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Headteacher: **Natalie James**  
Deputy Headteacher: **Liz Abel**

March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

## NEWSLETTER

As ever, we have been a busy school with lots of enhancement activities to make learning fun and accessible.

Over this term, our youngest children had the opportunity to develop their understanding of living things and life cycles with 'living eggs'. They were enthralled to see the chicks hatch and watch them grow over several weeks. They have also had an African drumming experience. Year 1 have completed a Victorian experience in school, learning how to wash clothes using a mangle, dolly and washboard. They really enjoyed this activity. Over the term, both classes have taken part in forest school afternoons, which I know they thoroughly enjoy.

Year 2 have been very excited to find dragon eggs in the spinney! They have been talking to me about how they might have arrived there. There are some lovely activities planned for them next term. Year 3 have visited a synagogue to develop their understanding of other faiths which promotes tolerance, one of the strands linked to our British Values. Year 4 have been visited by Reverend Sarah this week, to learn a little more about Easter and also completed their music project last week. If your child would like to continue to play the clarinet, please make the school office aware.

In Year 5, some of the children are undergoing training to become Young Leaders. They will receive further training on how to support some of our younger children across the school at playtimes and lunchtimes with physical activities. They are very excited to support our younger children and are taking the role very seriously. This term it has been their responsibility to look after Violet, the school rabbit, which they have enjoyed. Year 6 visited the Buddhist Centre in Welford last week; enhancing their curriculum through visiting a place of worship.

We have also been very lucky with having various guests come into school and share their experiences in our assemblies; with Martin from Ghana demonstrating his skills with African drums; the Steelbacks to promote cricket opportunities and Stuart Burt talking about the football World Cup and how hard work ensured he fulfilled his dream of being an international assistant referee.

In addition, we have been fortunate to have a therapy dog come into school on Fridays to support some of our children. They love reading to Brody; he is a great listener!

## FUNDRAISING

### Comic Relief

This year we sent a link to donate online. This was very successful and we raised £447. In an assembly we explained where some of the money might go and how some children are not as fortunate as our school community.



### St David's Food Bank

All of this week we will be collecting tinned food, dried food and toiletries for the local St David's food bank. If you would like to donate, please send the items to your child's class. Any donations will be gratefully received and very much appreciated.

### Cynthia Spencer

On Friday, we are having our mini marathon. Children may come to school in their PE kit (please make sure it is warm enough). I have sent the times out in a previous Parentmail. It is imperative if you do plan to participate or spectate, that you are on time as I need to keep the gates locked for security. We are collecting for the Cynthia Spencer Hospice and want to raise as much money as we can, whilst supporting Mr Duffy in his training in preparation for his London Marathon debut. If you haven't already and would like to donate, please do so by Friday.

### SRE Consultation

Many thanks for your participation in the sex and relationships survey which was completed several weeks ago. I am sharing your views with governors this week, prior to us reviewing the policy. Your views are so important to us.

### Termly Learning Conferences

Thank you to those who attended their child's TLCS this term. We want to work with our families to ensure we are supporting your child in being happy and confident in school as well as ensuring we have the best academic outcomes for them. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Class Dojo

I do hope that the parents of Years 1 - 6 find the updates on Dojo useful. I think it is a great way of sharing what the children are doing in their classrooms. A previous survey of what we could do better cited communication so I hope the updates from class teachers and weekly updates from myself are having a positive impact. I will continue to write a monthly newsletter via Parentmail with overviews of the month and important dates for your diaries.

### SPORTS ACTIVITIES – Northampton Schools' Partnership

Over the term, children have had opportunities to participate in a range of activities as part of our enhanced provision with Northamptonshire Sport. Over the year we try to ensure all children have such opportunities. Some activities are only for small numbers such as 'broadening participation' events, other activities are for development, performance or inclusion. We have set criteria from Northamptonshire Sport regarding the categories and we need to adhere to these.

This term, we have had opportunities for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. One event was quikstix (hockey), another event was based on net and wall games and netball.

Our sports coach and mentor, Jamie Worrall, supports most of these events and he is always very pleased with the excellent behaviour and sportsmanship our children display.

Our sports' day is **TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> June**. Children from years 1-3 from 9:15 will be in the morning and children in Years 4-6 will be the afternoon from 1:15. Our EYFS children will have a separate Sports' Day and the date will be sent out to you. This is a different date to previous ones published.



## King's Coronation

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, we want the children to come to school in red, white and blue. We would love for as many parents to join us for a picnic lunch (hopefully, in the grounds, weather permitting). This will be from 12.00 to 1.00pm. There is a special menu from Kingswood catering for this day and all meals ordered will be served in Union flag cardboard boxes, please see the poster attached. I will send out further details when we return after Easter.

## King's Coronation Crown Competition

Over the Easter holidays, we are asking for children to create a crown for the coronation. We would like as many children as possible to create a crown to wear on the Coronation lunch on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. There will be prizes for the best designs. Children should bring their designs into school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

## Mrs Frodsham

Mrs Frodsham will be leaving us this Friday. She has been a wonderful librarian, supporting the children and staff to develop a love of reading. Although we are sad to see her leave, we are happy that she is really looking forward to having more time to spend with her family and her hobbies. We will miss her.

Have a lovely Easter break. We will be returning back to school on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**.

With best wishes,

Natalie James  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

29 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 visit to St Marks Church
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Young Leaders conference
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Whitehills children and parents sponsored marathon
31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>School closes for Easter and re-opens Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Cut off day to book school meals for the week after Easter
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Training Day for all staff
18 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>8.50am children return to school</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Pre-loved school uniform donation
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 & 6 SAS project
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Pre-loved school uniform collection before and after school
<b>MAY</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank holiday school closed
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 3-4 target festival Benham Sports Centre
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Coronation picnic lunch parents invited 12:00 – 1:00
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday school closed
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs am Year 5 Bikeability
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs am Year 5 Bikeability
11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs am Year 5 Bikeability
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs am Year 5 Bikeability Year 2 Nocturnal Day
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Reverend Sarah assembly Pentecost
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 athletics competition at Moulton College
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Visit by Word Guerrilla
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 -6 netball competition at Duston School



25 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 multi-sport event at NSG
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Preloved school uniform donation day <b>SCHOOL CLOSSES for end of term break and reopens Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports day years 1-3 AM years 4-6 PM
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports day FS2 PM

