

**Welcome back!**

I hope you all had a good Christmas and new year – it has been lovely to catch up with some of the children this week excited to tell us about their break.

In assembly on Tuesday this week, I introduced children to the idea of having an “Inner Chimp” taken from “My Hidden Chimp” by Dr. Steve Peters (some of you may be familiar with his book “The Chimp Paradox” – if so, this is the children’s version.) The main idea is that all of us have different parts of our brains that do different things. One part, which he calls the red part, is shared with chimps, and controls a lot of our emotions and feelings. Sometimes it is this part of our brain that causes us to act in ways that we don’t want to (e.g. being angry, grumpy, silly...) However, the “blue” part of our brains is much bigger than the chimp’s “blue” section and we can use this to manage our “inner chimp.” It is key that we know that having an inner chimp is not an excuse for poor behaviour, and that it is our job to manage that inner chimp.

Dr Peters goes on to explore some of the habits we can get into which help us to manage our inner chimp and we will be looking at these over the next few weeks.

Our value certificates this week and for the rest of this term, will feature a mixture of values each week. As a staff, we have discussed some of the values that we feel are key for children (and adults) and we will be looking out for these in particular. These are:



**Value of the week:**

Minibeasts: Willow S  
Minibeasts: Milly D  
Tigers: Isla M  
Zebras: Blossom F  
Turtles: Isabella McL  
Penguins:  
Panthers: Sean S  
Lions: Tyler McD  
Squirrels: Jaiden J  
Eagles: Ashton S  
Meerkats: Evie E  
Bumblebees: Richy G

**Achiever of the week:**

Minibeasts: George W  
Minibeasts: Ace G  
Tigers: Alfie N  
Zebras: Liam C  
Turtles: Molly S  
Penguins: Harvey B  
Panthers: Livia M  
Lions: Noah W  
Squirrels: Theo D  
Eagles: Molly  
Meerkats: Bethany H  
Bumblebees: Otto Z

**Notes, reminders, changes and requests for next week:**

<b>Monday</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Mrs Jefferies starts her jury service today so the class will be taken by Mrs Gina Wright in her absence. The average length of time for absence is two weeks.
<b>Thursday</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	

Year 1 and 2 need junk for modelling next week – please give anything you have to those on the primary door in the mornings. Thank you.

Reception parents and carers: We will collect in the individual reading books every Thursday to change over night in readiness for each Friday. Please ensure reading books are in book bags each day and learning pots are in book bags every Friday too.

Please find curriculum maps for each year group/class and pick 'n' mix homework attached. Any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.

### Staffing News

There's a few things to update you with:

Firstly, I would like to welcome the following staff, who have started with us this week:

Helen Rourke-Hodson, who is supporting a child in Reception

Louisa Haynes, who is working as a member of support staff, mostly in Year 3 and 4

David Philips and Maria Williams who are working together in Penguins

Welcome to you all!

I would like to congratulate Cheryl Brightmore, who has been with the school for quite a while now, on her promotion to a new role, working with CAMHS in Banbury. This is a role that Miss Brightmore will do superbly, and we wish her very well, although we will miss her greatly. Her last day with us will be Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Mrs Harris (who currently works with some children in secondary) will take over part of Miss Brightmore's role.

I am very pleased to tell you that we have appointed Mr Rob Marchant to the role of Deputy Head in Primary after Easter. Some children have met him already when he was interviewed (those in the school council asked him questions in a session, such as "What's your favourite joke" or "Why would you like to work here?" in a student panel as part of the interview process and he taught Maths to one of our Year 5/6 groups.)

### Trips this term:

Some classes are planning on trips this term, but many have chosen to stay at school but book experiences for the pupils. This is what we have planned so far:

A Viking Day for Year 4

A Roald Dahl dress up and experience day for Years 1, 2 and 3

A Story Week for the whole of Primary, including something special...oh no there isn't! Oh yes there is!

