



# Newsletter

## May 2023

### King Charles' Coronation Celebration!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our scarecrow-making extravaganza! I've never seen so much straw in my life and why does it seem to rain every Friday when we want the children outdoors! The creativity and ingenuity was astounding and they looked great on display around the village! I hope you had a great weekend and were able to join in celebrations across the long weekend.



### Year 1 and 2 Sports Festival

The children had an excellent time at a recent Sports Festival organised by Bottisham Village College and led by a group of Year 9 Sports Leaders. They joined a number of other local primary schools for a morning of activities focusing on balance, co-ordination and control as well as team work. Abby in Year 2 said, "It was good fun at the sports festival. My favourite part of the morning was the running races. I ran really fast!"



### Ian Harvey - Science visit

Children in Bees and Butterflies welcomed Ian Harvey, a teacher at Hills Road Sixth Form College and a member of the team at Kingfisher Bridge Nature Reserve.

He spoke to the children about the raptors we find in our local area and other birds of prey found in the UK. The children dissected owl pellets and used an identification chart to match the bones they found and the animal it came from. Carly in Year 3 said, "I found at least five jaws with teeth in that I could pull out! It was an interesting lesson."



### Attendance

**The overall school attendance this term is 94%**

- Hoglets & Hedgehogs 95%
- Swifts 94%
- Bees 95%
- Butterflies 92%

We are aware that there has been another sickness bug doing the rounds unfortunately. We hope everyone is feeling a lot better now. Good attendance remains a focus and we appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your children attend regularly. If there are any issues, please contact the school and we are happy to support in whatever way we can.

### Well Done Y6



Last week the Year 6s completed their SATs. We are so proud of their resilience and endurance

during a very tiring week. Well done to each and everyone of them for all their hard work! Thank you to Mrs Strange and Miss Bellwood for preparing and providing a hearty breakfast each morning.



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## School Spaces Available

We have a limited number of school places in Nursery, Years 1, 2 and 3 for September. If you know of anyone in need of a school place within these year groups, please encourage them to get in contact with the school office and arrange a tour to come and look around.

## Governors—We Need You!

We currently have a vacancy for a Governor and welcome applications from parents who are keen to make a positive contribution to our school. If you are interested, please contact the school office who can provide additional details.

WE NEED YOU!



## Science Week—Stop Bugging Me!

This year's annual Science Week commences on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The week's theme of 'Stop Bugging Me!' will explore habitats of minibeasts, their anatomy, appearance and how we can protect these creatures in our local area.



### Volunteers Wanted!

Throughout the week, children will be participating in many hands-on experiments and be visiting the Zoology Museum in Cambridge and engaging. We would welcome visitors throughout the week to enhance the children's learning. If you have any expertise in minibeasts or know anyone who we could contact, please do let us know.

### Science Fair

To launch our Science Week, we will be holding a Science Fair. This is an opportunity for children to explore science in fun and interesting ways. We kindly ask for your support at home by completing a science project with your child, ready for them to present at the Science Fair on the **afternoon of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June**. Projects do not have to link to this year's Science Week theme (of course, they can if they wish); it can be anything your child would like to explore from any area of Science. Those who wish to take part in the Science Fair are invited to bring their projects into school on the morning of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Please consider an experiment that your child can demonstrate or a visual way to display the project so that your child will be able to show and talk to others during the exhibit, e.g. a model, photos, etc. Parents are invited to view the projects from 2pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

## 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). There is lots of evidence which demonstrates the impact even short term absences have long term on attainment.

## 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.



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## Class News

**Hoglets & Hedgehogs** have really enjoyed our Kings and Queens topic this half term. Based around the Coronation, the children have learnt about the Royal family, London landmarks, the Coronation Ceremony and castles and palaces. A historical perspective was provided by our Robin Hood and King John unit which inspired lots of role play and story telling. We have ended the half term with "If I were Prime Minister" giving the children a basic understanding of the role of Government and the election process. Great progress has been made in writing and phonics and in maths we have looked at doubling, number bonds and 2d shapes.

**Swifts** have been learning about the history of the seaside and comparing the similarities and differences between past and present activities when spending the day at the beach. We have written post-card recounts of a day at the seaside, both then and now, and created posters to encourage people to keep our beaches clean. In DT we explored puppet shows historically shown at the seaside and then designed and made our own hand puppets. In Science our learning focus has been on the changing seasons and weather. We really enjoyed learning about shadows and creating wind socks.

