

“Natter and Chatter”

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Welcome to Spring newsletter. What a few weeks of terrible weather we've had. Thanks for sharing some of your snow pictures!

On the right of this page are some dates for your diary.

It's great to be able to *officially* welcome the two new class teacher's **Jake** and **Claire**, who have now settled in well.

Forest Schools has been developing well – Debby (from Red class) has been trained to deliver these sessions and combine these visits with work towards our John Muir awards. *John Muir is an environmental award scheme for people of all backgrounds. It's non-competitive, inclusive and accessible.*

Clubs are continuing for lower school although the up-take has been significantly less since the installation of the new equipment outside. Certainly the upper school students prefer to use their free time outside.

Currently we are operating a science club on a Friday and an art club once each fortnight. Until recently there was a hugely popular cookery club but operating it in a lunch break made it difficult to really reap the rewards. Watch this space for further developments with clubs – we will send home a questionnaire soon, to help us establish what time we have available.

Our **School Council** will be meeting again in the new term and I will be setting them some tasks and challenges – one of them will be to organise a pet week!

Daily Mile: The aim of the Daily Mile is to improve the physical, emotional and social health and wellbeing of our children, regardless of age or personal circumstances. Of course there is the occasional moan and groan but it is essential for pupils to have some daily exercise, particularly in the age of the Internet and gaming.

Pupils are not able to opt-out unless they are ill or injured.

NHS England have given guidelines about the importance of exercise for 5- to 18-year-olds ...



Dates for your diary

Friday 23rd March

Sports Relief

Tuesday 27th March

Parents Evening

Thursday 29th March

End of Spring Term

Tuesday 17th April

First day of Summer Term

Inset day on 16th



“To maintain a basic level of health, children and young people aged 5 to 18 need to do:

- at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day - this should range from moderate activity, such as cycling and playground activities, to vigorous activity, such as running and tennis
- on three days a week, these activities should involve exercises for strong muscles, such as push-ups, and exercises for strong bones, such as jumping and running”

More information about the benefits of the Daily Mile can be found here: <http://thedailymile.co.uk/getting-started/about/>

Keeping in Touch:

It is essential for the continual wellbeing and consistency of support for our students that we stay in touch with home. As you know, you can call us, email us, or message us via Bloomz. Particular issues at home, or even news about things worth celebrating, are important to inform us about – often we can adjust and support our pupils more appropriately once we know there is something on their mind.

The school **Facebook** page is also being used to add updates about important dates and events.

Technology:

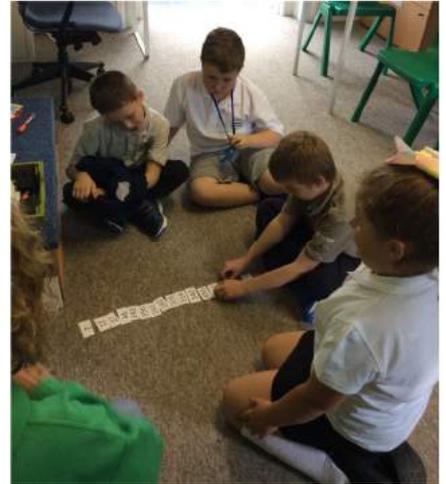
Several of our pupils do some amazing things on their tablets, laptops, games consoles etc. However, we are increasingly being asked to intervene in social media or mobile phone disputes outside school hours.

Although we regularly remind and educate pupils in *appropriate conduct*, and online safety etc, we cannot ‘police’ their technology use outside school hours. Parents or carers must take responsibility for this.

It is also worth remembering that many of our pupils are in need of support for their social skill development so their chronological age should not always be the guide for what they are able to access.

Hope to see some of you on parents evening but if not, have a great Easter break everyone.

Amanda Curry
Headteacher



Upper School Updates:

Yellow Class

Yellow class have had a busy term with lots of new, fun, activities and lessons to sink their teeth into. All pupils have written their own "Choose your destiny" book, where the reader chooses their own path through the story. Pupils planned their stories out then used Power-Point to make their interactive book for readers to follow.

