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

9th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The last three weeks in school have been unusual in the fact that we haven't had pupils in school for a full five days in any of them due to the bank holidays and our INSETS. You may remember that we tried to time our INSETS last week around the planned polling day that annually affects the infant school but this was cancelled.

The INSET days were extremely useful for the staff to gain training from not one, but three educational psychologists! We have looked at play and the benefits of play both educationally and for children's health and well-being and we have begun to plan the next steps we can take in school to improve playtimes and lunchtimes for all. Thank you to the parents who shared their views on the parent questionnaire in preparation for this work.

SATS Week

Next week our Year 6 pupils will be undertaking the national SATS tests in school. They have all worked so hard and deserve to do well. I hope that the children get some rest over the weekend ahead of these tests, so that they come in refreshed and ready so they can do their best (which is all we ask of them).

It is important to say that there are so many wonderful things about your children that next week's tests will not measure, including all of the other fantastic things they know about other areas of the curriculum such as science or design technology. The tests will not measure how kind, helpful or generous they are or whether they are funny and make people smile. This time next week they will be over!

VE Day Celebrations

It was lovely yesterday to be able to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on the field with the infant school. We sang and signed 'We'll meet again', thought about the importance of the day and ended with music and cake! I would like to thank our amazing kitchen staff who provided a cake for every child from both schools for the event.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Findlay
Headteacher



News from the Year Teams

Year 3

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter holiday and Bank Holiday weekend. It's incredible to think it is the children's last term in Year 3. We have already been very busy!

We started off our geography topic exploring what a river is and how are they formed. Children made their own rivers using natural resources and labelled the different features e.g. source, meander, mouth.

We will be learning about how plants make their own food in science this half term. We have set up lots of different experiments to help us investigate this including removing the leaves from plants, using different types of soil and placing some plants in a dark place. We learnt about what variables are and the importance of making careful observations so we can create science drawings. Each week we will check our plants and observe how they are growing.

Our English unit is based around the wonderful picture book 'The Last Garden' by Rachel Ip and follows the story of a little girl who tends the last garden in a war-torn city. As the city breaks, everyone is forced to leave and soon the girl must leave her beautiful garden behind. Whilst the garden is left alone, its seeds scatter throughout the city and roots begin to take hold. Children have written their own amazing stories based on this book to share with their buddies in Year 6.

In maths we have been working very hard solving problem involving capacity, pictograms, tables and bar charts. We have been practising how to read the question carefully so we understand what it is asking us to do and learning how to break down multi-step word problems.

In athletics we have been practising different ways to run, jump and throw. The children particularly enjoyed throwing balls, javelins and quoits and thinking about how they could improve the distance of their throw.

In our year group assembly, we have shared the home learning challenges for this half term and a copy of this can be found in the Year 3 section of the website. We can't wait to see what the children create and share with us.

Well done to both 3M and 3K on their fabulous assemblies which we all enjoyed. Everyone was really proud of you!

As always thank you for your support in encouraging your child to read regularly (including on Oxford owl), log on to spelling shed and practise times tables as it really does make a difference to their progress and confidence.

Year 4

It is lovely to see all of the children back in school following the PGL residential at the end of last term. We were so proud of the courage and resilience shown by the children who went, as well as the way that they represented the school so brilliantly. It was also a pleasure to spend time with the children who stayed at school – all of the adults who worked with these children commented on their fantastic behaviour throughout the week, particularly on our trip to the local park.

It is full steam ahead with our times tables practice this term. Thank you for all that you are doing at home to support your child with learning their tables ready for the Multiplication Tables Check after half term. We are encouraging the children to play on Garage on TTRS this week both in school and at home. This is really useful as it creates a heatmap showing the particular facts that they need to work on. The algorithm learns which facts these are and adapts the Garage games to help the child to learn these. The children still need a lot of practice to input their answers within the 6 seconds that they will have for each question, so it is important that they get as much experience of this as possible in the next few

weeks, even if they know their tables. We are doing what we can in school, but any extra that you can do at home will go a long way. Please refer back to the email sent on Tuesday 22nd April for more advice on how to support with this, or get in touch.

In English, Year 4 have been reading 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. They have written some very creative instructions for their own fireworks and have written letters between the characters to show their thoughts and feelings. We are now moving on to writing dialogue and diary entries based on the book.

Please try to find a few minutes per week for children to play the spelling games on Spelling Shed. These assignments are linked to the spelling objectives that they are learning in class and will really help them to make progress.

Our 'Alps and About' topic has involved learning about how mountains are made. See what they can remember! We are now moving on to learning about photographer Ansell Adams and creating some artwork inspired by his incredible photos of North American landscapes.

Year 5

Year 5 had an amazing time at the Natural History museum on Wednesday. During the day we had a volcanoes and earthquakes demonstration from the staff at the museum which taught us all about why they happen and how as scientist we can help to predict when these might happen. We had time to explore all of the museum before and after lunch. Some of the highlights mentioned by the children were the earthquake room, the dinosaurs, the blue whale (the children couldn't believe the size) and the fossils. We wish we could have stayed a few more hours to explore more! All of the children were respectful to all throughout the day and were a credit to the school.

During maths we have been looking at shape, learning how to reflect and translate a shape. Alongside this we have been practicing the bus stop method, this method is proving to be difficult for those children who are not fluent in their times tables. Any practice on times table rockstars or maths frame would be beneficial.

We have enjoyed starting to learn all about fossils, in our lessons we have used the microscopes to study a range of different fossils and then use our sketching techniques to draw these. In art, we have practicing using shading skills to make a 3d effect, there have been some amazing examples of this in their artbooks (we have some very talented artists in the year group!)

Thank you for your continued support in your child's home learning. Just a reminder that they should be bringing their homework books in on Friday each week. Also, the half term homework is due in on Tuesday 20th May, we look forward to seeing their projects.

Year 6

Year Six have continued to study really hard this half term, as we have revised for our SATs since returning from Easter. Just a few more days until SATs, then we will have a huge shift after Half Term to focus on the writing!

We had an amazing time out at 'Think Safe' last week where we learnt from the professionals about:

- keeping ourselves safe near railways and the dangers of the 750v electrical rail
- what we are allowed to buy and the penalties for having age restricted items in our possession
- keeping ourselves safe in relationships and in the home, and who to call if we are worried
- what arson means and the life-long consequences
- stranger danger and knife crime
- how wildfires can start accidentally and what to do to help prevent them
- antisocial behaviour and thinking about how we behave in society

With the section on wildlife, they also gave out a map showing local areas of heath land. If you would like to go on any local walks, then <https://fancyfreewalks.org/> has many circular walks that you can sort according to length. The site includes maps, directions and even some photographs of the routes. Many of these go through the heathland areas. A great change from SATs revision!