



AND RESOURCED PROVISION FOR
HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN
Headteacher: Mrs C Findlay

14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I know people often say what a long month January is, but in school this half term seems to have flown by!

Snacks – Important Message

Most of you will be aware that our school policy is that pupils can have a plain biscuit or piece of fruit as a snack at breaktime to encourage the pupils to get into healthy eating habits. It has been noted however that pupils have been bringing in to school an increasing number of snacks that are not suitable including packets of crisps and chocolate bars. We are aware also that sometimes parents are not sending these items in for snack time, but that pupils may be taking them from their lunchbox. From after half term the pupils will not be able to access their lunchboxes at breaktime so please can you ensure they bring their fruit and / or plain biscuits in a separate container / bag to their classroom where their class teacher will let them know where they can be stored. **Pupils with unsuitable snacks will be asked to exchange these for a plain biscuit in the first week and a reminder sent home to parents via e-mail of our snack rules.** Thank you for your support in helping your children to make healthy choices.

Creative Arts Week

It has been lovely to see the pupils creativity this week as they have embarked on a range of activities for creative arts week. The children have been working in their houses in the afternoons, focusing on a new skill each day – pom pom making, portrait drawing, drama and song writing. It has been wonderful to see the children from Year 3 to 6 working collaboratively together on our theme of belonging. On Monday we explored this theme in our assembly and it was lovely to see the range of outfits worn by the children as part of this special day.

I hope the sun is shining at half term so you can all enjoy the time with your children and get out and about. We look forward to welcoming them back after half-term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Findlay
Headteacher



News from the Year Teams

Year 3

How can it already be February half term! We have learnt so much about how life changed through the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We know many children have really enjoyed this topic and some children were even role playing 'A Stone Age Shop' during lunch time 'selling' Stone Age jewellery and tools!

We hope you enjoyed seeing our superb Cave Art last week. It was lovely to have so many of you join us. The children were excited to share their brilliant art work. We have also shared our home learning projects during our year group assembly! this week.

The start of our recent writing unit inspired by a 'Pebble In My Pocket' by Meredith Hooper involved all the children visiting the sensory garden and finding a special pebble to bring back to class. We then thought about the journey our pebble has been on and explored exciting vocabulary to describe our pebble. This included describing the pebble as the colour of piece of toffee and the shape of a tooth from a sabre tooth tiger. This week we have written an information page about rocks which we have tried to organise in to paragraphs.

In maths we have been working on addition and subtraction which involved revisiting our learning involving mental strategies for adding and subtracting two numbers from Y2 before moving on to three-digit numbers. There are some great games online at <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10> to help children practise their number skills.

On Tuesday all of Year 3 shared their gymnastic sequences in the hall where we demonstrated different roles, jumps and balances. We have been excited to use the apparatus in the hall and learn how to do so safely.

We have enjoyed working with children from across our block each afternoon this week as part of our Creative Arts Weeks where we have focused on belonging. The children have created fabulous pieces of learning.

Over half term please continue to encourage your children to read regularly including on Oxford reading Buddy, practise their times tables on TTRS (we have particularly been focusing on the 4x table) and play the games on spelling shed. Thank you so much for all your support. We hope you have a wonderful half term holiday.

Year 4

Year 4 had a brilliant time at the Harry Potter Studio Tour last week! I cannot tell you how proud we were of the way that they represented the school throughout the day. Every adult who went, including our wonderful volunteers Mrs Hastings and Mrs Cross, commented on their exemplary behaviour and attitude during the trip. Thank you to all of the staff and children who made the day such a success and so enjoyable for all.

This week, the children have had the chance to look back at the writing that they have done based on Harry Potter and redraft it using their inspiration from the trip. They have worked really hard on editing and improving their work and have shown some excellent presentation skills. A lot of children who find joined handwriting difficult tried really hard and had amazing success! Children do need to be able to join their writing to achieve the expected standard in their writing in Year 6, so this is something that we will continue to practise.

In maths, we have been learning how to use a formal written method for addition and subtraction. This is the children's first experience of using this method and they have risen to the challenge, with everyone

having a go at exchanging when needed. We have been discussing when it is better to use this method and when it is more efficient to do a calculation in your head.

It has been lovely to see the children working with others across the school during Art Week and discussing what 'belonging' means to them. Everyone has enjoyed doing some different creative activities throughout the week.

Please remember that Year 4 are swimming after half term: 4B on a Tuesday afternoon and 4P on a Thursday afternoon. Children may wear their PE kit to school on their swimming day and will need to remember their swimming kits. Please make sure that all items are named, including PE kits and school jumpers, to avoid mix-ups in the changing rooms. We have also encouraged the children to make sure that they are confident to change in and out of their costumes before their first lesson.

If your child is going on the PGL residential next term, please return the room sharing form by the end of the first week back after half term so that we can take their preferences into account.

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing the children on Monday 24th.

Year 5

It was lovely to see so many of you at our celebration of work recently, we hope that you enjoyed seeing all of Year 5's amazing work from the last half term.

Thank you for all of the half term homework that we received, it has been lovely to see their projects around North America. Well done to 5T who won the recent times table rockstar challenge and also to Jay, Luqman and Janice who took the top three places.

Over the last 2 weeks, each class have had a session in the sensory garden to build their waterproof shelters. It was amazing to see Year 5 apply their knowledge of what makes a strong structure and working together well in teams. We were really impressed with the end results.

In English, we have been studying Ernest Shackleton and his adventures on Endurance. We are looking at the key events of his journey and writing a chronological report. In maths, we have been working on adding and subtracting fractions by changing to a common denominator. Also, we have been looking at negative numbers and how to calculate differences.

Last Friday, we were so impressed at how many children auditioned for our upcoming play. Lots of children pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone and auditioned in front of the whole year group. If your child has got a speaking part in the play they should have received a script. All children will be taking part in the play and we will start rehearsing after half term.

Just a reminder that you can still purchase the Year 5 homework books on SCOPAY. The books should be with your child if you have purchased them online. We will be sending out a timetable of homework so that you know which pages to complete each week. Thank you for your support.

Year 6

We're half way through the year and we've had a busy couple of weeks in Year 6. You should have received your child's mock SAT results by now. If they have been mis-laid, then please contact your child's teacher.

In maths, we have continued to work on using common denominators to add and subtract fractions. In our recent tests analysis, this has shown up as being a weakness as about 25% of the marks available over the three papers involved fractions in some way. Part of the reason for this is that to solve these type of calculations the children need to know their times tables and methods which involve several steps. If you feel your child needs extra help in this area then please make use of the extra revision

sessions available or encourage them to logon to TTRS. It really does make a huge difference if they know these off by heart.

In English we have used drama to help with writing a new chapter for 'The Explorer' called the 'Maiden Voyage'. The plot involves a child-built raft, off on a journey down the Amazon river where the children onboard face a problem. Within the chapter children are encouraged to use dialogue to move the story forward. They have been reminded of how to correctly punctuate reported speech, while putting in to practice techniques that they learned for description last term..

Our geography, music, dance, art and computing parts of topic work are coming to a close, so the children should know about some of the issues in Brazil. They have learnt about Samba, Brazilian artists and how networks and the World Wide Web work.

Thank you for your support with all the homework. Has your child used their log-on for the new on-line spelling resources? After half term all pupils will be embarking on some rapid revision in preparation for the SATS in May. Please use the additional sessions and support available to support your child as detailed in Mrs Findlay's letter sent out earlier this week.

Happy Half Term!