



# Newsletter

## DIARY DATES

### **March 2021**

#### **March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Full school reopening!

#### **March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Mr Miller virtual PE session – in school

#### **March 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**

Virtual parent consultations

#### **March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Don Rae dance workshop – whole school

#### **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Red Nose Day – children to wear red

#### **March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Last day of term (early close at 13:30)

### **April 2021**

#### **April 12<sup>th</sup>**

INSET Day – school closed to children

#### **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

First day of term

#### **April 14<sup>th</sup>**

\*Additional Nursery COVID safe outdoor tour – prospective families for Nursery 2021/22

### **May 2021**

#### **May 6<sup>th</sup>**

Polling Day – school closed to children

## 05<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Congratulations to everyone for making it to the final week of remote learning. We cannot wait to welcome all children back to school next week and the teachers have been working hard to plan for next week's return. If any children still need to shield or to self-isolate then you will need to contact the office, if you haven't done so already, the remote provision available will be discussed on a one to one basis.



## Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, then call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## School Nursing Services to resume

As schools re-open, the School Nursing team have confirmed they will be working to catch up on missed screenings and checks needing to be completed this year. Reception screening is due to take place in June and we will update those families nearer to the time.



## Pause for thought

*"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle  
you know nothing about.  
Be kind. Always."*

Robin Williams

## Parent consultations and assessment

The spring term parent consultations will take place on Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th March for those parents that have not already had their consultation with one of their class teachers. The times vary across the year groups, to accommodate the number of sessions that are outstanding. Your invitation to book will be sent via ParentMail next week.

The consultation sheets that the teachers have prepared for your child will be sent home to parent/carers on the 22nd March in book bags. These are for your reference and have been completed for all children irrespective of when your consultation was.

The consultations and the slips will cover a number of aspects:

- what catch-up and recovery will look like in your child's year group for key areas of learning
- targets around wellbeing and assessment
- focus on wellbeing
- for children that have been in school, discussion about how your child has been working
- if relevant, an opportunity to discuss how remote learning has been for your child at home, this will focus on what went well, any concerns and wellbeing.

The teachers will be making assessment judgements in the next three weeks, such as reading Benchmarking and spelling and phonics assessments.

## Book Week – 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March

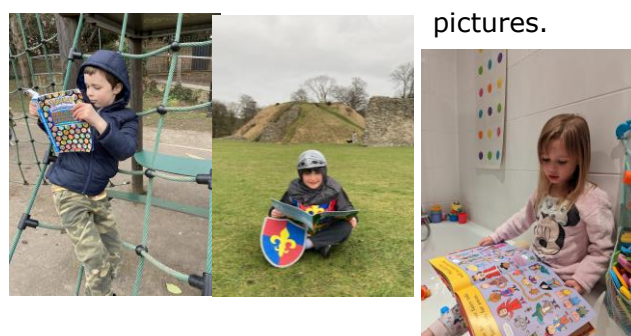
What a fun week it has been. We loved seeing everyone's outfits. Here is Charlotte in Badgers as Fern from Charlotte's Web, Elwood in Rabbits as Harry Potter, Jago



loved Miss Sonner's reading of "Whatever Next!" and was inspired to dress up as baby bear. Alex in Hedgehogs looks fantastic as 'Tiddler'. Harvey



in Badgers drew this great duck as part of the Olaf Falafel session. Also Charlotte in Voles, along with Fraser and Adam in Rabbits sent us fantastic 'unusual places to read' pictures.



Don't forget you can still order from the Book Fair.

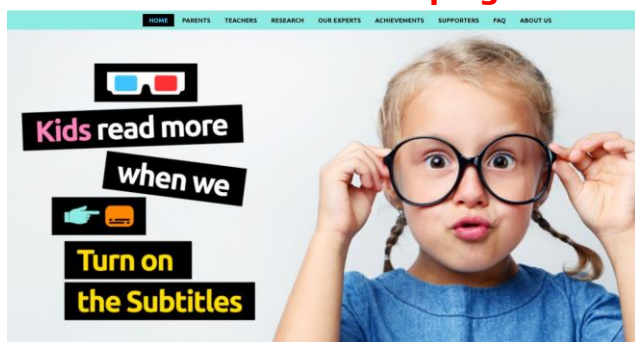
## Nursery Admissions 2021-22

We have added an extra tour date for prospective families on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of April. Hopefully, this will give families the opportunity to visit the school even if they have already applied for a place for Nursery this



September. As restrictions should have changed by then we plan to make this an outdoor tour of the school grounds led by Mrs Gallagher. If you would like to join the tour or know anyone that may want to attend please email the [office](#) or call us on 01442 863913.

