

Roots that strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that flourishes.

Autumn 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

This term has seen the launch our new vision statement for the school: *Roots that Strengthen. Branches that Reach. Fruit that Flourishes.*

It is a statement that captures our values and ethos as a school in terms of the academic aspirations we have for our amazing children and the development of their wonderful character.

It is inspired by the Parable of the Sower. A bible story of a farmer who sowed some seeds with different degrees of success. The seeds that grew best were those that fell on good soil, had strong roots enabling the plant to grow and produce a good harvest.

In the context of our school values and ethos our vision statement captures the idea that the children learn and understand what our values are, start to put them into practice in our school and the wider world until they reach a point when they are living them out without thinking.



Academically, the roots represent the foundations that we lay down in Early Years or the start of any lesson as new learning is introduced.

As the children move through the school they build on those early experiences or start applying that new learning in a lesson to work set for them.

As those metaphoric roots and branches strengthen through the school and within a lesson, we see the children flourish in what they do so that they are ready for the next stage of their education.

For this to happen we have established a broad and balanced curriculum that sets high aspirations for academic progress and achievement and, just as importantly, a curriculum that offers opportunities to develop their character through engaging activities and experiences beyond the classroom.

For some children, their academic development or ability to live out our values don't come easily and we are committed to making sure they are nurtured in ways that still enable them to flourish.

By establishing strong roots and giving them opportunities to reach upwards and outwards, inside and outside of the classroom, we will enable your children to flourish in everything they do. I hope that you find the newsletter reflects our new vision statement in all its glory...

Andrew Denham

Our Values: Courage Love Forgiveness Compassion Tolerance Thankfulness Honesty

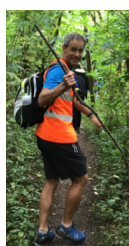
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River Walk and Picnic

Starting the term with a fantastic day out walking down to the Maybush Pub (who gave us a lovely welcome) on the River Thames for a picnic. We were BOLD, BRAVE and COURAGEOUS undertaking the 5 miles of walking, sometimes in the pouring rain! A special well done to our Year 1 and 2 children!



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Cross County

It was brilliant to have so many of our children take part in the Eynsham Partnership Academy Cross Country Event. It has been our most successful year (ever!) with all 4 teams going through to the West Oxfordshire Country Finals. We also had some individual successes with lots of the children making it into the Top 10 of age group:

Year 3/4 Boys (57 athletes): **Reilly (1st), William (2nd), Rhys (8th) & Charlie (10th)**

Year 3/4 Girls (47 athletes): **Lily (1st), Sienna (2nd), Sophia (4th) & Ruby (5th)**

Year 5/6 Boys (33 athletes): **Niall (4th), Louie (6th) & Kasper (8th)**

Year 5/6 Girls (31 athletes): **Emilia (4th), Abi (6th) & Esme (9th)**



Conker Competition

Autumn wouldn't be the same without a traditional game of conkers! There were some fierce matches that even some of our youngest children took part in, but it was a fearless Year 6 girl who won with an impressive seven-er!



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Tidy-Up Morning

We were delighted to have so many families come and join us on a Saturday morning for a bit of a tidy up and some landscaping. Everyone worked really hard and left the school grounds in the better place than when we all arrived. The team thoroughly deserved their mid-morning tea, coffee, donut and Jaffa cake break!



Wonder Wednesday Visitors

The children gave a lovely warm welcome to two boys from Cokethorpe School who helped them answer the Wonder Wednesday question: What do Muslims believe? Many of our children were very interested in what the teenagers had to say and were surprised to learn how many similarities there are between Christianity and Islam, not just the differences.



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Girls Football

Our girls have been leading the way on the sporting front this term! Our Under 11 Girls and Under 9 Girls football teams took part in different Eynsham Partnership Academy Tournaments. For most of the girls it was their first time ever competing in a sporting competition and they did themselves and the school proud with their enthusiasm and encouragement of each other and the other teams.



New Play Equipment

The children have been enjoying the new play equipment that was installed over the summer holidays. We are all very grateful to Charlie Walker who raised several thousand pounds towards the equipment which has given the children more exciting things to play on during breaktimes.



Lucky Winner

School lunches got a little more interesting this term when a £5 Amazon gift voucher was hidden under a plate! It certainly had the desired effect in encouraging more children to take up a hot, healthy lunchtime meal and one lucky girl walked away with the voucher!



