

Value of the week:

This week we have continued to look at who we are and what we value. In assembly, we created this together:

What do we want other people to know about us?

1. We take pride in our appearance.
2. We take pride in our work.
3. We are generous and helpful.
4. We are good learners.
5. We take pride in our world.
6. We are kind.
7. We are good listeners.
8. We are special.

How will they know it?

1. We will look smart and we wear our uniform.
2. They will see us listening and doing good things.
3. We will help other people.
4. We'll tell them what we're doing and what we're learning.
5. We will pick up litter and clean up after ourselves.
6. We will be having fun and not arguing with each other.
7. We will follow instructions.

All these ideas came from children. For our discussion, we focused on those times when we are out of school and when we have visitors in to school, however we want to see these in action all week.

Children receiving the "value of the week" certificates have shown these things this week.

Achiever of the week:

Minibeasts: Charlie P
Minibeasts: Jordan C
Tigers: Gabriella G
Zebras: Harvey B
Penguins: Martha C
Giraffes: Leo D
Lions: Ben C
Meerkats: Seb D
Eagles: Jayden D

Value of the week:

Minibeasts: Matty S
Minibeasts: Julia M
Tigers: Imogen R
Zebras: Livia
Penguins: Daisy
Giraffes: Noah W
Lions: Tyler N
Meerkats: Otto Z
Eagles: Jorge H

Changes and reminders for next week:

- Due to swimming starting soon and other considerations such as secondary exams, the weather meaning that the grass at the OM is usable, we have decided that we will keep children at the OM site for PE for the whole of the summer term unless we email to tell you otherwise.
- Reception are off to Woburn Safari Park next week: please make sure all consent forms are in and that children are dressed appropriately – given the weather over the last two weeks, we would probably recommend applying sun cream and wearing waterproofs!

Summer School: information for “new” parents and reminders for “old” parents:

“Summer School” is the name given to the three days of school in August, straight after the bank holiday Monday, where we start back even though most schools are still on holiday. This enables us to have a two-week October half term, which many families use to go away on holiday. If you are booking such a break, please check the website for the dates, as some families last year took time off before the two week break, which had a real impact on children’s learning.

Please note that summer school is not an optional extra, but a key part of school time, with compulsory attendance, just as the rest of the school year.

This year, we will have all our current students back on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th August, and will then invite any new pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 to join us for the day on Thursday 30th August. Children then get a long weekend, with staff having two training days, and children return to school on Thursday 30th August.

Children who are currently in Nursery will keep their existing sessions for these three days, but we will be in touch soon about how transition will work this year. I am so pleased that our Nursery children know many of our Reception staff so well, and it is always a delight for me to spend time in Nursery – I was there yesterday, and enjoyed talking to some of the children about coming to “big school” and what they were looking forward to.

Reminders:

For children in Tigers class and in Reception, there are message boxes in the playground each morning. These are for non-emergency but important messages (such as a change in collection arrangements, notification of a medical appointment, or to let a teacher know of a minor ailment that might impact on a child’s day.) Please use these to pass on messages, rather than telling teaching staff, as their primary responsibility in the morning is greeting children, welcoming them, and ensuring that they feel safe, settled and ready to learn.

For older year groups, you may pass on a message to the person on the door, but we would find a note easier, as that can be passed more simply on to your child’s class teacher.

Please always notify us if someone new or a different parent is collecting on a particular day: I’m sure you can imagine how difficult it is for teachers if a parent says that they have come to pick up someone else’s child when we are not aware: we do not wish to offend, but as safeguarding is of paramount importance, we will want to check that this is the case: a note first thing or a phone call to the office is therefore essential.

Children in Reception don’t need to bring their own water bottles in, as water is available in class all day.

Parking:

If you need to collect your child during the day, please use the park and stride option or the very first part of the car park (if it is urgent) – we have children outside playing and cannot allow cars to go through this space while children are outside.