## Turn on the subtitles campaign



'Turning on the subtitles' while children are watching television can double the chance of a child becoming good at reading. It is so brilliantly simple, and can improve children's literacy skills, that a campaign has been launched to encourage families to adopt this approach. They are not advocating watching more TV but to do it when you are already watching TV.

Extensive global research has shown just how effective this is. The scheme has been supported by partners – including charities, companies and famous ambassadors. Stephen Fry shares his message of support [here](#). This quick, free tip can help make TV time, reading time.

## Big Soup Share

We, at Swing Gate, participated in the Big Soup Share during autumn 2019 and we are planning to do so again this year. This initiative, now in its fifth year, welcomes neighbourhoods, schools, groups, businesses and individuals to whizz up their home-grown produce into delicious soup to be shared amongst friends, family, neighbours and colleagues. The RHS believes that thousands



more people took up gardening during the UK's first lockdown and many more people are now growing their own food. It would be great if we had even more home-grown food this year, so the children will be growing at school and we will welcome all contributions grown at home so...start planting soon.

## Resilience and Wellbeing Workshop

A free virtual workshop on 'Resilience and Wellbeing' is being run on the 17<sup>th</sup> March by family support worker, Lisa MacGovern. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

## Steve Biddulph Raising Boys & Raising Girls seminars

We hope you enjoyed the seminars yesterday and last Thursday. If you attended one or both of the talks, we would welcome any feedback.

## School/Eco Council

The school council have been investigating recycling, seeing what materials they recycle at home and what we recycle in school. After

completing their research, the children were asked to create a self-portrait using some of the materials which they recycle. These are now on display in school.



## School learning

Year 2 have been cooking in class, last week they made pizzas and decorated pizza boxes. This week they made apple crumble.





Teddy in Squirrels has been using the new climbing wall in the EYFS playground. This will be available for all of our early years classes once restrictions allow us to open the playground to all our Bubbles.



Our display boards have been given a lovely spring update with artwork provided by all of the year group Bubbles currently in school.



## Remote Learning

Ahmad in Foxes recreated a WW1 trenches scene he found in his British history encyclopaedia and made it complete with a Lego man shooting over the top of the trench. Well done!



## School Gateway App

If you have not already done so we highly recommend downloading the School Gateway app. It makes ordering uniform and booking Breakfast Club a simple task. You can download it here.

Reminder, the school's Wisepay account is ending on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. You will be able to disable or delete your account as no payments should be made through Wisepay from now on.

## Wellbeing in Action

A child in Voles shared a mindfulness tip, in school, this week 'to just blow our anger away!' This could be useful for everyone at any age!

## Pizza baked potatoes

### Ingredients

- 4 baking potatoes
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- ½ red onion, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 60g pack sliced pepperoni, torn
- 400g can chopped tomato
- ½ small pack basil leaves, shredded
- 100g grated mozzarella



### Method

#### STEP 1

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Scrub the potatoes and dry well, then prick several times with a fork. Bake directly on the oven shelf for 1-1½ hrs, until they feel soft. If you are short of time, prick each potato with a fork, wrap in a sheet of kitchen paper and microwave on 'high' for 8-10 mins until soft inside.

#### STEP 2

While the potatoes cook, heat the oil in a small pan and sauté the onion for 5 mins to soften. Stir in the garlic and pepperoni, and cook for 1-2 mins, then add the chopped tomatoes. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 5 mins. Season and stir in half the basil. Spoon over the split potatoes and top each one with a good handful of cheese and the rest of the basil.

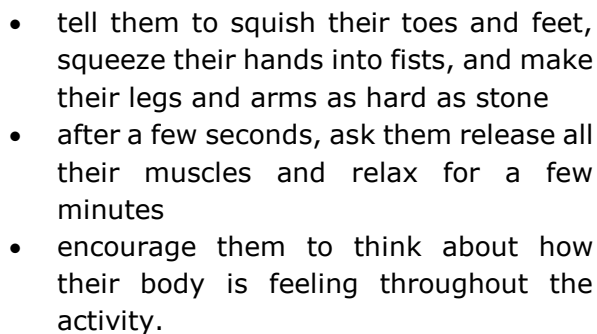
## Mindfulness

### Body Scan

The body scan is a key practice in mindfulness, and an easy one to teach to children:

- ask your children lie down on their back on a comfortable surface and close their eyes
- then tell them to squeeze every muscle in their body as tight as they can





## Easter holiday clubs

## And finally...

I would like to reflect on the latest pandemic and the impact on the whole school community, and take some positives from this experience:

- the school is able to organise remote learning with next to no notice
- the teachers have been improving their IT expertise and now have an additional range of skills available to them
- parents have been given an unprecedented insight into their child's education
- parents have been given the opportunity to have fun with their child

I wish to say....



A special message to the children...



We can't wait to see you.

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)  
Headteacher