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Harvest Service

We were delighted to have Rev. Jo Hurst lead our Harvest Service this year, in person. While we were sad not to be able to have parents join us (hopefully you will be able to come to our Christmas Service) we still had a lot of fun with Rev. Jo getting the children to re-enact the Parable of the Sower. Of course, Peter and John had to make an appearance and they did their best to help the children to remember the new school vision statement! We have had a lovely letter back from Witney Besom charity, thanking us for the generous donation of food the children brought in.



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50 Things To Do

We are excited to have relaunched the 50 Things To Do before you leave Standlake Primary School, this term. The idea behind this project is to ensure that the children's primary school experience is an enriching one that creates lasting, happy memories.

We want our 50 Things To Do to engage the children in a wide variety of activities: to broaden their horizons and enable them to become more **AMBITIOUS**, **RESILIENT** and **CONSIDERATE**. We also hope that our **TERRIFIC TOP TEN** increases their cultural

knowledge and understanding, while our **JUST FOR FUN** activities are a reminder that life is to be enjoyed along the way! The children only get one chance to be in primary school, so we will endeavour to make sure it is the very best time of their young lives. Here are this term's 50 things that the children have done...



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School Clubs

We are all very pleased to be able to go back to offering the children clubs now that we are free of Bubbles! The children have been having fun singing in **CHOIR**, making weird and wonderful creations in **PLAYDOUGH CLUB**, improving their shooting in **NETBALL CLUB**, being put through their paces in **GO FOR IT** or training to be the next Steph Houghton or Harry Kane in **FOOTBALL**.



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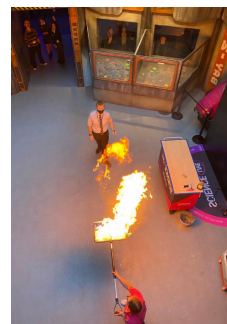
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Blake and Dahl Trip

Dahl and Blake class had an amazing trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium to finish of this terms Science Topic. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the centre and trying all the different 'hands-on' exhibits and watched three different shows about Space, Sound and a Bubble Fire Show!



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Our Assembly Topics & Themes this Term

MARVELOUS MONDAY

Rev. Jo and Mr Denham have been doing our Marvellous Monday Collective Worship Assembly, focusing on how stories of the Old Testament 'pointed the way' towards the arrival of Jesus. There has been a lot of amusing role play with the children taking part by dressing up and retelling the stories: we did:



shutterstock.com - 461279515

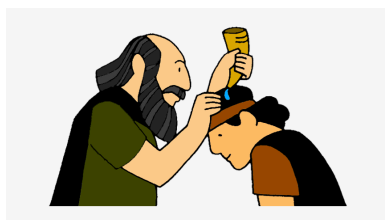
Creation



Noah's Ark



Abraham & Sarah



King David



Moses



Our Wonder Wednesday Assemblies have been a great opportunity to think about national and international topics of the moment. We have started each assembly by asking the following BIG questions:

Wonder Wednesday

What is democracy?
(International Day of Democracy)

What is a disability?
(Disability Awareness Day)

What is Recycle Week?
(National Recycle Week)

What would you stand up for?
(Black History Month)

What do you dream of?
(Black History Month)

How can we show compassion?
(Shoe Box Appeal)

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Shoe Box Appeal

We will be doing the Shoe Box appeal again this year and hope that most families will be able to put one together. We will be having our traditional community human chain to pass the boxes from the school hall to the church on **Friday the 5th November** (the first week back after half term). Attached to this Newsletter is the leaflet explaining what to do. If you need a Shoe Box to fill please ask at the office...



House Point Treat

Congratulations to Brasenose House who earned the most House Point this term. They were rewarded with a donut treat. Congratulations also go to Niall, Thomas, Archie, Elleni, Kyrah & Angel-Marie who were the individual 'Chosen Ones' from other houses, chosen ones because they have shown their teacher a consistent level of hard work and good behaviour. Well done to all of you!



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Murphy

This term in Murphy Class our topic has been 'Houses and Homes'. We have enjoyed creating homes out of a variety of materials as well as learning about different types of houses that we may find in Standlake. This term has also seen the start of our Forest School sessions where we have been bug hunting, building a hedgehog home, threading bird feeders and exploring the Forest School area.

During Literacy, we have been exploring lots of stories including Goldilocks and the 3 bears, 3 Little pigs and Last Stop on Market Street. We have been retelling the stories using Tales Toolkit, story maps and puppets. In Maths, we have been beginning to look at the number formations as well as patterns around us and have made some superb patterns using the classroom resources.

