



Newsletter 24

28 March 2022

Dear Parents

Apologies for the delay in the weekly newsletter; I was tied up in budget meetings for the latter part of last week and was unable to complete in time. This will be the last newsletter for the Spring Term and is a bumper issue with lots of information and updates.

Thank you to our whole school community for the support, hard work and care since January. I wish you all a restful and lovely Easter Holiday; fingers crossed the sun continues to shine.

Below are a few reminders about the end of term arrangements:

### NURSERY

The final day of the term will be Thursday 31 March for Squirrel class; this will be at the usual school finishing time. This will be a non-uniform day for squirrels only ~ no contributions needed, this is just for fun!

### END OF SCHOOL ~ FRIDAY 1 APRIL

School will end at the earlier time of **1:15pm** on Friday.

This will also be a non-uniform day ~ no contributions needed, this is just for fun!

### RETURN TO SCHOOL

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Summer Term on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.**

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARD

Our target is to be at **96%** attendance throughout the year.

Covid or isolation absences are **NOT** included in this data.



This week	<b>94.91%</b>
Week beg 14 Mar 22	<b>95.28%</b>
Best week to date	Week beginning 28 February 2022 ~ <b>98.12%</b>

### ATTENDANCE

#### Week beginning 21 March:

CLASS	RED <95%	AMBER 95%	GREEN 96+%
BADGER		<b>95.5%</b>	
FOX	<b>93.8%</b>		
HERON			<b>96.2%</b>
HEDGEHOG	<b>92.3%</b>		
KINGFISHER		<b>95.5%</b>	
ROBIN		<b>95%</b>	
OWL			<b>96.2%</b>
RABBIT			<b>96.7%</b>
WOODPECKER	<b>92.8%</b>		
SQUIRREL	<b>91.3%</b>		

Well done to **Rabbit Class.**

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## ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We like to celebrate the achievements and awards of our children outside of school too! If your child has earned an award in an event, please send in a copy of the certificate and we can mention them in our weekly newsletters.

This week we celebrated the success of:

Pupil	Class	Achievement
<i>Fallon</i>	<i>Robin</i>	<i>Learn to Swim ~ Level 2</i>
<i>Leona</i>	<i>Badger</i>	<i>Gymnastics ~ Level 6</i>
<i>Layla</i>	<i>Heron</i>	<i>Swimming Rainbow Award ~ 10m distance</i>
<i>Zakariya</i>	<i>Squirrel</i>	<i>Swimming ~ Duckling Award 1</i>

## GOVERNOR UPDATE

The Full Governing Board met for the third time this academic year on Monday 21 March following a very successful Governor day.

During the meeting we covered the following:

- Welcome to our two new governors, Menakha Nathan and Umaang Pabari who join us for their first full governing board meeting.
- Governors reflected on recent visits into school, including the Governor Day where governors were able to spend the entire day in school meeting with lots of children and staff. We usually do this once a year and we have missed not being able to do this during lockdown. The children were so engaged during their lessons and it was fantastic to see them enjoying the facilities in the playground during break and lunch time. Governors very much appreciated the time that went into planning the day for us and send our thanks to the staff for organising and welcoming us on the day.
- We received a financial update in preparation for budget planning for the new financial year and the submission of the School's Financial Value Standard (SFVS). The Board also looked at benchmarking data to consider our costs and income in comparison to similar Hertfordshire schools.
- Governors commented on the School Development Plan 21/22. We link this to our visits into school and how they align to what is included in the plan.
- The Board received reports from link governors on the progress and attainment of vulnerable groups including SEND arrangements, Pupil Premium Grant, Sports Premium Grant, Safeguarding and Health & Safety.
- The Board also received the Head Teacher's Report including updates on attendance, teaching, curriculum and the recent Herts Improvement Partner visit.

## THE GREAT BIG SCHOOL CLEAN

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, members of the School Council and Eco Council took part in Keep Britain Tidy's #BigBagChallenge as part of 'The Great Big School Clean'. Children from EYFS managed to pick up enough litter to fill x2 bags of rubbish that had been blown and thrown into our Forest School. Meanwhile KS1 children walked along the pavement on Bellmount Wood Avenue, collecting litter from the hedgerows.

If every child who attended school in the UK pledged to pick up just one bag of litter during the Great Big School Clean, we could remove 10.3 million bags of litter from our natural environment. To find out more click this link: [Great Big School Clean](#)

## FREE BOOK EXCHANGE

It's great to see many children are beginning to use our Free Book Exchange in the main entrance foyer. This initiative is now being extended, to make it accessible to even more children...from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March we will have a mobile version of The Book Exchange which can be wheeled outside between the KS1 and EYFS building - this will be available to all children in school every FRIDAY AFTERNOON at pick-up time. All you have to do to take part is:

- Donate a book (in good condition) that you no longer want – leave it in the book case
- Choose a book you'd like to read from the book case; take it home to enjoy and keep!

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## **MYSTERY READER**

We are looking forward to relaunching our Mystery Reader again after the Easter holidays. Please liaise with your child's class teacher to book a slot to come in and read!

## **WORLD POETRY DAY**

We celebrated World Poetry Day in school on Monday 21st March. The children listened to poems in class and talked about their favourite poems and poets in a special assembly. Poetry forms an important part of your child's development, it:

- helps build early literacy skills. Rhyme, rhythm, and sound are emphasized in poems. Want to try out a few rhyme games? Follow this link: [Rhyme Games](#)
- helps children develop their memory and brain power -- nursery rhymes and songs, especially!
- encourages children to play with language and words. When reading poetry, they hear how words can be moved and stretched to rhyme, and when they write poetry, they're doing the same!
- Poetry is fun! Poetry is FUNNY! Poetry makes kids LAUGH - try sharing these poems by poet Michael Rosen with your child: [Michael Rosen Nonsense](#)

## **BOOK SALES**

Thank you to everyone who has recently supported both our second-hand book sale and our new book fair. We are thrilled to announce that we have raised a fantastic £1,023! **All** this money will be used to purchase new reading books and library books for the children. Your support is very much appreciated.

