



Newsletter – 13th February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Friday 13th – for the suspicious among you, I sincerely hope that your day has been (and will be) free of bad luck.

They say there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes. I defy anyone to tell me what the right type of clothing is for the recent strong winds, except perhaps very heavy shoes.

You may have noticed that the gravel pile has been moving (physically moving that is, rather than having an emotional impact on you). Today and next week various yellow machines are moving things (small things like gravel and big things like fencing) onto the junior field to complete the pathway. No work should be taking place during drop off and pick up, but space in the car park may be even more restricted than it is now. Please keep your younger children under your immediate control when moving through the car park.

Walking home alone

We know that as children get older, they become keen to have increased independence and responsibility and that, for many children, the chance to walk home alone can be a key part of this. While we are keen, as a school, to promote independence in our children, we are always mindful that safety and security should come first and we have noticed, that over the years, the age children are given this opportunity has been getting younger and younger. Determining when a child is ready for this step, will vary from child to child however we do not feel that any child below Year 5 is ready to walk home without an adult (18 years+).

For any Year 5 or Year 6 child, the build-up to walking home alone should be a gradual process, for example starting with them walking ahead of an adult to see how they manage road crossings etc, before moving on to meeting at a nearby place such as the church. There will be some pupils who are not ready to walk home alone until they move on to secondary school, if then, and that's okay. Every child is different and will develop their independence and responsibility at their own rate.

If you feel that your Year 5 or Year 6 child is ready to walk home alone, we ask that you complete a permission form (this will be sent separately via Parentmail) so that we are aware of your wishes. Please be aware that children of primary age are too young to be left home alone and therefore someone will need to be at home to meet any child walking home alone. Also, any child in Year 5 or Year 6 who is ready to walk home alone, should not be responsible for a younger sibling. Teachers will not allow any pupil younger than Year 5 to leave without an adult collecting them and from a week on Monday (23rd January) only children in Year 5 or Year 6, from whom we have a returned permission form for, will be allowed to leave without an adult. No child, regardless of age, will be allowed to walk home alone from a school led after school club or sport event. If this causes you any problems with arranging collection, please get in touch with us.

Cleaners needed

Steadfast cleaning are looking for a reliable school cleaner to join their team (reading between the lines, unreliable cleaners therefore need not apply). The hours are Monday to Friday, 4pm until 6:30pm. Training will be provided and the pay is £9.50 per hour. If interested, please call Scarlet Humphrey on 01622 692235.



Abracadabra!

Early Years came into school on Tuesday to discover that the characters from the story, 'The Princess and the Wizard' had been turned to stone during a tea party!

The children also discovered a letter from Princess Eliza, saying that she had been captured by the Wizard and was locked away in a castle and needed help to be rescued. The children have been busy looking for the castle but have not found it yet. The children have been planning ahead and thinking about how they can hide Princess Eliza, so that the Wizard will not find her again. The children have been exploring the colours that are mentioned in the book, and combing paint with different tools, to help create areas to camouflage Princess Eliza when she is rescued.

We are all still looking for the castle!



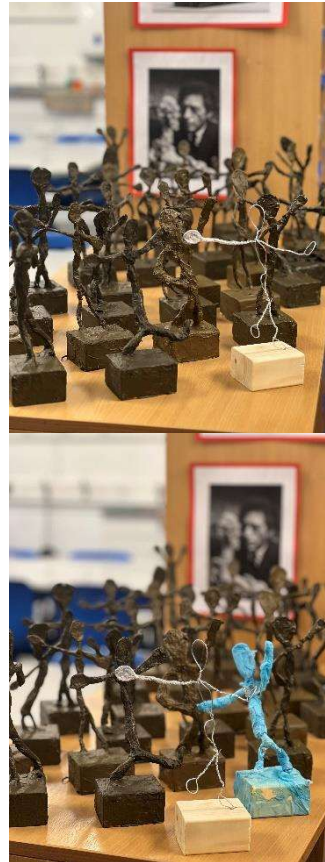
Year 6 stunning start

Year 6 had a great time making and tasting Mexican food last week. We even got to go to Forest School to cook our tortillas on the fire - muy bien!



Nightingale class art

In Year 5 Art we have been studying the Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti. He is best known for his elongated sculptures of human figures. We recreated his work. First, we created his drawing style by making quick sketches of people in different poses. Next, we used foil and created figures in a similar style. Finally, we created these Giacometti inspired bronze sculptures using wire and tissue paper applied with PVA glue. This is the end result!



Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges – 13.01.23

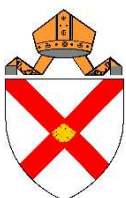
I am very pleased to share the following winners:

End of Term 2 2022

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Divit in Chaffinch Class 2,269,080 words	Chaffinch Class 8,991,934 words	Minghao in Stoat Class 64 quizzes	Deer Class 392 quizzes

A special mention also goes to:

- **Faith** in Owl Class who successfully read over one million words last term.
- **Divit** in Chaffinch Class who passed 28 quizzes in one week.



This week:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Alex in Chaffinch Class 450,044 words	Chaffinch Class 2,153,058 words	Isabelle W in Vole Class 14 quizzes	Badger Class 76 quizzes

Some more significant achievements:

- **Nightingale Class, Swift Class** and **Vole Class** have all read over one million words since the start of this term.

Congratulations to all the children who were the last winners of 2022 and who are the first winners of 2023. Please keep encouraging your children to read. Every word and quiz counts!

Ms Simpson

Dates for the diary

Here are some dates for the remainder of the term ahead.

16 th January	KS2 choir going to the O2 for Young Voices
w/c 6 th February	Year 1 classes visiting The Amelia this week
7 th February	Year 1 led church service – Y1 parents welcome to attend
10 th February	INSET day – school closed for children
13 th February	Half term week
20 th February	Children return to school
16 th March	Shared science learning
28 th March	Year 5 led church service – Y5 parents welcome to attend
29 th March	Easter RE day
31 st March	Last day of term
17 th April	Children return to school
	Year 6 leave for their residential week
1 st May	Bank holiday
2 nd May	INSET day – school closed for children
8 th May	Bank holiday (coronation)
9 th May	Year 6 SATs week begins
29 th May	Half term week begins
5 th June	Children return to school

Kindest regards,

John Tutt

