

The 10 Keys to Happier Living—Action for Happiness

This half term, we have launched our ‘10 Keys to Happiness’ programme which helps children to learn and develop skills to improve wellbeing.

The children have learned about **Giving - doing things for others** and **Relating - connecting with people**. Children were encouraged to ‘give a compliment’ when they saw someone being kind. We were inundated with compliments showing how kind and caring our children are! This week, children were thinking about how they connect to others around the school.

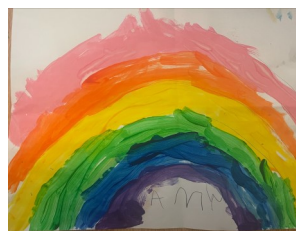


Kingfishers yoga session!

Harvest

This week we celebrated our Harvest Festival with a service in the church led by Reverend Sue. Thank you to all those parents/families who were able to attend. Reverend Sue talked to the children about the importance of water and its multiple uses within our lives. Robins shared a rainbow song and art, Doves read a mud-themed poem and shared their worm art, Kingfishers explained how the water cycle works and Owls read us some Thankfulness poems.

This year we collected donations for Water Aid.



Rugby Tournament

On Wednesday 12th October, a team of Y6s attended a Tag Rugby tournament at Cambridge Rugby Club. They played exceptionally well and represented the school with great sportsmanship and teamwork. The team came 9th overall but had a brilliant morning, made new friends and developed in confidence. Well done Y6!



Key Dates

- 20.10.22 Last day of term and School Disco
- 01.11.22 Back to School
- 31.10.22 & 02.11.22 Parent Consultations—more details to follow
- 18.11.22 Children in Need Day
- 08.12.22 Christmas Dinner & School Jumper Day
- 13.12.22 & 14.12.22 Swaffham Bulbeck Nativity
- 19.12.22 Trip to Pantomime-Cinderella
- 19.12.22 Bulbeck Carols and Festivities at the Denny
- 20.12.22 Last Day of Term!
- 5.01.22 Back to School

Class Updates

Robins & Wrens have settled brilliantly into school and have been learning all about 'Marvellous Me.' We have been discussing our families, our friends, our bodies and our emotions, the later of which we used The Colour Monster as a stimulus to talk about these. In Maths we have been focusing on securing our understanding of numbers 1-4 and how these are made of smaller numbers. We have also begun our reading journey and are all able to read CVC words!

Dove Class have had an amazing half term. We have been learning about baptism in RE with a visit from Reverend Sue. In history we have been learning about Guy Fawkes and The gunpowder Plot. The children have shown a real understanding of key facts and knowledge about Guy Fawkes. In English we have written our own story of the three little pigs concentrating on the story language used and retelling the story. Maths has seen us thinking about place value and manipulating numbers using tens and ones. All of this alongside bonding as a new class, making new friends and having lots of fun.

Kingfisher Class have had a busy start to half term. In English, we have been using the text 'Stone Age Boy' as inspiration to write a character and setting description of a Stone Age person. We have recently started our unit on addition and subtraction, using dienes and place value counters to support our understanding of exchanging. In Art, we have been using charcoal pencils to draw cave painting style pictures; thinking carefully about line and form. Our History unit has been greatly enjoyed as we have explored the life of Stone Age people.

Owl Class have made a great start to the year and we have been impressed with their increasing independence. We have studied two books this half term: The 1000 Year Old Boy and The Explorer, both of which have been very popular with all children. They have then written a chapter, based on The Explorer, for an adventure story. We have learnt about our circulatory system in Science and the Ancient Maya civilization in History. In Maths, we have secured our understanding of number and place value with a focus on using lots of mathematical vocabulary.

Class Cafes

Thank you to all parents/families who attended our class cafes this half term. All cafés have had a reading focus and it has been wonderful to share our learning with you. We hope they have helped you to understand how reading is taught in school and given you ideas about how to support your child/ren at home. Our next class cafes will be held during the spring term.

Start and End of Day Reminders

For everyone's safety, please walk on the path around the edge of the car park. We want to prevent any accidents happening so please note there is now a chain across the car park.

Just a reminder **school times** are **8.45-3.15pm**. Gates are open from 8.35am

Please let the office know by phone/email if there are any **changes to collection**. You can add people onto your end of day permissions or please provide a password to the office and the person collecting your child.

NOTICES

As the weather becomes increasingly more inclement, please make sure your child has a **coat** and **wellies** with them everyday. We want the children to be out enjoying themselves whatever the weather.

Reminder: Water bottles should only have water in them and snack is fruit or vegetables only.

DANGER

Please keep the road outside school as clear as possible. If you need to drive, park off the main road where possible. The road gets very busy and we do not want anyone to get hurt crossing the road.