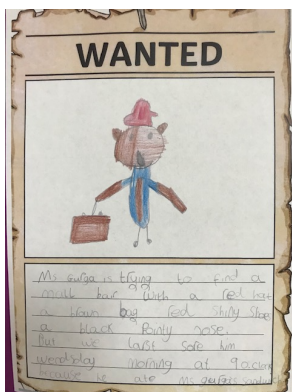


Donaldson Class

Donaldson class have had a great first term thinking about the adventures of Paddington. We created 'Wanted' posters for Paddington, with members of our class certain they had found clues and evidence of Paddington around the school! We all know how much Paddington loves marmalade sandwiches, so we wrote instructions for how to make them, as well as some more unusual sandwiches of our own!

We explored the features of the different countries in the UK, looking at the 4 capital cities. We created some of the famous London landmarks using junk modelling and also discussed the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster.

As part of our science lessons we enjoyed a morning with Mrs Costar who gave us lots of information about looking after animals and answered our questions about her job as a vet.



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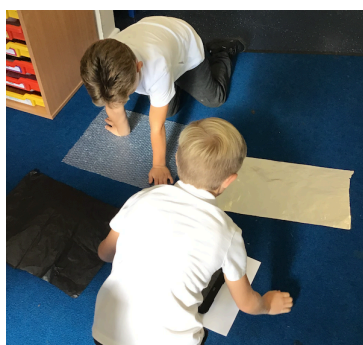
Blake Class

Wow, what a busy term we have had in Blake class. We have been learning all about Ancient Greece and have made our own Greek stories and Greek vases. We have learnt a lot about the Olympics including how competitors used to compete naked. All the children were relieved that this has changed.

We have also been learning about sound in science and completed our first experiment to see which material was the most absorbent. Linking to this we went on our first trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium.



In English we wrote our own sets of instructions and some children even managed to follow their own instructions on how to make a pizza – the rest of the class got to eat it! They were delicious!



Dahl Class



We have had a great term 1 in Dahl class. Ancient Greece has been our topic meaning we were able to make Greek vases using clay, as well as write instructions on how to train our very own mythological creature, just like Leo the Greek hero did in our story. We concluded that if our creatures are bribed with plenty of treats, they will be trained in no time...

We had great fun acting out scenes from the Trojan war. From the Greeks arriving for battle, to men hiding in a big wooden horse. We would have been such good warriors!! Almost as powerful as the Spartans!

In science we have been learning all about sound and how our ears work. We carried out an experiment to see what materials absorbed sound the best, which made us question whether we could soundproof our rooms when we play our cornets too loud...



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Morpurgo Class

This term, Morpurgo have been taking a tour through time, learning all about the interesting and sometimes horrific methods of crime and punishment. We started the term with a 'detective day,' where children walked in to find a crime had been committed. They had to use clues to eliminate suspects. Children wrote a newspaper article to report their findings. We have used the class text 'Street Child' to inspire a setting description, balanced argument, and diary entry. Children have also enjoyed learning about multiples, cubed numbers and square numbers in maths.

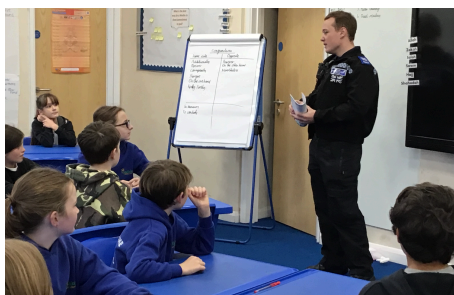
In science, we have been engaging with the topic of 'forces.' Children have deepened their understanding of gravity and air resistance through experiments. Morpurgo have learned what makes a good experiment and how to start formulating their own questions. In art, children have been exploring different artists that link with the time period of our topic lessons. Children particularly enjoyed creating glass-stained windows which can be seen displayed on the windows of the classroom. In P.E., children have been learning to play tennis and continued to develop their swimming skills. The improvements and confidence in the pool from these children are a delight to see! We can't wait to get even better next term!



Shakespeare Class

Crime and Punishment through the ages has been Shakespeare class' fascinating (and at times gory!) topic this term. We have learnt about various methods of punishment throughout history, considered which were the best, and fairest, deterrent and concluded with a thought-provoking balanced argument in English: Is capital punishment ever right?

