key question for this half term is 'Was the death of Jesus a worthwhile sacrifice?'. The children have discussed the meaning of sacrifice and considered what it means to them.

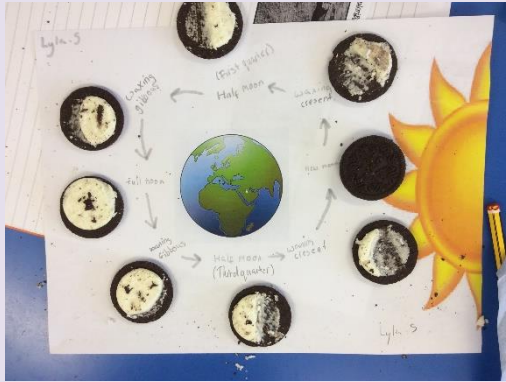
Spirituality: As Comic Relief is next week, we have started to discuss ways the charity supports people. In response to this, the children suggested ways that they would like to raise money for the charity and how they hope it may help people in the future.

Upcoming events and learning: Today is 'Spanish Day' and the children have been completing an array of activities. Next week, is Science Week; as part of the theme of 'Growth', Year 5 and 6 will be investigating microbes, organisms, and life on Mars. Look out for updates and photographs with our next newsletter.

Sporting events: Since arriving back after half term, members of the football clubs (boys and girls) and rugby club have participated in sporting competitions with other schools. After two years, it has been brilliant to see our children work as part of a team and enjoy these experiences. All staff have commented on how supportive, cooperative and resilient the children were.

Photos: Here are some of the amazing things we have been doing in Year 5 and 6 recently.







Superstar Learners

Christian Values Certificates: Well done to all of the children who have received a Christian Value certificate over the past month.

Diary Dates

W/C 14th March: Science Week

Friday 18th March: Comic Relief (details have been shared via ParentMail)

Monday 21st March: Visit to The National Space Centre

Reading:

Word Count (February)	Percentage of Quizzes Passed (February)
1 st : Walnut	1 st : Sycamore (100%)
2 nd : Sycamore	2 nd : Walnut (93.2%)
3 rd : Spruce	3 rd : Spruce (91.8%)

Numbots and Times Table Rock

Stars: Well done to the following children who have earned the highest amount of coins during February.

	Spruce	Sycamore	Walnut
Numbots	Maxwell Ethan S David	Finch Kaylon Riley	Amelia B Ella Kruthi
TTRS	Toby Ethan S Zachary	Emma Pahal Braydon	Amelia B Dexter Leah

Wednesday 23rd March (3:30 – 4:30pm):

Opportunity to visit classroom and view your child's books and learning

Thursday 24th March (8:10 – 8:40am):

Opportunity to visit classroom and view your child's books and learning

Friday 25th March: Spring Progress Reports (sent via ParentMail)

Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March: Parents' Evening (virtual - booked via School Cloud)

Friday 8th April: Easter Bonnet Parade