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#### **NEWSLETTER – March 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those of you who took the time to return a response to the school day consultation. Just before half term, a working party of two governors and I sat together and took time to read them all. There was a very mixed response, often linked to specific family circumstances, which we understand. We will be taking our work to a full Governing Body meeting later this month for further discussion and hopefully a decision as to what our next steps are. As soon as anything has been decided, we will let you know, but any changes will be carefully thought about, in terms of the impact they may have.

There is just one point I would like to make on this matter. The children in this school are here for 30 hours a week, compared to 32.5 hours in the majority of other schools. That difference equates to 16 and a quarter days across an academic year. In school weeks, that means our children have over three weeks less teaching than their peers in other schools. Many people commented that infant aged children cannot cope with longer days, but across the country, they do. In the school where I was previously Headteacher, our school day ran from 9am to 3.30pm, and the infant aged children managed admirably! Just food for thought.

With regards Mrs Sally Dreckmann

Fairtrade Fortnight (27<sup>th</sup> February - 12<sup>th</sup> March) We are still collecting examples of Fairtrade packaging if you would like to bring any in for a display in school.

Mental Health Week (6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> February) During the week of the 6<sup>th</sup> February, we held a week focussing on Mental Health. Each day the classes held activities that promoted well-being and building friendships. We were very fortunate that one of our lovely Year One Mums, Mrs Sophie Flint (an experienced yoga instructor) was able to come into school and work with each of the Year One and Two classes on some breathing exercises. In addition to this on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, the school held a Mix-Around Morning where the whole school mixed- up and met with new friends in different classes. This aimed to build new friendships across the school and support our younger pupils. The feedback from both the children and staff was extremely positive and this is something we hope to do more regularly.

#### Quotes

"I made friends with James in Ladybird" -Freddie

"I liked it when we made friendship bangles" Kyle

"First of all, I was a little bit nervous but then I thought it was good, after I thought it was fun" Dolly

"We did friendship bracelets and our buddy had to write their name on it, we also did a friendship wall" Lily

When asked if we should do the mix-around morning again every child I spoke to said "yes!"



#### Red Nose Day - Friday 17th March



We are once again supporting this worthwhile charity. Children may come to school dressed in nonschool uniform, if they wish, and bring in a £1 donation for Comic Relief.

Henry Adams - Year 1 Dream Home Competition

The Year 1 children have been given details of a competition to design their 'dream home'. Year 1 parents are invited to join their



children for a special assembly at 2.15 pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March where the winners of the best design will be announced.



### PTA News

It is not too late to enter a team for the guiz night on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Entry forms are available

from the school office. Please can these be returned as soon as possible as we need to notify the caterer of numbers. Thank you.

The PTA have organised a sponsored bunny bounce for the children on the morning of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. A sponsorship form will shortly be sent home in bookbags. Please could your



child bring this form with them on the morning of the bounce. Please can you let the school office know if you do not wish your child to take part.



The PTA have also organised an Easter egg hunt on the morning of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Each class will be given the opportunity to search the school

grounds for Easter pictures and will be given a small chocolate egg to bring home. A non-uniform day has been arranged for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March in which we ask if you could donate a couple of Cadbury's creme egg sized eggs (not Kinder Surprise please) for this activity. If any parent is able to help with the bunny bounce or the Easter egg hunt, please can you let either the PTA or the school office know. Thank you.

#### Linking Voices

Our first focus as a group has been how to improve the children's

lunchtime experience. All of the classes had a Class Council Meeting about how they feel about having lunch in the hall and about lunchtime playtimes. The Linking Voices decided to



start a new monthly reward chart in the hall and each month the winning class will be rewarded with the 'Lunchtime Award' trophy. We are now thinking about the equipment we would like to help us keep active at playtimes and each class will have another Class Council Meeting to decide on equipment they would like us to buy.

For lunchtimes in February the trophies were awarded to...

> **Reception - Sunflower** Year 1 - Ladybird Year 2 - Willow

Well done to all of the children for trying to follow the 'Rules for a Happy Lunchtime' in the hall.

#### SATs Testing

During the first half of the Summer Term, all Year 2 children will be taking the end of Key Stage 1 tests. This comprises of two reading papers and two maths papers. In school we do not tell the children that they are taking these tests and make them part of our everyday work.

#### Makaton Magic

Please see the attached sheet showing the signs the children have been learning during February.



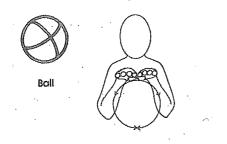
# Dates for your Diary - more details to follow (New dates in <u>Red</u>)

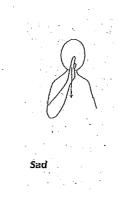
Event	Date	Time
Parent consultations	Weeks commencing 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> February	
Fairtrade Fortnight	27 <sup>th</sup> February - 12 <sup>th</sup> March	
World Book Day (children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character or in their pyjamas)	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	
Year 1 visit to Weald & Downland Museum	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	
Reception Classes visiting Willowhale Library	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	
Oak Class Rehearsal for the 'Big Sing' at the Junior School	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	3.00 pm
Red Nose Day (non-uniform)	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	
Oak Class to the 'Big Sing' at the Arena	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	
Non-uniform day for donations towards the Easter egg hunt	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	
PTA Quiz	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm
Sponsored 'bunny bounce' and Easter egg hunt	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	am
Year 1 parents invited to special assembly regarding the Dream Home competition	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	2.15 pm
Easter Holidays	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	
Start of the Summer Term	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	



## Makaton

We have been learning the following signs this month

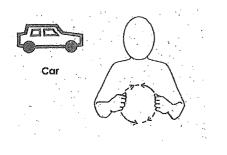




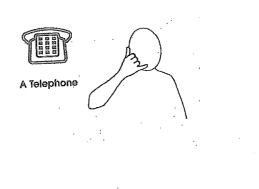
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