



Newsletter – Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear parents,

I hope you had a lovely Easter and are enjoying the sunshine. It is lovely to see the children back at school and enjoying their learning.

We have an exciting summer to look forward to as we lurch tentatively towards normality. However, all guidelines from before the Easter break are still in place and will be for the foreseeable future. Please continue to wear masks on the school site if you can, and we will continue with the current drop off and pick up arrangements for the time being. We are very hopeful that events such as the Year 6 residential can now go ahead, but we will keep you posted about other school events such as sports day.

The term has started with lots of exciting topic starters, and we have shared some of these with you in this newsletter.

Sky colour, air temperature and clothing

I am concerned that the colour of the sky does not always match the temperature of the air recently. When the sky is blue I believe strongly that the air should be warm; when the air is cold the sky should be grey, or overcast at the very least. The last few days have been clear and blue with a biting easterly wind, while today has been very pleasant indeed; I do not like this inconsistency one bit. This, combined with the consistently dodgy weather forecasts have made it almost impossible to dress appropriately each morning.

Bearing this in mind, until we hit a proper heatwave please continue to send your child in with a coat even if the sun is shining that morning as it can get very cold on the school field/playground.

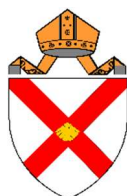
School shoes

As the shops have now reopened, please ensure your child comes into school wearing appropriate school shoes (matching if possible). If this will be difficult for you, let your child's class teacher know.

Earth day

This week, we learned about Earth Day. Year Two want to do their bit, so plan to come up with designs for how to improve their outdoor learning area; we are hoping to make it a spectacular learning environment that supports nature and wildlife. We would love donations of outdoor/weatherproof games, garden equipment, plants, seeds and any other items which might be useful. Recycling is the name of the game - so be creative. Please send in items, or for anything larger contact Mrs Williams (awilliams@st-james.kent.sch.uk) to arrange dropping things off at a convenient and quiet time.

Mrs Williams



Year 6 Mexican Fiesta Day

Year 6 kicked off their new topic, 'Maya Casa Es Su Casa', with a Mexican fiesta. We learnt a little bit about Mexico, decorated the classrooms with Picado paper and made some tasty salsa. The classrooms now smell quite strongly of onion but we all had a super day!



Hedgehog visit

Year 2 had a visit from a hedgehog on Friday. Thank you to year 2 for behaving so well when meeting Three, the hedgehog. Jessica from Follys Wildlife will be making a short thank you video to play in an assembly for all the cat food and cash donated.

Year 1 afternoon tea party

In Year 1 we have been enjoying an afternoon tea party today. We have been finding out about the Queen and decided to help celebrate her 95th birthday. When planning our jam sandwiches for the party, the children discovered how important it is to make sure instructions are clear. We had a go at writing the instructions and then followed them carefully to make our own sandwiches for our Afternoon Tea. We dressed up in our special party clothes and played a number of party games including 'In and Out the Dusty Bluebells' and 'Find the Teapot'. It has been a lovely afternoon made even better by the sunshine!

Forest School

This week in Forest School, we finally began the huge task of taking down the old ragged parachutes used as a shelter on the Junior site, after 3 years of being up there in all weathers. This has been a 3 day job and was helped enormously by tree-surgeons from Treework, who did all the climbing and set up a new wire to hold up the parachutes. Thanks also to the year 6s who perfected their coiling and knot-tying in helping bundle up all the old cords. Hopefully we won't have to do this again for at least another 3 years!





Mrs Hadley

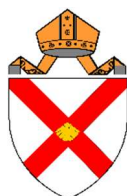
Year 3 and 4 Greek adventure

Years 3 and 4 began their topics this week with a flight to Greece! Check in took some time, although not by Heathrow standards. We have put some photos below.



Bubble football

Osprey Class took part in a 'Bubble Football' session at the end of last term as reward for their incredible reading this year. It was a super morning and we had huge amounts of fun!



Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

I am really pleased to announce the winners of last term's challenge between the classes:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Lily in Chaffinch Class	Divit in Fox Class	Chaffinch Class
1,661,191 words	72 quizzes	9,286,358 words

Thank you so much for all your support and for encouraging your children to read and complete their AR quizzes, even during the Easter holiday. This term's challenge has already begun and this week's winners are:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
Lily in Kestrel Class	Divit in Fox Class	Chaffinch Class
619,825 words	28 quizzes	1,776,655 words

Ms Simpson

Dates for the diary

29 th April	Year 6 bikeability starts
3 rd May	Bank holiday
26 th May	Year 6 visit to Canterbury Cathedral
31 st May – 4 th June	Half term week
7 th June	INSET day
21 st June	Year 6 residential week
29 th June	New reception parents meeting
21 st July	End of term
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	First day back for children

Have a lovely weekend and thank you all, as always.

John Tutt
April 2021