## **E-SAFETY AND ONLINE GAMING**

We have started to hear children mentioning the gaming platform Roblox in school. Roblox is a free-to-play multiplayer gaming platform that allows users to create and share their own games, as well as play other users' games.

Roblox is rated suitable for 7 years and over in the UK by PEGI for "frequent scenes of mild violence and scenes that younger children may find frightening." The game is aimed at 7-to-18 year-olds, but anyone can use the platform. As Roblox is reliant on user-generated games, there is the chance that your child may encounter content that is not appropriate for younger children. While all games have to meet the Roblox terms and conditions, some feature guns and blood. Even some of the more harmless games that seem to be about animals can result in some scenes younger children may find upsetting.

It is also worth remembering that there is a chat function on Roblox, which should be used with caution, as you will never truly know whom your child is talking to. Although Roblox have included filters to prevent some inappropriate things from being sent your child may still be exposed to language and terminology that may be of a more mature nature.

Please ensure that you are aware of the concerns around this platform, as well as other areas your child may access online.

Our esafety webpage has more information about support and keeping our children safe online: [Esafety](#)

Also speak to your children about Smartie the Penguin to ensure they understand what to do to keep themselves safe online: [Smartie the Penguin](#)

## **50 THINGS UPDATE**

Your 50 Things to do poster can be updated this term with the following:

- Visit the Forest every season
- Come to school in fancy dress
- Take part in a STEM Focus Week
- Celebrate World Book Day
- Sing and dance on the stage (Year 1)

## **STAFFING UPDATE**

Welcome back to Mrs Rajani to school following her maternity leave. Mrs Rajani will be in school in Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the remainder of the year and will be supporting various classes across the school.

## NAMING CLOTHING

Now the sunshine and warmth is back with us we have seen a rapid increase in lost property as children start to discard coats and fleeces! Please ensure that you name **ALL** items of clothing so they can be repatriated to the rightful owner. Please ensure that names are clear on a weekly basis as washing sometimes causes them to fade. Thank you for your support.

## GARDENING CLUB

Thank you to Mrs Hilton, Mrs Finch and gardening club who are bringing some colour to the school with an array of beautiful plants and adding in some upcycling of old school furniture!

## JUNIOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

You will have received a message on Friday about planned works taking place at the Junior School and the impact that will have on us. Please see below the information again:

### **Multi Use Games Area**

Construction work to install our multi-use games area starts on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The first part of this process is to enlarge the year 3 gate area to accommodate HGV vehicles for deliveries and surface removal and set up a temporary road to the construction area from the new entrance. To enable this work to proceed safely the pedestrian entrance for year 3 will be closed so all access from Bellmount Wood Avenue will be via the entrance near the cycle shelter.

**Access across the playground from the Infant school will not be possible during the construction phase.**

## EASTER HOLIDAY IDEAS

Please follow this link to the 'Raring to Go' website which has ideas and suggestions for the Easter break: [Raring to Go](#)

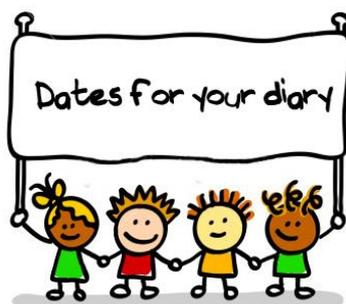
## SOUTH WEST HERTS PARTNERSHIP

Please find attached 2 flyers from the South West Herts Partnership:

1. Parenting courses calendar
2. Events taking place for families over Easter

With best wishes for a lovely spring holiday!

**Charlotte Cooper**  
Headteacher



## Spring term 2022

Date	What's Happening?	Where?	Time?
Week beg 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Anti Bullying Week		
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Spring Extravaganza	Hall	9:15am & 2pm
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Spring Extravaganza	Hall	9:15am
Thur 31 <sup>st</sup> March	End of Spring Term for Nursery Children		
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Badger Sharing Assembly	Hall	9am
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> April	End of Term ~ 1:15pm		

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PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE THE DATES FOR THE\_ACADEMIC YEAR **2021/22**  
These dates are the same as the junior school.

SPRING 2022

Thursday 31 March	Spring Term ends NURSERY
Friday 1 April	Spring term ends 1:15pm

SUMMER 2022

Tuesday 19 April	Summer term starts
Mon 30 May – 3 June	Half term
Friday 1 July	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Monday 4 July	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Thursday 21 July	Summer Term ends NURSERY
Friday 22 July	End of summer term 1:15pm



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These dates are the same as the junior school.

AUTUMN 2022

Thursday 1 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Friday 2 September	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Monday 5 September	Autumn term starts
Mon 24 Oct – Fri 28 Oct	Half term
Friday 2 December	Occasional Day ~ School closed to pupils
Wednesday 21 December	Autumn term ends 1:15pm

SPRING 2023

Thursday 5 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Friday 6 January	INSET ~ School closed to pupils

Monday 9 January	Spring term starts
Mon 13 Feb – Fri 17 Feb	Half term
Friday 31 March	Spring term ends 1:15pm

SUMMER 2023

Monday 17 April	Summer term starts
Mon 29 May – 2 June	Half term
Friday 30 June	INSET ~ School closed to pupils
Friday 21 July	End of summer term 1:15pm