

Welcome to another busy term!

This term sees the KS1 SATs, when Year 2 do their "special work" and sit assessments where they are not allowed to talk to each other. Many children enjoy these challenges and we don't want children to feel stressed by the experience: please talk to your child's class teacher if you are at all concerned. Children are assessed mainly by the work that is in their books rather than the results of their tests and teachers continue to make judgements and collect evidence until the end of June. The tests themselves begin the week beginning 19th May, although if children are ill they will get the chance to take them later on that week or the week before half term.

Value of the Week:

After looking at Growth Mindset last term, this term we are back to focusing on a weekly value. This week is thankfulness or having "an attitude of gratitude." In assembly we discussed being thankful for things that make us happy: children talked about their family, friends, Pokemon, playing a sport, food and learning. Are happy people thankful? Or are thankful people happy? We are celebrating those who demonstrate this value in our assembly on Friday.

Clubs:

It is great to see how many people are attending after-school clubs – a big thank you must go to Miss Curtis for organising this and for the time she stays in school to make sure that everything is running smoothly and that children are collected at the end of the clubs.

However, the school office has received rather a lot of calls this week from parents about whether particular clubs are on or not: all clubs except Cookery will be running next week – Cookery will start the following week due to the training day and the bank holiday.

If you do need to remind yourselves which clubs are on when, or of the timings of the clubs, please remember that all the details are on the original letter (a copy is attached in case you have misplaced this.)

Thank you...

...to all the parents who helped out with the Reception school trip to Woburn Safari Park this week. The weather was kinder than it could have been, with the hail only starting as children got to the car park to go home. The children all had a great time, and Mrs Walker was very proud of them all: please congratulate your little ones on how well-behaved and enthusiastic they all were: they were a credit to the school!

Attendance

...for the week before half term was 97.5%. Again, well done to everyone!

The Outside Area:

In the Key Stage One playground, the smaller area, fenced off with a small picket fence, has been developed as an outdoor learning environment (thank you to Mrs Walker for all your hard work over the Easter holidays!) Children can now enjoy a mud kitchen, bubbles or outside games, and are loving the opportunities this presents. This area is therefore like an outdoor classroom, and children from other year groups are not allowed to play in this area, as it needs to be kept special for the Reception activities.

When you pick up your children, please make sure that younger siblings also keep out of this area so that we can keep it as an outdoor classroom.

Uniform Reminders:

- Long hair must be up at all times
- Summer uniform can now be worn despite the weather not quite getting the message that this is the summer term! This is black shorts to replace trousers (black not grey – my apologies for the error on an earlier newsletter) or a green gingham summer dress. The shorts must be proper uniform fabric, not sports shorts. Winter uniform can still be worn all the way through the year, but must be smart.
- There is still a little too much variety with PE kit. Please remember that the sports jumper is a black jumper with a school logo.
- All children must bring a waterproof coat all the time: the weather is so unpredictable and we will take children out at play and lunch time whenever possible.
- Please remember that children should not be wearing nail varnish.

Reception news:

Just a quick reminder that no drinks bottles are needed in school (unless they are within a lunch box as part of a packed lunch) as we now have a snack/drinks table in two of our rooms meaning that drinks are available all day.

For the focus this week, you might want to take some photographic evidence of children using technology at home as you are likely to have more variety at home than we do at school: can your child use the remote control, an iPad, a tablet, a microwave, some kind of music player, the telephone, any electronic games or remote control toys? If so, please take photos and add comments to explain further. As a homework bonus, can children have a technology hunt around the house? Find things that need electricity to work and look for plugs and batteries. There will be a prize for whoever can find the most objects in and around the home!

Homework:

Following the trip, Mrs Walker would like to set a piece of homework as follows:

Choose your favourite animal from Woburn Safari Park. Draw a detailed picture and write a few super sentences about it. What does it look like? What does it eat? What country does it originate from? What is a group of these animals called? Children could look at their information booklet given to them on their way home. Perhaps you could look up some facts on the internet together? Children could then independently write some 'super sentences' to be sent in to class next week to make a class book.

Bicester's Healthy New Town:

You may have heard that Bicester is beginning an initiative designed to improve health, wellbeing and fitness levels. The programme is to be officially launched on **Saturday 13 May 2017** with a series of fun activities promoting health and wellbeing in Bicester town centre. Please see attached flyers for more information.

Homework and Overviews for this half term:

Our apologies, but our homework and overviews are not quite completed. We will send them to you next week.

Vacancies:

This half term, we are recruiting for staff for the Nursery from September. If you know of anyone who is interested, please direct them to the "Vacancies" page of the website:

<http://heyfordparkfreeschool.org/vacancies>

Art Aprons:

We are still very short of aprons for Art: please send in an old t-shirt, painting apron or old over-sized shirt. Thank you.

Carrier bags:

Year 3 are in need of some carrier bags for their art work: these can be any type – it doesn't even matter if there's a hole in them or a handle is broken. Please give any you have to any class teachers to pass on. Thank you.

Have a lovely long weekend! Mrs. Hughes