



Headteacher Newsletter

Believe in yourself, Value others, Be proud of your achievements, Smile, Shine, Be happy.



So we are now full swing into the Spring term and what a fantastic start we have had!

Across the school the children settled in very quickly to their learning and have made a conscious effort to ensure they are remaining focused to learn and develop their prior knowledge and skills.

So far this term we have spent time thinking about the importance of being in school on time and how this affects our children's learning. If you start your day off on a positive, then chances are the rest of your day will continue in this way. If however you begin your day in a rush and in a more negative headspace, unfortunately this may just set the standard for the remaining hours. Try to ensure you allow yourselves plenty of time to wake up, complete your morning routines, eat a healthy breakfast together and get to school on time so that you are setting yourself and your children up for a positive day.

As you will all be aware, our school priority this year is reading. We have worked really hard, to boost the children's perception and attitude towards reading and have seen an incredible improvement. Thank you to the parents who, no matter what, read daily with their child and make it a fun and enjoyable experience - this really does make a huge difference to your child's learning. We will once again be dressing up for World Book Day next month and more details about this will follow soon.

Enrichment got off to a great start once again, with the children moving onto a new set of activities. The children always express how much they enjoy these sessions so it is something that I have always ensured remains fixed in our timetables. These sessions do truly provide such incredible opportunities for our children and I would like to thank all of the staff involved in these for all of their hard work, planning and resourcing that goes into them. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to provide such high quality learning opportunities - I really appreciate it :)

Last month I asked if you would all take some time to make comments in the children's learning diaries, thank you so much to all the parents who have done this. I love coming around and reading some of your lovely words of encouragement for your children and your positivity towards the learning the children are being provided. Please keep it up!

Last week we had our first Purple Light treat for 2017, with a second round coming up soon, as so many children achieved one at the end of last term and the beginning of this new one. All I can say is Wow! What an amazing achievement, you should all feel really proud of yourselves. Thank you to the lovely Mrs Dawson and Mr Rush for running the ice cream parlour, the children were all really thankful and polite - makes me so proud.

We had a Parent Rep meeting on the 20th January and were looking at what our favourite children's books were and how we can continue to inspire reading in the future. The lovely Parent reps are going to be coming into school soon to create some fun resources for the children to use to promote a range of areas within English and we look forward to sharing these with you all soon at a special Learning Cafe event in the near future. Keep your eyes peeled for more information about this.



Highlights from the past few weeks

Christmas Crafts was a huge success and lots of families came along to enjoy some time with each other. From this we raised a whopping £555.74 - thank you so much for your contributions

We had an excellent start to the year and all the children came in very settled and happy :)

Enrichment began again with new activities for all the children

Year 1's had fun doing some Multi Skills over at Stanground Academy

Clubs began again, thank you once again to those members of staff that give up their time to support and run these activities

The Local Authority and Headteachers from local Primary Schools came in to look at our reading provision and were very impressed :)



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 7th February

Just a quick reminder that we will be taking part in Safer Internet Day next week. This is a really important subject for both children and adults to inform themselves of the dangers online. Please refer back to the Online Safety booklet that was sent home in January for more information on how you can best support your children at home.

Chinese New Year

Spring Festival

As you will all be aware, we have an International Cafe based in the Upper KS2 area which changes every half term to support a different culture and language. This half term we are celebrating the Chinese New Year and the children will have the opportunity, through their Morphus and Nonsense Day, to explore the Chinese culture and learn a bit more about the celebration of the New Year. The New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is marked by the lunisolar Chinese calendar, so the date changes from year to year. The festivities usually start before the New Year and continues until the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the new year. Each Chinese New Year is characterised by one of 12 animals which appear in the Chinese zodiac. The Chinese zodiac is divided into 12 blocks (or houses) just like its western counterpart, but with the major difference being that each has a time-length of one year instead of one month. This year it is the year of the Rooster, the 10th animal in the cycle. The next year of the Rooster will not be until 2029! According to Chinese belief, which year you are born in depicts part of your characteristics. People born in the Year of the Rooster are characterised as honest, energetic, intelligent, flexible and confident. But according to Chinese astrology, the year of your sign is believed to be one of the most unlucky years of your life!



A suggestion from the Parents



Every month I ask for your suggestions to help us further develop and improve our school. One parent has given an incredible suggestion and I thought I would share it with you. As you will all be aware we have a light system in place for all staff in school to record and manage behaviours. Within this system we also award Purple Lights to children who are consistently working hard, doing above and beyond what is expected or have shown an incredible talent or achievement within school and the wider community. The suggestion has come in to be able to elect a member of staff for a Purple Light! I think this is such a kind and thoughtful suggestion so we would like to create a Purple Light style acknowledgement for you to give thanks or recognise a member of staff for whatever it may be. So with this in mind, our first member of staff recognised for their incredible support for a new pupil is Mr Addison. Kuba's mum has said that he has made a huge difference to Kuba, helping him to become more independent and confident which reflects in how much he enjoys coming to school and has made a huge impact. So on behalf of the parents, we would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Addison!

Year 2 are off to Stibbington!