Mrs Abraham has inspired us with art linked to the different periods that we have been learning about, including Renaissance portraits and stained-glass windows using tissue paper. In Science, we have considered healthy lifestyles and the circulatory system – dissecting pigs' hearts was a memorable highlight... for most of us! Finally, we have loved our Monday afternoon dance sessions under the expert tutelage of Mrs. Isard – thank you.



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Achievement Book

The following children have shown particularly impressive words or actions this term...

MURPHY

Florence for a great start to the year and helping others.

Evelyn for a confident start to school.

Gracie for superb effort in all areas of learning

Thomas for always being polite and kind to others.

Axel for demonstrating great perseverance during maths

Lucy-Marie for consistently demonstrating our school values

DONALDSON

Lena for encouraging others on our river walk

Archie for working hard and making progress

Eadie for always trying her best and aiming high

Henry for being helpful in class and working hard

Oliver for listening well and following instructions quickly

Gabe for asking good questions and working hard in science

BLAKE

Elleni for giving all of her work 100% effort and perseverance in all of her work

Reilly for hard work and determination in all our learning this week

Finley for a great attitude to all of his learning this week

Sienna for being a great role model and showing all of our school values

Luis for being polite and engaged in all of our lessons

Kaleb for fantastic attitude for all of our work this week especially reading

DAHL

Ferris for having an amazing start to year 4 and being a great role model within the class

Alfie for putting 100% effort into all his learning this week

Mara-Jade for showing a fantastic work ethic this week in all her learning.

Kyrah for being an absolute pleasure to teach. Always showing she is ready to learn and helps other within the class

Jessica for showing all school values

Rhys for showing great compassion and tolerance towards others this week.

MORPURGO

Harry for a fantastic attitude and working hard all week.

Lucy for working extremely hard and being ambitious in all her work

Rosie for trying super hard to focus and produce high quality work across all subjects

Darragh for giving everything a go despite his broken arm

Chloe for amazing ambition to succeed across all subjects

Autumn for showing great independence in class and using a fantastic attitude

SHAKESPEARE

Marley for an excellent positive attitude to all of his learning at the start of this term

Abi for embodying our school values in everything she does – a real asset to the class

Cameron for his positivity and 'can do' attitude in all that he has done this week

Grace for demonstrating our school values in everything that she does – you are a joy to teach!

Ava for her fantastic attitude towards all of her learning, all of the time.

Jack for an improved focus and desire to do well in his learning this week



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Star Writers

The following children have shown some great writing skills this term...

MURPHY

Cass for a superb retell of the story of the 3 little pigs
Lucy- Marie for a wonderful oral sentence including a full stop.
William for wonderful use of sounds when writing
Lottie for superb letter formations in Phonics
Aidan for a great retell of Goldilocks and the 3 bears using Tales Toolkit
Patrick for using his sounds to segment words

DONALDSON

Henry for editing and improving his writing
James for interesting ideas planning his setting description
River for an imaginative setting description
George for super writing in his science poster
Arlowe for thoroughly checking his work and writing up a fabulous set of instructions
Layla for writing lots of full sentences in her Paddington diary

BLAKE

Elias for working really hard on our work with conjunctions
Lily for a great draft for her non chronological report
Elias for great sentences this week for our setting description
Ella for a great idea for our chapter to Leo and the Gorgons curse
Ezra showing a good understanding with different types of sentences
Maggie Mae for great instructions for pizza making

DAHL

Charlie for great work on features of a non- chronological report. Going above and beyond by creating a features poster for Dahl class to put on display.
Oscar for impressing me with how hard he has worked on his planning for his hot write.
William for writing a lovely, picturesque setting description
Sophia for creating some lovely descriptive writing for her sequel of Leo and the Gorgon's curse
Scout for some descriptive writing on Diwali celebrations
Finn for imaginative and specific instruction writing on how to train a mythological creature

MORPURGO

Milo for persevering with his writing when he was finding it hard. The setting description you improved blew me away.
Freddie for trying hard to use ambitious vocabulary and adding atmosphere into your writing
Grace for using your initiative when you were at home to write a fantastic story and always being ambitious in your writing
Sammi for showing fantastic evaluating skills this week in her diary entry
Annabella for showing independence within her work
Harry for a wonderful descriptive diary entry

SHAKESPEARE

Esme for making excellent predictions about a text, giving thoughtful reasons for them
Niall for working so hard to apply what we have learnt into his setting description writing
Kassia for showing brilliant progress in her SPAG assessment this week
Athena for making thoughtful and creative suggestions in this week's diary writing
Emilia for an excellently written diary entry, carefully using the features that we have discussed
Kate for 'thinking outside the box' with her creative writing ideas
Yilin for using the features that we have discussed in this week's balanced argument writing



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Marvellous Mathematicians

The following children have shown some excellent maths work this term...

