

## **NEWSLETTER at HALF TERM MAY 2021**

We break up today, at our usual, staggered times for our half term holiday.

School will re-open on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June when we will continue with our same staggered start and end times. We will follow the same timetable of days for PE kit wearing, or bringing in (depending on classes)

**Musical instrument lessons** will be on the same days and we plan to start organising lessons for those who wish to start learning in September. Information will be sent out soon after half term. We have **extended our sports** to include tag rugby sessions with Saracens and more after school clubs. Sessions have been booked for key stage one pupils who wish to take advantage of the **bike balanceability** programme, and two days have been booked for year six pupils to experience a wide range of sports at our local **Herts Young Mariners Base**, although this year they cannot camp overnight. We will let you know of further plans for June and July soon after the break.

A few reminders – Please, please name all sweatshirts and cardigans. We have put all the un-named items of clothing out on the lower playground, daily, after school this week – last chance to claim things today! Children should not be bringing in additional items from home, such as collectables and cards, including their own fidget toys. We will discuss where these are needed in separate cases and the appropriate ones will be available from school.

We are continuing to record attendance to GOV UK on a daily basis, so please continue to be accurate with reasons for absence, as we follow the Covid rules. We have been asked to make a few points in relation to testing:

1. A PCR (Main booked test) is extremely accurate and has to be used if anyone, including children, has symptoms of Covid. The LFT (lateral flow tests with instant results) are useful for screening those without symptoms only.
2. If a member of a household has symptoms and is awaiting a PCR then all household members must isolate until the PCR confirms a negative, or for 10 days from the onset of the symptoms.

### **LOOKING BACK OVER THIS HALF TERM:**

The children in **Ash & Beech** have finished revisiting phase 3 in Phonics and are now consolidating their skills in their sentence writing. In Maths they have been looking at spatial awareness and 'first, now and then' stories using addition and subtraction. Early years have had a delivery of tractor tyres to have in their outside area which the children have enjoyed climbing on. The theme has covered 'Saving the Bees'; the children have planted meadow flower seeds in the two planters in the playground and decorated them with flowers and bees. They have also had the chance to look at some honeycomb and taste some honey. The children have enjoyed some PE lessons down on the field during the nicer weather, along with yoga sessions.

The children in **Cedar, Elm and Hazel** have settled back into school well after the Easter break. They have learned all about plants in Science and had the opportunity to grow their own bean plants, which they have now taken home to continue with. They have looked at homes in the past and were very surprised to hear about some of the differences between their homes and those of long ago. In line with our new PSHE framework, the children have been learning about the different relationships they have with people in their lives, the significance of these and how they can make these relationships positive and respectful. This has been supported by their R.E. work on rights and responsibilities. The children have demonstrated their patience and perseverance when they learned how to sew and they are now very proud of their bunting triangles. The children in Elm Class thank Miss Kelly for working with them as she moves on to join Cedar Class with their staff, after half term. P.E. classes have continued outside, being led by their class teachers and our sports teacher – Mr Biggs.

Children in **Laurel, Maple and Pine** have enjoyed using a range of texts to further their learning. Using *Arthur and the Golden Rope* they explored a mythical quest, created a map of an imaginary land and described mythical creatures. They wrote their own mythical quests. *The King Who Banned the Dark* was a great persuasive text which generated some lovely pieces of persuasive writing. In maths, they have worked to develop their understanding of fractions and their equivalence, as well as using a formal written method of addition and subtraction.

They have continued to develop their fluency of multiplication facts to prepare for the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. In science, they have continued looking at how plants and animals adapt to their environments and have looked at the work of Maria Telkes, Joseph Priestly and Antoine Lavoisier. Great fun has been had using Scratch as they learned how to code their sprite moving on a range of backgrounds. Our locality has been the geography theme looking at a range of maps of Hoddesdon and investigating a range of human and physical geographical features. They have looked at employers who are based in Hoddesdon. The children have benefitted from our Jigsaw PSHE lessons where they have looked at what makes a good friend, how to solve friendship issues and gender stereotypes as well as keeping safe online.

The children in **Sycamore, Willow and Yew** classes, upper key stage two, have once again worked extremely hard, in all subjects. In English, pupils have completed a range of writing, all linked to the fantastic non-fiction book *'The Planetarium'*. The children have been particularly proud of their written work linked to the planet of *'Pandora'*, sections of which were carefully edited and re-drafted. Regular, *'little and often practice'*, learning and applying spelling rules has resulted in lots of good progress in this area. Reading skills continue to be developed through the teaching of fluency and comprehension. Many children in Upper Key Stage 2 have had the pleasure of accessing some of the excellent new books in the Oak Wing library – all of which have been paid for by commission from past Book Fairs.

In maths, a wide range of topics have been covered, with the children showing an ever improving consistency in their use of the written methods for multiplication, division, addition and subtraction. They have gained knowledge in Roman Numerals and persevered with challenges involving angles.

There has been lots of great learning in other areas of the curriculum too, with the children finding the history of music, taught by Mrs Boxall and RE lessons about the meaning of the soul, taught by Mrs Botting, particularly engaging. They had a great deal of fun in science, discussing inherited characteristics in our topic on evolution! As ever, relationship, sex and health education has a high priority in school and the use of our new resource, *'Jigsaw'*, has been of great benefit to both children and teachers.

The efforts made to access and complete Remote Learning, during our latest isolation period was extremely pleasing; the Harry Potter suspense writing was a real pleasure for teachers to read! It was also great to hear such positive feedback from families, regarding the two Google Meetings each day. The organisation of the remote learning during this last week reflected some of the findings of the surveys conducted just before Easter, when schools returned after the lockdown period. We really appreciated the detail and comments made by many families.

**A huge thank you to all families who have purchased books from our recent Book Fair** – we are pleased to announce that commission raised is over £300! We look forward to being able to welcome families back into school to browse the trolleys with their children – the lovely atmosphere is missed.

Our staff team thank you for your ongoing support and successfully booking and meeting up on line, using our new SchoolCloud system.

We hope you enjoy the half term break and keep safe and well.

Jane Carson

May 2021