

Good Morning

We have had a very productive week in school and I have a lot of new information to share today.

Curriculum

Year 5 are the process of being trained to be **playground leaders** - when we can gather together again they will be helping initiate play activities for the other classes this year and next (when they will be Y6!)

Story Telling Week - this week I set each class a challenge to create a story that they could tell the rest of the school. Their ideas and performances were really exciting and a glimpse into children getting back on track with their learning.

Raby Castle - I have been sent information about a competition for children to design a children's play area. We have managed to secure a visit from the designer of their new play park to talk to some KS2 classes about the design process and where he gets his inspiration from. It is good to get some activities back into school beyond the classroom to inspire the children.

Reading - some (a small group from each class) children will be bringing home a leaflet to support with reading at home. If your child has one please read it and if you have any questions you can ask Mrs Elmes, the class teacher or myself. This will start on Monday 7th February. Can all families make sure that books come back into school when requested so we have the right books for children to choose from when they are changes.

World Book Day 3rd March- the children will be bringing home a voucher to support World Book Day. This gives the children the chance to swap the voucher for one of the 12 £1.00 books for free or £1.00 off other titles. We know they go quickly so wanted to give them to you early. For World Book Day we are giving you advanced warning of our dressing up day. The children will do some work on what they would like to do / be after school (jobs, roles, ambitions) prior to the day and then can come dressed up for their ideal job / role / ambition. We challenge you and your child to find a book related to this. Don't worry if you can't - the teachers will help out. We are wanting to raise the aspirations of children again after the last 2 years and open their eyes to what they can aspire to be.

Red Nose Day - the theme this year is Superheros. We will be joining in this again and nearer the time we will send out information.

Next Week:

Children's Mental health Week - we will be focusing the week on healthy lives to include positive mental health with the theme of Growing Together. The link below has lots of ideas for home to support the week

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk>

Safer Internet Day - The year 6 children will be informing and teaching the whole school about keeping safe and behaving well on the internet. It links in really well with supportive children's positive mental health. Its is important that everyone understands how to keep themselves safe and keep children safe on line. New challenges are always popping up so we all need to be vigilant. I have some resources and information to send home that may be of use and of course their are fantastic things on the NSPCC website.

I have purchased a theatre production around this topic that the children will view in school but I can share with you next week.

Miss Pierson - will be leaving us next week for a teaching position in another County Durham School. Mrs McGeary is back on 14th February but will pop in next week for a smooth handover.

Half Term

We have some leaflets going home about half term activities.

There is an attached word document with more information about clubs available

Attendance

All the children in school will be bringing home their attendance sheets. We have stuck this time to green and white - if the attendance is on track they will have a green sheet and white for everyone else. If there is anything we can do to support any improvements please get in touch with Rachael. We know for some children it has been difficult but we all need to try and get the attendance better than before the pandemic to support catching children up on lost learning but also lost experiences and time to learn social skills.

Foundation	290%
Year 1	95.2%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	95.2%
Year 4	92.6%
Year 5	92.3%
Year 6	99% WOW
Total	94.4%

Have a lovely weekend - I saw a bit of snow mentioned on the weather forecast

M Mackenzie and all the staff