**Bees'** learning has been focused around the Egyptians. In our English unit, we used the story 'The Egyptian Cinderella' to write a diary entry and learnt the process of mummification to write as an explanation text. In Geography, we have learnt about the river Nile and how this made the ancient Egyptians successful as well as why tourists might visit Egypt nowadays. In DT, we have learnt to applique and cross stitch and have designed and made our own Egyptian collars. Our focus in Science has been on magnets, their everyday uses and magnetic/non-magnetic materials. We have also been practicing hard for ready for the multiplication check after half term!

**Butterflies** We have had a big focus on writing in our English lessons. We have put ourselves in the shoes of classroom equipment (paperclips, rubbers, and even staff mugs!) to write diary entries, we have written guides to Year 6 and we are just beginning a portfolio of writing around our production, Alice the Musical. In History, we have been learning about the 'Three Queens' ready to answer the question: Who is the fairest of them all? We have been studying the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. In Science, we have welcomed a couple of visitors. Dr Haine helped us to learn about the eye and how we see. Ian also visited us to talk about native birds of prey, and we got to dissect owl pellets. He also taught us how to identify the bones that we found in the pellets by removing the teeth from the jaws. We have also begun our play rehearsals! We're very



**Parking** at school is always a nightmare. Now that the days are brighter, please encourage your children to walk, scoot or cycle. It's a great way to wake them up in the morning ready for learning!

**Swimming** starts after half term. Letters and Dojo messages have been sent out regarding each classes timetabled swimming session. Please ensure children have their swimming costume, a towel and flip flops/sliders in bag that they are able to carry to the pool. Long hair must be tied back and children who have had **diarrhoea or vomiting MUST NOT swim for 14 days**. Children who have **had chemical treatment for head lice must not swim until 3 days after their last treatment**

**Bikeability** is booked for Years 5 and 6 the week commencing Monday 19th June and for Year 4 on Monday 19th June. Please check bikes are in full working order during the holidays.

**Hot Weather** as the weather gets increasingly warmer (hopefully!) next half term, please remember to send water bottles and sun hats into school. Sun cream should also be applied before school.



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## Broadband Connections

Families in receipt of benefits could be eligible for cheaper broadband and mobile tariffs

Connecting Cambridgeshire is trying to raise awareness with families on lower incomes who could be eligible for discounted broadband and mobile phone services called social tariffs. Social tariffs are low-cost broadband and mobile phone deals offered to customers on benefits and cost between £10 and £20 a month.

Many providers offer these reduced social tariffs for both new households and existing customers claiming government benefits such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support.

The Connecting Cambridgeshire website has links to useful information about how to get reduced broadband and mobile tariffs, and more information can also be found on the Ofcom website: [www.ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband).

## Family Learning Courses

Cambridgeshire Skills is thrilled to offer fully funded Family Learning courses designed to support parents, carers, and families in enhancing their child's learning and development at home. These engaging courses provide practical activities aligned with the curriculum, and promote a supportive environment for parents to refresh their skills and boost their confidence.

Family Learning courses offer parents the opportunity to assist with homework, gain insight into current teaching methods, and build strong connections between home and school. Qualified tutors ensure a friendly and enjoyable learning experience.

To find out more about the service and the courses on offer, please see the new Cambridgeshire Learn Together Family Learning page or the Cambridgeshire Skills page on [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## How to start a conversation with your child about gaming safely:

Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first games console, it can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use it for. For example, for playing online, playing with siblings or friends, or for playing by themselves. If your child already has a games console, ask them about their favourite things to play, you can ask them to teach you to play the game and explore the ways to report and block players or content whilst playing together.

When talking about games your child wants to play, you can take a moment to discuss age ratings and what different content is available on different games. This can be a good opportunity to discuss your expectations around the games that your child can and can't play.

Learning about the way that young people are using devices and games can give you a insight into why your child may want a new game or console.

Finding out how your child wants to be supported whilst online is a great way to open up wider conversations around online safety and the issues young people may face whilst gaming. You can also look at establishing a family agreement to manage your families time online.

Ask them what would they do if something worrying or upsetting happened on their games console. Tell your child what they should do if something goes wrong while using it. This could be to close the screen and tell an adult. See below for conversation starter ideas.