 2/2/22

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| **Dear Parents,**  Welcome to the latest newsletter.  There are details below of some of the amazing learning that has been going on in school, a new after school club for KS1 and a new way of helping the children learn their spellings at home. We have more new reading books- thanks to the Friends- and the children have been learning fencing in PE.  As always, there is lots going on- despite COVID. | |
| **COVID and Attendance**  It is very clear that COVID is very much still with us and is everywhere in our local communities.  The current guidance is that children who test positive for COVID, then have a negative lateral flow test on day 5 followed by another negative test on the morning of day 6 can then return to school.  If another family member tests positive, and the children are close contacts, then they need to be taking daily lateral flow tests but can still be in school so long as these are negative.  Although many measures have been relaxed nationally, because case numbers are still high in our local area we are continuing with all of our own mitigation measures in school for now.  Please do get in touch if you would like to discuss individual circumstances. However, please also be aware that the DfE position is that children MUST now attend school unless they themselves are ill or there are exceptional circumstances as to why they cannot attend. | |
| **Staffing update**  As many of you already know, very sadly Mrs Stevens is currently off work following an accident. She is missing you all!  Mrs Mahoney is currently covering Class 1 for us alongside Mrs Briddock. | **No Zumba Friday March 4th**  Shelley has asked me to let you know that there will be no Zumba the first week back after half term - Friday March 4th. |
| **Stars of the week**  Each week, class teachers choose pupils who have particularly impressed them to receive a star of the week certificate. Here are our stars for the last 3 weeks.  Our stars for the week ending 14th January were: Tom and Cora (Class 1), Dylan, Archie (Class 2), Blake and Edie (Class 3) and Archie in Class 4. For the week ending 21st Jan, our stars were Thomas and Freddie C, Evie and Pippa, Luke S, Doug and Zach and Bobby and Joseph. For the week ending 28th Jane, our stars were Ruby and Penny, Hamish and Bonnie, Xav, Aidan and Evie W, and Ruth.  Headteacher’s awards went to all of Class 4, Isla Miller and Zach Alder.  Really well done to you all! | |
| **After School Clubs**  There will be a new after school club running in March for children in Class 2. The children will have the chance to learn some German words and songs in 5 half hour sessions run by Norma Foster, one of our governors.  The dates for these are: Wednesdays 2nd March/ 9th March/ 16th March/ 23rd March and 30th March and the time will be 3.15-3.45 pm. There will be limited places available. A sign- up letter will be sent out next week.  We are also hoping to run other additional clubs after half term. Details to follow. | |
| **New Reading books**  A huge thank you to the Friends who have spent over £400 on some much-needed new reading books for Class 3.  As you can see from the photo, they have generated a lot of excitement!  https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/V-qxo83b0Gd62-56CJmvgubMSqLxpzHGSUQzK5vOVyKKmcawTK1oia4sGASQnQcOYpnLSvu_QOjZLNhINg7aMS2DP14JzHXoCZxyR6BBDdbUsexNWSj6ArTIEtA8GKmeQl6nzUK3 | **Climate change committee**  Three members of our climate change committee are going to be tree planting near Wark in the next couple of weeks with representatives from all of the other schools in our partnership. Their target is to plant 100 trees in an hour! We’ll let you know how they get on. |
| **Clothes Bank**  Thank you to all of you who have supported our clothes bank so far. We have raised £120 for school already! Please spread the word to friends, relatives and neighbours. |
| **Curriculum update**  Class 4 have been investigating the properties of light in science. They have carried out some impressive investigations using light sources, mirrors and prisms.    Class 4 have also been studying the ‘Border Reivers’ and looking at the way they are portrayed in different sources of evidence.  Class 3 are really enjoying their pocket trumpet lessons. In maths, they have been learning different ways of tackling division and in literacy they are preparing to write the missing adventure of Sinbad the sailor!      Class 2 science has been focusing on different sorts of investigations.  This week, they have been investigating using different senses.    They have been making some amazing sculptures at Forest School and having great fun as always.    All of the children have been enjoying fencing in PE! | |
| **Spelling Frame**  We have invested in a new online resource to help the children in Classes 2,3 and 4 with learning their spellings at home. There are lots of games to practise the spellings which are presented in different ways and coloured chunks to make it easier to remember the words. All of the children will be bringing home their passwords shortly. Let us know if you have any difficulty with logging onto the site at home and we will try to help. | |
| **Parking**  Please could I politely request that parents DO NOT PARK on the pavements outside school and do not park across the road from school? There is parking available in the cricket club car park across the road.  Thank you for your continued support with this. | |
| Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch. If I don’t know there is a problem, I can’t sort it out.  Jo Trotter | |

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| **Dates for your diary** |  |
| **JANUARY** |  |
| 4.1.2022 | Teacher Training Day |
| 5.1.2022 | Start of Spring term |
| **FEBRUARY** |  |
| 18.2.2022 | Half term holiday begins |
| 28.2.2022 | Return to school |
| **APRIL** |  |
| 8.4.2022 | End of Spring term |
| 25.4.2022 | Start of Summer term |
| **MAY** |  |
| 27.5.2022 | Half term holiday begins |
| **JUNE** |  |
| 6.6.2022 | Return to school |
| **JULY** |  |
| 4.7.2022 | Queen’s Jubilee Bank Holiday (school closed) |
| 22.7.2022 | End of Summer term |