See dates below and attached letters about the Viking Day and Roald Dahl Day

### **Year 6 Booster classes:**

This term we are going to invite some year 6 children to attend booster sessions in either Maths and English to help support their learning. Your child may be asked to come into school earlier (8am) in the school day or at the end of the day to complete some booster sessions (finishing at 4pm). A letter regarding this will come out next week, and we will start the booster sessions the following week (week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> January.)

### **Uniform:**

Some children have returned to school not in their correct uniform. Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school shoes and wears their tie. It is important that all children in our school wear the correct uniform. Girls should not be wearing bright nail polish or any nail extensions. Earrings are to be studs only. Also, as it is cold please ensure your child has a labelled coat and if they would like a hat and gloves for the chilly days please ensure they are labelled too. We have quite a lot of clothes in our lost property (including coats) so if anything has been misplaced please check there. Thank you for your support.

### **Morning Snacks and water: Key Stage 2**

Your child is allowed to bring in a healthy morning snack of fruit and vegetables (this can include dried fruit) and we encourage you to provide this for KS2 children, as the younger children have fruit provided from the government fruit scheme. For year 5 & 6 children it is a long stretch from breakfast until lunch as they don't go to lunch until 12.30. We do notice that some children, particularly boys, do lose energy and motivation. A natural boost would help them concentrate in lessons and increase their energy. Also, we encourage children to drink water throughout the day and some children do not have a labelled drink bottle with them.

### **Residential Meeting for children currently in Year 5:**

Please keep in your diary the Year 6 residential meeting at 6pm on the 22nd January. We invite you all to attend even if you are unsure of whether your child will be going on the trip or not. The owner and manager of CRS Adventures is coming to lead the meeting to tell you all about the trip and answer any questions or concerns. It is an amazing opportunity for your child, and if you want to find out more please speak to us or any year 6 parents whose child attended the trip last year. It is an awesome week!

### **Nursery News: an update from Miss Bignell:**

This week we have been excited to welcome our new friends to nursery. We have been showing them around our room and garden, initiating play for them to join in with and teaching them our nursery songs.

Next week we will be looking at The Gingerbread Man story

We would love it if the children could bring in a representation of a gingerbread man - this could be through baking, collage, painting or something else.

Show and Tell will be on Thursday

Can I please ask that all children are provided with a spare pair of clothing, just in case they get a bit mucky during messy play. Thank you.



### Roald Dahl Day: Years 1, 2 and 3:

Children in Years 1-3 will be taking part in a Roald Dahl Day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February. We would like children to come dressed for the occasion, as one of Roald Dahl's characters. There are so many to choose from – we look forward to seeing your creativity!

### News from Friends of Heyford Park Free School (FoHPFS)

We are pleased to announce that Friends of Heyford Park Free School has organised a clothes & shoe collection with **Bag2School** in order to raise funds for our school.

**Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 it has now paid out over £32 million.**

By getting involved in our **Bag2School** collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <http://uk.bag2school.com/> for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

**Bag2School** will be collecting on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to Officers Mess Reception and Specialisms Campus Reception and help us have a really good collection.

Many thanks for helping us with this unique fundraising opportunity.

**Family Quiz Night**

FoHPFS are organising a Family Quiz night on **Friday 8th February**. Tickets which will include food, will be available shortly on ParentPay. Get your team together for a fun evening and be in with a chance of winning a top cash prize of **£100**.

Please put the date in your diary, more details to follow shortly.

**Dates for your diary:**

Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Bags2School Collection
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	6pm - Residential meeting for children currently in Year 5
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Parent Voice Drop-in 2pm and 6pm at the OM with Ms Healey and Mrs Hughes
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Viking Day – Year 4 (see attached letter)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Family Quiz Night (more details to follow)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Story Week in Primary
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Pantomime
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Roald Dahl Day – Years 1-3 only (see above)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 8 Parents' Evening 2.30-6.30pm (Primary children to finish at the normal time)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Half Term
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET day – no children in school

*Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. Hughes*