



### Head teachers update

#### School Plan focus.

Monday's staff training day, with other DEMAT schools, was on Talk 4 Writing, specifically the place of reading in developing the understanding and skills of being a writer. We were shown a number of techniques for developing comprehension skills. We also looked at the outcomes of some research into reading. It was no real surprise to find out that research demonstrates that children who read more often develop fluency as a reader much more quickly than those who do not and that fluent readers have more ideas and vocabulary that they can use when writing. It was also clear that children who enjoy reading, read more. Please do encourage your child/children to read every day and do read to them as well.

We will be trying a number of approaches to help children to enjoy reading and be motivated to read even more. We are also trying to ensure that class story time does not get lost in our busy curriculum as this allows children to enjoy a range of stories and become more familiar with some of the excellent authors that write children's books. Each class will now have a daily story time.

#### External Fencing

I am pleased to confirm that DEMAT has now given the final approval for the external fencing to proceed. This work will commence during the start of February, hopefully concluding just after half-term.

We have also been informed that the funding for a new pathway for parents, that will be an alternative to the current steps, is available from DEMAT so will be planning and costing that project with an aim to having the work done before Easter.

#### Pantomime Visit

Thank you to the PTFA for helping to fund the visit to Stevenage to see Snow White. All of the school and pre-school travelled together on a coach and the children thoroughly enjoyed the show. It was great fun and very well performed. The children joined in with the traditional shouting at the actors, booing and cheering, that is an integral part of pantomime. Giving

children a range of memorable experiences is a key part of our school vision and this trip was a great success.

#### Sing 4 School

The chart of these songs is now live on the Cambridge News website, and the link is attached where you, your children, friends and family can access and make your vote:

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/special-features/vote-your-favourite-track-online-15645913>

The link will take you to the page where the chart is stored (Cambridgeshire Live)

- 'project and competition' you will find the chart itself + link to the voting form.

If for any reason this website has an error please do persist as they are incurring occasional problems.

Please note that the chart will close on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

#### Attendance

Each week I would now like to update you upon the overall school absence figure for this academic year. For last term the school attendance was 95.39%. This is a little below our target of 96%.

This week, it is **94.29%** which is low. Please do all you can to help your child have a high attendance as this does have a significant impact on their learning.

Jeremy Fisher

#### Cool School Club



The children have all settled back into club after the holidays. There have been Lego challenges, making camps and dressing up. Some of them helped to create a Pig collage, in celebration of the forthcoming Chinese New Year. As always, the children continue to enjoy being outside as much as possible.

With thanks from Helen and all the Club staff.



P.T.F.A.

**100 Club Winners - December:**

1<sup>st</sup> (£14): K Catchpole (32)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> (£10): A Locke (24)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> (£8): D Julyan (52)  
 Bonus Draw (£24): A Locke (36)

Congratulations!  
 Thanks so much for your continued support.



**Favourite Book**

Can children bring a book to school on Monday, in celebration of reading both at home and school? This can be a book that they love, that they have great memories of reading, had an impact on them, made them giggle...or anything else positive!

We will be taking photos of the children reading their chosen book and creating a display, showing off them reading and sharing their recommendations with others.

If you have a photo of your children reading at home or on holiday, and would be happy to send it in, we would love to add photos of the wonderful reading experiences you are all having outside of school too!

**Helen O'Grady Drama class**

Leaflets are coming home in the school bag. Let the office know if you are interested to attend.

Class 2	Devon & Scott	All Swallows Class
Class 3	Martha & Ines	Izzie & Emma



**Sports - Star of the Week**

Our P.E. teacher, awards have been presented to:-

Class 1	Esther
Class 2	Bonnie
Class 3	Martha

**Collective Worship Theme for the week**

**Three Kings Day**

Matthew chapter 2 verses 1-12

**Diary Updates and Reminders**

18 January	RSPB Bird Watch
18 - 26 February	Half-Term Break
25 February (Monday)	School Closed - Staff Inset
5 April (Friday)	End of Term - 1.45pm
23 April (Tuesday)	Summer Term Begins
27 May - 4 June (Tues)	Half-Term Break
3 June (Monday)	School Closed - Staff Inset
24 July (Wed)	End of Term - 1.45pm

**Guilden Morden C of E Primary School** Part of the Diocese of Ely  
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**Classroom Awards: Stars of the week**

	Progress	Conduct & Values
PreSchool	Ella J	Eleanor
Class 1	Finley & Elsa	Sophia & Theo