Nursery

Wrens is our EYFS class which admits children aged 3 and up. Nursery children can attend from 8.45am to 11.45am daily for 15 funded hours. It is a great opportunity for them to make a smooth transition from a nursery setting to school as well as to make new friends. There are a few spaces available. Contact the school office (01223 811595) to arrange taster sessions.

Shoe Box Appeal

This year, we are supporting Teams4U's shoe box appeal, who each year, run a nationwide appeal to provide Christmas gifts to vulnerable children and families. More details can be found at <https://teams4u.com/shoobox-guide/>.

If you would like to fill a shoebox or donate items to be included in a shoe box please bring them into



THANK YOU to all who helped make the school disco such a great success.

Staffing

Goodbye and big thank you to Mel Deistler-Howe, who was part of our office staff. We wish her all the very best for the future.

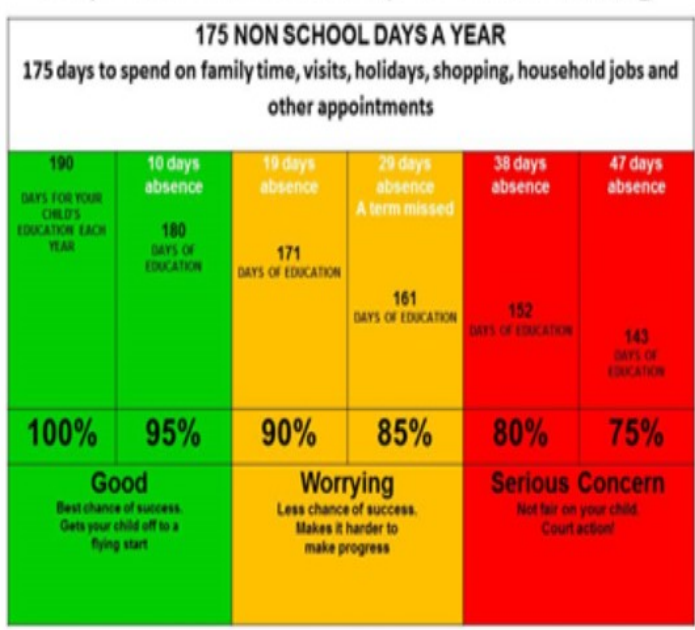
Welcome to Emily Smith who will be joining Sarah Fenton as part of our office team. Emily will be in on Wednesdays.

Attendance Matters

I am sure you are aware that good attendance at school is a national priority but it is also our school specific priority. Clearly, the pandemic has had an impact and there are ongoing illnesses to contend with. However, I cannot emphasise enough the impact that attendance and punctuality have on our pupils' achievement. To highlight just one example, the Phonics assessment in Y1 had a pass mark of 33 last year. A child with 85% attendance will have missed 15% of these lessons and therefore are substantially disadvantaged and less likely to pass.

This year, we will be sending out standard letters so that parents can keep a track of their child's attendance and offering support to promote good attendance. We know that after the last few years, there are lots of family events and holidays which have been rearranged but attendance at school remains an absolute priority. Therefore, in the majority of cases, we are unable to authorise holidays or attendance at events and they may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice or other legal action. Where there are medical issues, a protocol may be put in place to support the child and their attendance. More information is available on the government or Local Authority websites: <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance>. Most importantly, we want to work with parents to ensure our children get the education they possibly can.

Days off school add up to lost learning



Top Tips for Regular Attendance

- Positive framing—positivity breeds more positivity
- Celebrate the small things with your child
- Look on the bright side—reassure them
- Breakdown the times into manageable chunks
- Establish consistent routines
- Talk to us—if there's an issue we can help
- Trust us—most children will have a very positive experience when they are in school. If we have concerns, we will contact you.

Notification of Absence

Please can we remind parents if you wish to take your child/children out of school, bar medical appointments, a **Request for Leave of Absence Form must be completed** in advance and given to the office marked for the attention of Mrs Bartley.

This form can be found on the school website (Letters – Leave of Absence Form) or a hard copy can be obtained from the office. All holidays are considered unauthorised and should be taken during school holidays (term dates are on the school website).

Medical Appointments and Sickness

We would strongly encourage parents to arrange medical appointments outside of the school day to reduce the impact on learning. If you child has to have a medical appointment within school hours please, **in advance of the appointment**, forward a photo of the appointment letter/screenshot of reminder via email to the office or present hardcopies to the office. This will greatly help staff in the planning of your child's learning.

If your child is unwell, with sickness or diarrhoea, your child should remain off school for 48 hours following the last bout of illness. If you have any questions or queries relating to sickness, please call the office.