



Thursday 11th February 2021

Thank you for all the lovely messages about screen -break day. We enjoyed it too; do look at the website to see the photos you shared.

I start with happy news!

Nursery re-opening

Our Nursery sits outside of the current Covid legislation and as such can be open. As you know we were very affected by two of our Nursery team having bad episodes of Covid, but I am delighted that as they anticipate being back to full strength by 22nd, **we will OPEN our Nursery class for all Nursery children full-time from 22nd**. Please use the Raveley Street side entrance. Our Google Classroom provision will therefore end for Nursery tomorrow.

Those Reception children currently in our Early Years bubble will continue in school in a separate group.

Years 3 4 5 and 6 are now full/over numbers and we have no space for any children in these classes. I am incredibly grateful to those of you who could have enacted your key worker status and haven't. Thank you for following the national need to limit social interactions and accepting the spirit of EP whereby our first priority has been our more vulnerable pupils. We have been under huge pressure to provide high quality remote learning and provide safe provision in school, whilst having staff ill and isolating throughout this half term. It has been really tricky but we are nearly there. Like you, we await the announcement on 22nd February confirming, we hope, a full re-opening on Monday March 8th. In the meantime.....

Open playground!!!!

- Have you missed dancing at our playground disco?
- Do you want a game of football with friends?
- Are you dying to see the new infant play structure?
- Do you want to have a go on the new climbing wall?
- Are you big enough to slide down the junior pole now?

As a warm up to being together again, we'd like to host 'open playgrounds' in the fortnight after half term. You are invited class by class, into school on a set day from 3.45-4.45pm to have the run of the **whole playground** and to re-connect with all your friends and teachers. Parents: you can leave them with us! Drop off at the main gate at 3.45pm and collect promptly at 4.45pm in the Home Zone. We hope you agree this is a good idea.

Proposed dates are:

- Monday 22 Year 4
- Tuesday 23 Year 2
- Thursday 25 Year 3
- Friday 26 Year 1
- Monday 1 Year 6
- Tuesday 2 Year 5
- Thursday 4 Reception

We will confirm day by day as it will be weather dependent. It will be lovely to see you all.



Two GREAT ideas for half term!

Our student teacher Gemma Stansfield has a friend who is recruiting child spies. To take part in the training register at the website below! Parents - this is an excellent website with details for you too! A great project for half term.

<https://www.spykidswanted.com/>

And the Crick Institute has a lovely publication for science at home ideas. Shared along with this newsletter.

And, right in time for the half-term break, they're hosting a new event - the 'Making Mayhem: The Mega Science Quiz' – which will be taking place live on **Thursday 18th February at 11am**.

More details can be found on the Crick website.

Primary Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Luz and Artian in Year 6 who sat the PMC Bonus Round in school, properly invigilated. Because the organisation cannot guarantee all finalists were able to do this, they are not awarding certificates. However, based on previous years' thresholds, Artian would have achieved a silver and Luz a gold! About 1500 from the original 80,000 keen mathematicians attain medal status in this bonus round of whom 150 make gold and 650 silver, putting Luz in the top 0.2% and Artian in the top 1%. So many of Year 6 inspire younger children to aim high in so many ways; this is another fine example. We are very proud.

Nursery applications

A very final reminder to all of you and your neighbours that we need applications for Nursery 2021. This will be for children born between 01.09.17 and 31.08.18. We sense that with lockdown and the lack of access to both visiting us and meeting up with other parents, that many parents don't have the same sense of urgency for applying. We will begin to allocate places for September after half term.

Stars of the week

Congratulations to you all on another week. Teachers will continue, in the absence of Golden Book assembly, to highlight children who have done particularly well. I have a large collection of chocolate button bags for this week and last week's stars. Do come and collect yours anytime 8-6 daily – we'd love to see you!

- **Nursery** Alba, Susie loves how you enthusiastically take on any Google Classroom challenge and get stuck into all activities on zoom - what a star!
- **Reception** - Sophie's star is Effie for completing every piece of work and putting lots of effort into everything you hand in. I love your enthusiasm for our maths games that you play over Zoom with your grandparents!
- **Year 1's** star is Éile. You persevere through tricky things, fully embrace all the work set and go above and beyond!
- **Year 2** Star of the Week is Zachy – Miss Cousins was really impressed with your creative writing on screen free Friday! Keep up the great work!
- **Year 3** Rachel for giving 100% every week and for all your smiles and enthusiasm during zooms. An EP superstar!
- **Year 4** Mr Palejowski says Samiya, you are a star! You continue to put such effort into maths with fractions and decimals, you have grown in reading confidence and are working so hard.
- **Year 5's** star is Zahra. Mr G loves your enthusiasm for reading, getting through loads of books at home and wanting more too!
- **Year 6** Miss Mac says Hector, you have been wonderful throughout the whole of lockdown. The quality of your work is outstanding - particularly the science fiction writing you did this week!

Half term

Next week is a holiday! School will be closed. There will be no Google Classroom work. As ever we ask you to enjoy time together, to read books and – respecting all the current rules – to get out and about and reboot the brain and the focal length!

A final huge thank you and well done to you all for making it through the half term.

With love and best wishes to you and all your family.

Kate Ford