MURPHY

Beatrice for remembering the 3 rules to counting.
Erges for great number work this week
Sylvie for great sorting and comparing
Evie-Mae for great 1:1 correspondence when counting
Albie for wonderful pattern work
Rupert for creating wonderful patterns.

DONALDSON

Seb for responding to marking
Robyn for writing her own careful clues in maths
Nancy for working accurately and neatly
Mari for great work on ordinal numbers
Arthur L for super maths work showing numbers in different ways
Finley for some great addition and subtraction work this week

BLAKE

Annie for great place value and number explanations
Mark for great independent work and understanding of place value with numbers to 20
Emilee for great ordering of numbers
Kitty for great determination with our adding of numbers this week
Alexander for challenging himself when adding measurements
Rosie for great resilience with adding and subtracting numbers

DAHL

Breanna for her perseverance throughout maths this week, particularly when we were partitioning 4-digit numbers.
Frederick for his constant hard work and positive attitude to maths every day.
Freddie for putting 100% effort into all his maths this week especially working with roman numerals.
Jack for impressing me so much with his column addition this week
Ruby for 100% effort on subtracting 2 4-digit numbers
Joshua for working super hard with equivalent lengths

MORPURGO

Eliza for working so hard in maths lessons to consolidate understanding with rounding
Darragh for persevering with rounding which you now understand and improving your arithmetic scores
Laycie for being resilient when subtracting with exchange. You persevered even when you found it tricky.
Olivia for working hard on her x tables and using them within lessons
Archie for being ambitious in his work and staying focused within lessons
Milo for great problem solving and explanations

SHAKESPEARE

Emily for blowing me away with her excellent understanding of place value and rounding this week
Kasper for super understanding of this week's work on negative numbers and excellent arithmetic test scores
Maira for demonstrating super progress in this week's maths assessments
Jake for super progress in our work on division this week
Milly for brilliant progress (and neatness!) in our work on fractions this week
Louie for excellent understanding and progress in our work adding fractions this week
Anna for super progress in her adding and subtracting of fractions this week



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FOSS update

Another year has started and we're already halfway through the first term! We are really looking forward to plans for the upcoming year and cautiously optimistic that we are able to safely resume many of our typical in-person events loved by the students, parents and the wider community!

Here's a look ahead of what we have planned and in progress!

COOKBOOKS – These lovely cookbooks are filled with sweet and savory recipes from around our school community. They are accompanied by photographs and art by our students. Make memorable and unique gifts and keepsakes. Available in the office or by sending 'friends and family' payment via PayPal (FOSSpayments@gmail.com) - £5 each.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE – All the children will have been busy creating their own personal Christmas card design for our annual sale. We hope to have the order forms and sample prints through to you after half term.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE – Save the Date for Sunday November 28th from 1pm to 4pm at Standlake Village Hall. We have local vendors, games and refreshments available. Come along and join in the festivities!

CHRISTMAS DISCO – Near the end of the term, we will be announcing the date for the Christmas Disco. So many of the children have missed our school discos, so we are really excited to announce we will be able to resume these. Keep an eye out for the date to be announced after half term!

Please also remember that FOSS have set up several ongoing fundraising efforts via EasyFundraising, AmazonSmile and the textile donation box outside the school. Both EasyFundraising and AmazonSmile cost nothing extra to users, simply log into your accounts and shop with a portion of the proceeds going to our lovely school. To link our charitable cause to your account (via website or app), use "Standlake Primary School - Witney" for EasyFundraising and "Foss Friends of Standlake School" for AmazonSmile.

And, finally, a reminder of why we do this...

All fundraising FOSS organise are to benefit the students of Standlake Primary. Most recently, funds raised have been used to make a significant investment in updated reading books for each year at Standlake School. Without your generous donations, the school would not be able to make these special one-time purchases to further enrich the pupils' experience.

Thank you for your continued support!

The FOSS Committee

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Governor Update

The new school year has started with great enthusiasm from staff and pupils alike, and the Governors have been impressed with the enthusiastic attitude in getting back to a school year that is as “normal” as possible.

