

HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



ISSUE 6 - 2019/20

28/02/20

Welcome to our February Newsletter which, as ever, is packed with celebrations and reminders. We have an exciting few weeks ahead of us with lots of lovely activities planned.

We hope you find this newsletter informative- please take note of the dates on the back page.

Mrs K Schonau

SOT Primary School Enterprise Challenge 2020

Wow, what a day we had this week at Staffs Uni!

12 of our Y5/Y6 children who made it through to the final of the Ryman Enterprise challenge exhibited excellent behaviour, confidence and showcased their amazing presenting skills throughout the day. Team 'Let's Stick Together' were crowned the overall winners in the city- an amazing achievement! Mrs Guy and Mrs Davies are immensely proud of all of the effort and hard work the children have put into these presentations- every child from both teams spoke with confidence and clarity- such a lot of work had gone into these presentations and it really paid off. Well done!



Children's Mental Health Week

During February, the children took part in a Mental Health Awareness week, discussing ways to 'Find their Brave' and talking about how and who to ask for help if they feel they need it. As part of their learning, they took part in daily yoga sessions delivered by the Children's Yoga Foundation that taught them about how to cope with different emotions, breathing exercises and ways to calm their body and mind. The children will have further opportunities to talk about ways to support their own and other's mental health during the year through planned assemblies and lessons in class. Well done to everyone who showed how truly bendy they are!



Rock Stars

The children from Y2-Y6 have been busy practising their times tables through the TT Rockstars online programme and we are seeing amazing progress from the children as they work hard to learn this crucial skill.

Encourage your child to practise their times tables often, even for a few minutes each day, as this knowledge will impact on all of their mathematical learning from fractions, to measures, to finding the area of shapes.

The leader board for the children who achieved the most correct answers over the past three week are as follows:

Year 2

Joe
Evie H
Isabel

Year 3

Albie
Gracie A
Charley

Year 4

William
Ezmai
Lillian

Year 5

Kamsie
Mika
Bella

Year 6

Lucy
Sam
Zac



Wanted! Moving picture books

Do you have any preloved children's picture books with moving parts that are no longer needed or used?

We are looking for any books with pop up pages, sliding parts, moving pictures, levers etc. to support Year One's Design Technology work this term. If you have any old books to donate to school, please pass them onto Mrs Rushton on the KS1 yard or Miss McCann on the KS2 yard. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Alice in Wonderland City Competition

During the last half term, Years 4, 5 and 6 were given the opportunity to design a teapot (in conjunction with Emma Bridgewater) in the theme of Alice and Wonderland. The winning design from each year group won a £10 voucher and were also put through to the next round where they would be judged against children from schools across the city. The winning entries are as follows:



Bella: Year 4 Winner



Morgan: Year 5 Winner



Evie: Year 6 Winner

As you can see, we have some very talented artists in school and are hoping that one or more of the designs go on to be crowned the overall winner within the city. We will keep you updated with the results!

Bananagrams

Well done to our sixteen semi-finalists who battled it out in our Bananagrams championship on Tuesday 11th February. The children were put into mixed teams of Year 3 and 4, and Year 5 and 6. The children battled tirelessly to get through to the final. After twenty stressful minutes, the following children were crowned winners of the Bananagrams Championship 2020:

Year 3/4: Bella (Year 4)

Year 5/6: James (Year 5)

The children were awarded with the ultimate spelling prize: an electronic dictionary that they can use in school or at home.

We would like to say a huge well done to all the children who took part. They showed great sportsmanship and the determination to succeed.



Nursery have continued to be busy bees last half term. We learnt about lots of different jobs - we thoroughly enjoyed Miss Hewitt coming in with baby Layla- Jae to open our baby clinic and the visit from the police officers. We used our big listening ears and asked lots of interesting questions. We loved our visit to the post office- we hope that you loved receiving your special post!

We also celebrated Valentine's Day by printing heart shapes onto our own boxes and making heart shaped chocolates and biscuits. Yummy!



Reception have had a fabulous half term on their 'Food' topic. They have learned such a lot about where our food comes from and which foods are healthy or treats. They have enjoyed creating their own fruit salad, tasting Chinese food, making disgusting sandwiches like in 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' story, bought their own ingredients to make pizzas and finally decorated love heart biscuits. We are excited to see what the next half term brings.



Year One have been becoming computer experts from completing online safety work to sorting Science objects to creating avatars on Purple Mash! In Maths they have been working hard to solve problems involving money and have written fantastic stories involving themselves as a flea living on a rat during the Great Fire of London. During shared reading sessions they have been introduced to 'Rex the Retriever' who helps them to sniff out answers by searching the text for clues and they have worked extremely hard to apply their phonic skills and add expression. Their history learning has continued and crossed in to their science learning as they have tested materials to make a bucket to put out the Great Fire! Amazing Year One!



Year Two received a surprise at the end of last half term. A box appeared in the classroom. The children gathered round to open it and discovered that somebody had sent them the materials needed to paint a plate in the style of Clarice Cliff! The children were very excited and are still trying to figure out who sent it! Clarice Cliff is part of our topic about our local history and to help us with this, Mr Gilman visited year 2 to explain what life was like when he was a child. He talked about school, games, life in the home and much more. The children learnt many interesting things and couldn't believe how different life was back then.



Year Three have been enjoying learning about the Ancient Egyptians. They have looked at artefacts and used them to find out about life in Ancient Egypt. They especially enjoyed learning about mummification even though it is rather gruesome. Now they are looking forward to their trip to Birmingham Museum and completing artwork on Egyptian portraits.



