

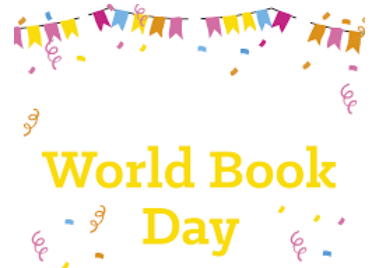


7th March 2022

Newsletter Spring 6

Dear Families,

Our first week back after half term was certainly a busy one, with Pancake Day and World Book Day in the same week. Thank you to families for creating some fabulous costumes, with a focus on the character values demonstrated by the characters the children chose to represent. We had a brilliant day and the children's love of reading really shone through!



Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who came in to school as 'Mystery Readers'. The children absolutely loved it, and it is so wonderful to be able to invite parents back into school to share their love of reading too. If you would like to come in and read a story to your child's class, then we are welcoming parents in throughout March, so please contact your child's teacher to arrange a slot.

There has been a lovely buzz in school since we returned from half term, as children have enjoyed embarking on their new learning. Returning to school has also provided a welcome distraction from the unfolding horror that we see on the news with the invasion of Ukraine.

It is important that schools are a safe place for all of our children, where they can talk about things that are concerning them. It has been noticeable that our children are not talking about Ukraine. This could be because parents are sheltering them from the news, and therefore they are unaware of the situation, or alternatively they are trying to process what is happening and are unsure what to say. If at any time they raise concerns, adults in school will reassure them that they are safe. For the moment I have asked all teachers not to show Newsround in classes.

We pride ourselves on having a character curriculum where we discuss concepts such as power and governance, peace and conflict, and refugees. This will be the approach that we will take with the children, and the language that we will use will be factual. This is a tragedy that impacts on staff members, pupils and members of our community who have family links and friendships with those living through this crisis.

We will coordinate a practical response from school in the coming weeks with fundraising for refugee charities. I know a lot of parents and children are keen to set this up. If you are struggling with the situation yourself or want advice on explaining it to children the BBC have a helpful article here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60557186>

If you are looking for suitable materials to discuss the situation with your KS2 child then the children's news publication First News is offering this week's special edition free. Please find the link here. <https://www.firstnews.co.uk/>

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We have two vacancies for lunchtime supervisors, so if you are interested in applying for one of the posts or know someone who is, then please contact the school office.

Punctuality and attendance

As you know, we are currently monitoring closely the attendance of all pupils, as we are required to do so by the Department of Education. For any child whose attendance falls below reasonable limits, or is persistently late, a letter will be sent to the parents and potentially a referral made to the Education Welfare team for support.

Attendance Matters



We have decided to maintain the staggered start and finish times for all pupils in school for the remainder of this academic year. For health and safety reasons, it supports staff to welcome all children into school safely, and ensures a calm start to their day of learning. Therefore, can I politely remind parents that their child will be recorded as late if they do not arrive in school at the start time for their class.

Can I also remind parents to make sure that their child arrives in school with all of their relevant resources needed for that day, as dropping off items such as lunch boxes, reading folders, PE kits and musical instruments throughout the morning is taking the office staff away from urgent business and answering telephone calls. Thank you.

Parents Meeting - Character Education

A reminder that the meeting for parents interested in finding out more about our school Character Curriculum will take place on Monday 14th March 5.30-6.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.



School of
CHARACTER

Kind regards,

Nadine Fielding
Head teacher