We have had a significant number of new families and pupils join the school community in the last 6 months and the Governors would like to extend a warm welcome to them, and hope that we can soon meet you in person, and chat informally at the next Parents’ Evening or social event.

We also look forward to meeting all families during the annual Shoe Box event on Friday 5th November when we will be serving tea, coffee and biscuits for parents after the children have delivered the Shoe Boxes to the church. We hope that lots of you will be able to stay around and enjoy this special event.

The school Harvest Festival Service in St Giles Church was a wonderful celebration, but sadly had to be trimmed down to a pupil only event. However, the input of the children in decorating the Church with a wonderful selection of brightly coloured butterflies, made a huge impact on the people of the village and the congregations over the village “Green Weekend”, and were much admired and commented on. Linking the school children to the wider village community is important for everyone, and the Governors were delighted to see this taking place.

Congratulations to Tom Walwyn who has been reappointed as a Parent Governor. We still have two Parent Governor vacancies and will be re-doing the application process after the half-term break. Parents can play an important role in the running of their school, and a voice on the Board is an excellent way of becoming involved.

Karen Armeanu
Jenny Macdonald

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School Uniform

Order from: www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk

We have noticed an increasing number of children not wearing the appropriate uniform to school. Please use the holiday to make sure your children start next term in the appropriate school wear:



Gingham Dress



Pleated Pinafore



Pleated Skirt



Dark/Grey School Shorts



Dark/Grey School Trousers



White Polo Shirt



Sweatshirt



Cardigan



Y6 Sweatshirt



Y6 Cardigan



Children must wear black shoes with their uniform; buckles, velcro or laces are fine.
Children MUST NOT wear trainers (unless it is a PE day)

PE Kit

Similarly, a number of children are not wearing the correct PE kit. Now that children are wearing PE kit for the whole day they have PE, it is important that it is the official school clothing:



White T-Shirt



Dark Black/Blue Shorts



Dark Black/Blue Joggers



School Blue Hoody
(or different sweatshirt to normal day)



Children must wear trainers or plimsolls
(Children MUST NOT wear the same shoes as a normal school day)

If there are any families who find the cost of the school uniform a barrier to getting it, please speak to the school office because we may be able to help. We will be monitoring uniform next term and sending home letters if children do not have the appropriate schoolwear...

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Other Information

Lost Property

This is photo is of all the lost property since the start of term. None of it is labelled!



Uniform is expensive and there are occasions when children mistakenly take someone else's uniform home. If you would like your child's missing or mislaid uniform to be returned to you, PUT A NAME ON IT! If your child has been handed down some uniform from someone who has left the school, please change the name it in – there are several items with names of children who left the school in the last couple of years.

Term 2 Dates for your Diaries

- 1st November: INSET Day
- 5th November: Shoe Box Assembly & Event @ 9am
(parents invited to stay after drop off)
- 11th November: Remembrance Day Event @ 9am
(parents invited to stay after drop-off)
- 12th November: Climate Action Stop Day
- 15th November: EPA Athletics Meet 2.30pm+
- 23rd November: EPA Bocha Tournament: 9-11am
- 24th November: SEND Pupils Parents Meetings
(parents will be contacted directly)
- 28th November: Christmas Fete 12-4pm
- 29th November: Parents Evening Week
(time slots will be made available in Term 2)
- 13th December: EYFS/Y1/2 Nativity Performance (afternoon)
- 14th December: EYFS/Y1/2 Nativity Performance (evening)
- 16th December: Christmas Lunch
- 17th December: Christmas Party morning

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Autumn Half Term: 23rd – 24th October

INSET Day: 1st November

Term 2: 2nd – 17th December (1.15pm finish)

Christmas Holidays: 18th – 3rd January

SPRING TERM 2022

INSET Day: 4th January

Term 3: 5th January – 18th February

Spring Half Term: 19th – 27th February

Term 4: 28th February – 8th April (1.15pm finish)

Easter Holidays: 9th – 24th April

SUMMER TERM 2021

INSET Day: 25th April

Term 5: 26th April – 27th May

Summer Half Term: 28th May 5th June

Term 6: 6th June – 20th July (1.15pm finish)

EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY: 4th July*

** Schools will miss the official Bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 3rd of June due to the half term holiday so we have been given permission to take another date in term time.*

Roots that strengthen.

Branches that Reach.

Fruit that flourishes.



The End

See you again on Tuesday 2nd November...

Our Values: Courage Love Forgiveness Compassion Tolerance Thankfulness Honesty