Year Four have been demonstrating their writing abilities this month in a variety of subjects. They wrote excellent pieces from the viewpoint of Oona the elephant from our Running Wild novel, and then applied their skills when writing a story of a raindrop falling from a cloud. They, very effectively, combined their story writing ability and knowledge of river systems to produce their stories, which they then shared with the Year Two children. Miss McCann is extremely impressed with the quality of writing and vocabulary choices throughout both pieces.



Year Five—February has been a very productive month in Year Five. We have continued to work extremely hard in all of our areas of learning. In maths we completed our multiplication and division topic and have moved onto fractions. Initially, we explored this concretely using the maths equipment (as pictured) - this ensures we were confident at the reasoning behind our calculations! Within English, we have begun to explore persuasive writing in preparation for our new extended piece where we will debate if capturing and training dragons is ethical. Finally, our science module of materials has led us to planning and implementing a series of scientific enquiries. For example, we currently have an investigation set up in our classroom to investigate how solutions may be separated and the optimum conditions for this to take place.



STEM Club

Our STEM Club have been rising to the challenges set and demonstrating excellent team work. So far, they have been challenged to: fix a hole in a bucket, find the best blade size for the safe landing of a helicopter and design a bridge which can carry the most weight. There are many more challenges ahead for them to use and apply their knowledge across the STEM subjects.



Book Donations

Many thanks to the following pupil who donated a birthday book to the school library —
Brooke I (Y1)



Year Six—For their science topic, Evolution and Inheritance, Year Six have acted as palaeontologists to piece together the bones of a mystery animal. Children used their investigation skills to surmise what the animal was at different points throughout the activity as they uncovered the skeleton piece by piece.

We also put our super investigative skills to good use when we analysed the video 'The Facts in the Case of Mister Hollow'. Children searched for clues in the video to find vital information about what had happened at the scene of crime. Children then wrote a police report, highlighting the vital details and pleading to the public for any information that they may have.

Reading Rocket

Our new Reading Rocket began on Monday 24th February and will end on Sunday 5th April.

The children must read at least five times over the week, on different days and this must be clearly recorded in their reading diary. (Children in nursery should read at least three times per week). The children who achieve this will be entered into a prize draw and will also receive a special letter home, a small treat and extra playtime.

During the spring term 1, 81 children achieved the Reading Rocket. We hope our children are able to beat this amazing score over the next 6-week half term.

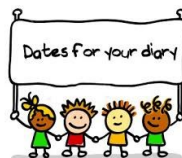


****Important** Safeguarding Reminder**

A reminder to all that there are measures in place on Field Avenue to keep our children safe. These include zig zag lines immediately outside of the school gates and a single line on the opposite side of the road. During drop off and pick up times these should not be parked on. They should also not be used to pull up on to drop children off. By doing so you are acting unsafely and endangering lives.



What's On Here are reminders of forthcoming events
(please transfer them into your diaries)



MARCH

Mon 2nd	Hillside Book Week
Tues 3rd	Whole school performance of 'Oliver Twist' 9.15am
Tues 3rd	Dance rehearsals at Victoria Hall—pm
Tues 3rd	Dance Extravaganza at Victoria Hall—evening
Wed 4th	Cross Country at Hillside—Y4/5/6 at 3.45pm
Thurs 5th	World Book Day—Dress up as a word!
Tues 10th	'The Spring Rock Off' at Springfield County Primary 1pm
Tues 10th	Y3 visit Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Thurs 12th	Y5 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 13th	Sport Relief—details to follow
Tues 17th	Y4 visit Dudley Zoo
Wed 18th	Nursery visit to Reaseheath Farm
Thurs 19th	Y3 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 20th	Nursery Assembly/lunch—Mother's Day Theme 11am
Thurs 26th	Y4 Showcase 9.15am
Thurs 26th	Y1 visit Ford Green Hall
Tues 31st	Parent Consultations from 1.30pm (by appointment)

APRIL

Thurs 2nd	Y1 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri 3rd	School closes at 3.15pm for Easter Break
Mon 20th	School re-opens for summer term
Thurs 23rd	Y2 visit Gladstone Museum

MAY

Tues 5th	Y3 overnight residential at Shugborough OEC
Tues 5th	Y6 leavers and Nursery graduation photos
Thurs 7th	School closed—Police Commissioner Election
Fri 8th	School closed—Bank Holiday
Mon 11th	SAT examinations Y6 Mon-Thurs
Fri 15th	Y6 visit to Alton Towers
Fri 22nd	School closed at 3.15pm for half term break

JUNE

Mon 1st	School re-opens
Mon 1st	Y6 residential visit to Stanley Head OEC Mon-Fri
Tues 16th	Y2 visit Jodrell Bank
Fri 19th	School closed one day—staff inset day

JULY

Fri 17th	School closes at 3.15pm for summer break
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Occasionally dates/times may need to be changed so please keep an eye on the app, newsletters and other correspondence from the school.

Important dates during Book Week:

2nd March

Parents are invited into school to share a story with their child.
(9am-9:40am)

Book Tasting in class

Children to bring their favourite book and a cushion or blanket.

3rd March:

Theatre company performing Oliver Twist.

4th March:

Book Swap Day— children bring a book to school to swap.

Book Jars- children to bring their book jars into school and share.

5th March:

Children to come to school dressed as a word. Throughout the day the children will complete a word hunt also.

Mystery Reader: Mystery reader will continue in all classes throughout the school on this day.

6th March:

Teacher Swapsies: Teachers swap classes to read a story to another class.

Reading bus designs to be handed in.

Other Reading Activities:

World Book Week story writing based on the text: 'Journey by Aaron Becker' within classes.

Staff Book Selfie Competition: Children must guess the teacher based on the book they have chosen.

Gifted Books: Children will all receive a gifted book from school to enjoy.