Our KS4 pupils have been enjoying a new ASDAN short course starting to develop skills and knowledge in the construction sector. Pupils have stripped, sanded and repainted second hand furniture. Pupils also used chisels and hammers to carve their names into sections of wood. Pupils have also been developing their personal skills working through real life situations and gaining and understanding of the wider world.

KS3 pupils have been enjoying their foundation lessons upstairs looking at various aspects of Australia and then Islam. Pupils have also been developing their IT skills learning about algorithms and how they can be created, debugged, developed and tested! Pupils have been working through a PSHCE series discussing at length difficulties such as peer pressure and developing positive relationships.

Pupils are very much looking forward to the summer months where they can get out, less restricted by the weather. However, pupils have enjoyed being outside for forest school; building fires and developing wider outdoor educational skills.

Ben Kinslow

Red Class

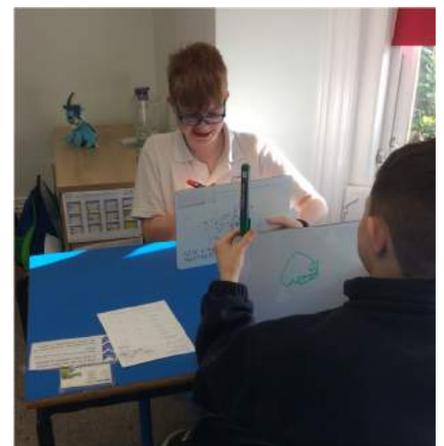
There have been some distinct changes in Red Class this term with myself and Debby as additions to the classroom. Although the initial, expected, resistance and anxiety about 'change' was naturally there, the class is now beginning to gel, settle and engage. It has been great to get to know the students and staff, and I have been made to feel most welcome.

Like Yellow class, Reds have had two interesting topics this term; beginning with Australia and ending with Islam. It has been good for pupils to begin to better-understand different cultures and religions. The students are clearly enjoying the outside equipment although it is interesting to see how many of our young people just enjoy winding down and relaxing at break times.

Another favourite pastime with many of our class is football. Some of our pupils joined a few of yellow class to take part in a recent football tournament in Burgess Hill. We made the final! Although the pupils were massively disappointed to have lost that match it has been really good for them to come to terms with winning and losing.

Lots more interesting things for the Summer term – with opportunities for getting outside; beginning with the topic 'Farming and Fair trade.'

Jake Sheffield



Lower School Updates:

Blue Class

Blue class have had a very busy Spring term with a topic all about 'The Stone Age'. The children have been learning about timelines, and life during the Stone Age era. They have experimented with different natural resources to create paints and dyes and researched cave art. Blue class made their planned and made their own Stone Age inspired jewellery in Design Technology and learnt to sew a variety of different stitches.

We have also researched and written a variety of different instructional texts about life in the Stone Age era. Blue class have also continued to enjoy lots of practical science and problem-solving skills, learning about the human skeletal and muscular systems, they explored what makes bones strong and carried out an experiment to make a bone rubber. The children even built their own arm to show how muscles work together to move the bones.

In maths, we have continued to practise our problem-solving skills with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children have also been exploring fractions, learning about equivalent fractions and how to add them. We have read many 'Stone Age' stories and are currently enjoying reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' as our class novel.

Claire Johnson

Green Class

In Green class, we began the spring term by learning about different robots in use in the world today. We had a focus on the book 'Robo-Sauce' and planned our own stories about what might happen if we accidentally turned in to a robot! The pupils also enjoyed designing and making their own model robots from recyclable materials.

Recently in English we have been looking at 'Arthurian Legends'. We have been learning about the 'Sword in the Stone', with the focus on remembering and sequencing the key events, and then re-telling the story through writing. In our artwork we have been designing and making stencils, using a variety of designing, cutting and painting skills to create different effects. In Science, we have been learning about keeping teeth healthy. We designed and carried out an experiment on 'hard boiled eggs' to see the effect of different liquids on tooth enamel.

The pupils have also been practising their computer programming skills, designing and debugging algorithms to input in to programmable toys and an app called 'Scratch Jr'. We have continued to develop our ball skills and teamwork in P.E, playing games where pupils can practise some tactics and effective communication with team-mates. We have been learning about Judaism and 'Chinese New Year' and in the coming weeks we will be learning about how Easter is celebrated around the world.

Chris Allwright

