**Headteacher Update**

**Friday 2nd February 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe we are over half way through this half term already!

This week our Year 4 children enjoyed dressing up in their Tudor clothes and taking part in a Tudor workshop day. Unfortunately, the company originally booked to run the workshop were unable to attend because of illness, so Mrs Scott stepped in to save the day. The children had a great day, so huge thanks to Mrs Scott for organizing activities so quickly. We hope to rearrange the original workshop morning for another time, however should we not be able to do so, we will ensure parents receive a full refund.

Our reception class also had a fab time when they visited Blue Planet Aquarium. Hopefully you have all seen the wonderful photos on our Facebook page.

**‘The more things that you read, the more you’ll know…**

*… The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go’.* This famous quote by Dr Seuss is one that we often use to encourage children with their reading. Over the last few weeks Miss Heath and Mrs Scott, our English leads, have enjoyed hearing children from across the school read to them. This week Miss Heath observed the younger children taking part in their phonics lessons which they all thoroughly enjoy. It is amazing to think that only a few months ago our reception children didn’t know many, if any, sounds but they are quickly becoming readers and developing a love for books.

Our curriculum centres around a range of wonderful, inspiring texts for all years. Each day children across school engage in shared reading, group reading or individual reading as part of their learning. But reading in school is just one piece of the puzzle; we really cannot emphasise enough the difference it makes to the children’s learning when they spend a little time practicing at home each night. Those who read at home make far quicker progress in all areas of the curriculum than those that don’t. *Please make sure you share your child’s book with them at least three times a week to help give them the best chance of reaching their potential in school.*

**World Book Day**

As you know, World Book Day is fast approaching and the children are all invited to dress up as a favourite book character on Thursday 7th March to celebrate. This is a reminder that our local libraries are holding costume swaps which will run from 1st February until 6th March. Parents can either donate unwanted costumes, or have a look and take what is needed for your child. No donation is required! The scheme will be run at Barnton, Wharton, Northwich, Sandiway and Winsford libraries. Flyer attached to this email!

**Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week**

Next week is Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week (5th – 11th February). In school we will look at our emotions and how we stay positive using different techniques and mindfulness activities. We will remind children how they can help one another to feel happy, confident and calm. There are some great resources and fun activities relating to Children’s Mental Health for all the family to take part in together on the CBBC website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/cbbc-mental-health-awaresness>

**Parent Governor Vacancies**

We have two parent governor vacancies on our Local Education Committee. We have a great team of governors; they’re a really friendly bunch who are committed to supporting school leaders and challenging us to ensure we offer the children the best experiences in school.

If you think you might be interested in becoming a governor and you’d like to know more about the role, please get in touch with us at head@leftwichprimary.cheshire.sch.uk We will be happy to chat to you about the time commitment and expectations. Alternatively David Pilgrim, our Chair, can be contacted at chair@leftwichprimary.cheshire.sch.uk.

**Rags 2 Riches**

Unfortunately, we have not received our Rags 2 Riches bags. Please put unwanted clothes in bin bags and bring any donations to school on Monday 12th February or Tuesday 13th February, ready for collection on 14th February. The more clothes we receive the better, as school will receive funds based on the weight of the collection. Thank you.

**Half term fun**

Weaver Hall Museum and Lion Salt Works will be running some fun STEM and Art activity sessions for children during the spring half term break. The sessions are free and children of all ages are welcome. We all know how hard it can be to keep children entertained during school holidays, especially in February when the weather might not allow for outdoor adventures, so hopefully these local area activities will help.

Weaver Hall will be running STEM activity sessions on 21st and 22nd February 10am – 1pm.

The Lion Salt Works will be delivering SALT Art sessions on 20th and 21st February 11am – 2pm.

More details can be found on the flyers attached.

**Year 6 Leavers’ Hoodies**

Please be reminded that hoodies can be worn on Mondays and Fridays, however they must be worn with the correct school uniform and not joggers, leggings or trainers. The children have been reminded of the rules, once again, today.

**General Uniform Rules**

We have noticed a small number of children who persistently come to school wearing incorrect uniform. Children should wear black or grey skirt/ pinafore/ shorts/ trousers. Sensible black school shoes/ boots should be worn on normal uniform days and not trainers. On PE days, children should wear **plain black or navy joggers/ leggings and a plain black or navy hoodie**, or indeed the navy hoodie with the school logo. Joggers emblazoned with sports logos or other colours are not allowed. It is our expectation that all children wear the correct uniform at all times. Our uniform policy can be found on our school website.

For safeguarding reasons, smart watches should not be worn in school.

**Attendance**

We have had much better attendance across the school this week, so hopefully that means we have turned a corner and the winter bugs are finally on their way out. Congratulations to Year 4 who have won the class attendance competition this week with 97%. They have won a sweet treat which they will enjoy this afternoon.

Class attendance this week:

Reception : 95%

Year 1: 92%

Year 2: 96%

Year3: 95%

Year 4: 97%

Year 5: 94%

Year 6: 95%

Overall attendance for the school this year is 93.1%.

**Dates for your diaries:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Time** | **Classes involved** |
| Valentines Disco  | Wednesday 14th February | TBC | Separate infants and juniors |
| London visit | Thurs 8th Feb – Fri 9th Feb | 6.40am | Year 6 |
| Break up for half term | Friday 16th February | 3.15pm | All classes |
| Return to School  | Monday 26th February | 8.30am | All classes |
| World Book Day | Thursday 7th March  | All day | All classes |
| Parents’ Evenings | Tuesday 19th March | After school | All classes |
| Parents’ Evenings  | Thursday 21st March  | After school  | All classes |
| Easter Bingo | Wednesday 27th March | 5pm | All families |

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Guy