Swimming: Year 4 and 5

We are really pleased to tell you that we have secured six sessions at a pool in Bloxham for the Year 4s and 5s that can't swim. We have used your judgements to make decisions on who will go and who will not, so will be asking new families what their child's swimming is like. Children in Year 4 and 5 will all bring home the appropriate letter on Monday.

Welcoming children to Reception:

We have received the list of children joining us in Reception – thank you if you have chosen our school for your child. We will be sending out letters next week to welcome families and give you details of upcoming events.

Welcome...

...to two new faces next week. Mrs Large, Mr Honour's replacement, starts with us as a Learning Support Assistant on Monday, and Mrs Emptage will be starting on Tuesday, for a few hours each week, again as a LSA. Welcome to you both.

Reception Request for Home evidence for Personal Profiles:

Art and craft activities - Any junk model animals would be fantastic to see!

Physical activity at sports clubs or playground visits demonstrating determination, strength and skill.

Understanding the World - Using remote control toys or ipads for learning. Describing animals and making comparisons of their similarities and differences.

Buon appetito!

The children in Year 3 and 4 are incredibly excited about planning and putting on their pop-up Italian restaurant, and this week they have enjoyed preparing their menus and thinking about the job they might like to do on the day! A special thank you must go to Mrs Dickson for coming in to talk to the children about how a restaurant runs and about the different job roles necessary. The restaurant will run in the week of 21st-25th May, in the ballroom. Further details are to follow, along with your invitation from the children! There is so much interest from parents that we are looking at the logistics to see if we can run it over more than one day – we will be in touch with more exact details as soon as we can.

If you think you may be able to help with this topic in any way (including helping with the cooking sessions later in the term), please talk to Miss Curtis, Mrs Dallas or Miss Chalmers).

Information from the Friends of Heyford Park Free School (FoHPFS) – message from Nadira Al-Bustani, who has just taken over as secretary to the group:

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we have donated the following:

10 Benches worth £700 which will create space/ sitting areas for all students, most especially secondary students.

Revision material worth £100 to help those secondary students who need it.

An Annual amount of £300 to the secondary school prom.

£200 for hardship cases relating to the primary residential trip. This will ensure that if there are some children who need help they have access to funds which can help ensure their child goes on the trip.

We would also like to add everyone is welcome to join the committee whose hard work and dedication ensures we raise funds to help the school, and provide donations such as these.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 30th April at 4pm – meeting for parents of children in Year 5 about the residential in September 2018

Tuesday 1st May- Reception trip to Woburn Safari Park

Monday 7th May – Bank Holiday Monday

Wednesday 9th May—Parents Voice Drop In 2pm and 6pm (see attached poster)

week beginning 14th May – Year 2 SATS week

Monday 14th May – swimming for selected children in Year 4 and 5 starts today – please remember your swimming kit if you are one of the swimmers! More information in today's letter.

Monday 14th May 4pm – Meeting for Y4 parents regarding the Residential

week beginning 21st May – assessment week for Years 1, 3, 4 and 5

Tuesday 22nd May – Year 3/4 pop-up restaurant for parents – more details to follow

week beginning 21st May – Year 1/2 pop-up bakery

Key dates for the summer term:

Tuesday 19th June – Giraffes to the farm for their final "summer" visit.

Wednesday 20th June – Lions to the farm for their final "summer" visit.

Wednesday 20th June – Welcome evening for parents of children starting in Reception in September 2018 (a letter will go out to these families soon)

Tuesday 26th June – Meerkats to the farm for their final "summer" visit.

Wednesday 27th June – Eagles to the farm for their final "summer" visit.

Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th July – Meerkats' residential trip

Tuesday 10th July – Transition or "Move Up Day" for children currently in Nursery to Year 5 (more details to follow)

Monday 16th July – Sports Day: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in the morning and Key Stage 2 (Years 3-5) in the afternoon: more details to come, but parents and carers will be welcome to watch and I know many of you like to take time off work if possible. (Reserve date will be

Tuesday 17th July in case of bad weather on the Monday)