On the 13th of February the first set of Year 2's will be setting off on their first residential visit to Stibbington. We feel that these experiences are extremely important for our children and they learn a lot from doing lots of exciting hands on experiences. Stibbington is always a fun filled adventure, from start to finish, in a not so far away location for children to test the waters about being away from home. We hope all of the children who are off on their first adventures have an amazing time and use this experience to learn lots and lots about sustainability and the wider world.



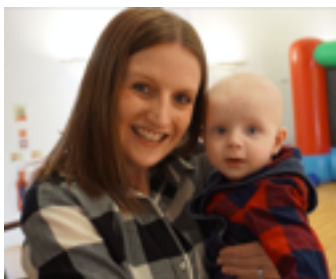
Valentines Disco



On the 10th of February we will be hosting a Valentines Disco from 16:15 until 17:30. You should have already received a letter informing of the details for this and asking you to fill in a slip and return the £3.00 ticket fee to cover the cost of the disco, drink, crisps and sweets. There will also be some little valentines cookies on sale at the event at a cost of 20p each.

Welcome back!

We would just like to take the opportunity to say a huge welcome back to three lovely teachers who are returning after their maternity leave. Firstly we have Mrs White who joined us only last week and is currently doing her contact days with Year 6 before returning after half term. Little Joshua is now 8 months old - how quickly has the time flown past! Secondly we have Mrs Coles returning after taking a short break out to spend more time with her beautiful daughter Isla who turned one in November. Mrs Coles is returning for one day a week and will be with the Year 4 children. And finally after only a short time away on maternity leave we have Mrs Paterson who will be returning to us for her contact days from February until Easter when she will return full time in the Middle School base. Her beautiful daughter Molly joined big sister Mia back in October and is now 4 months old :)



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Punctual Achievement:

Meghna K, Cleo M, Ella J, Brady J, Freddy M, Kyle K, Charlie L, Archie J, Emilija M, Kian L, Brooke M, Ashton J, Mason J, Klara N, Sophie L, Luca P, Caysee K, Logan M, Wictoria N, Amber N, Savannah L, Jacob B, Alisha P, Gracie L, Rocco P, Ethan K, Cameron P, Tiana R, Grace-Mae P, Millie M, Shae J, Lucy P, Lauren L, Rebecca R, Chelsea L, Jacob R, Kieran H, Kaycee S, Gracie-Mae L, Connie G, Ella J, Melisa N, Humza H, Callum F, Zack S, Edward J, Grace D, Madison P, Gabija V, Cailin F, Nia I, Isobelle V, Sanjana P, Ella M, Simona H, Benjamin C, Abigail W, Manpreet S, Shyla J, Elijah H, Reuban B, Gabija V, Rhys K, Alysha W, Esme F, Dante R, Jack P and Adam G.

Achievements KS1:

Alfie H, Millie M, Ruby B, Charlotte E, Kyle K, Lucas L, Jindrich S, Chelsea L, Jessie G, Cleo M, Harleigh B, Thomas P, Kaden R, Zoe-Eliora B, Ugne B, Cameron P, Jonah S, Luca P, Kaden P, Summer F, Alex R, Dominique C, Coroker DS, Harry S, Amber CD, McKenzie C, Trinity G and Haaris.

Achievements KS2:

Bradley M, Michal B, Giovanni B, Jakob B, Saskia S, Blake N, Layla P, Louise F, Dana L, Jessica M, Emily S, Ibrahim Q, Kobe F, Joe W, Jack P, Kiana M, Keeley R, Julia S, Marco S, Thomas M, Ryan A, Freya B, Elliott H, Nicolas DS, Lucas M, Callum S, Rio B, Destiny W, Mia J, Humza H, Jack T, Callum K, Abigail W and Jude I.

Marvellous Manners:

Zack S and Brandon T

Mathletics:

KS1 Nasir S, Charlie L, Sian A, Ema G, Abolaji O & Fatimah A
Dhiran J, Aisha S, Shyla J, Bradley L, Erin S & Katya L-A



St Valentine and the Butterflies

Many many years ago, in old Rome there was a king named Claudius. Claudius was a very cruel king. He did not like to see people happy and was always starting wars with other countries. In the same city, there lived a kind priest named Valentine. He loved all things and was often seen out in his gardens, tending the plants and enjoying the butterflies that fluttered about the pretty petals of the flowers. Father Valentine made sure to take very good care of his garden, for he knew that the butterflies needed the flowers in order to live.

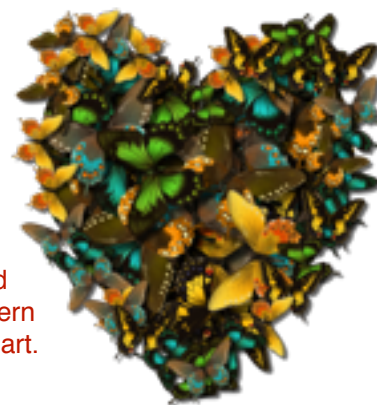
Another thing that made Father Valentine very happy was to see young people in love. Love was the best thing that could happen to two people, and when couples came to him and asked him to marry them, it was a time for great festivities. Now, Claudius did not like to see people get married, for that meant that when a war came, his soldiers did not want to leave their wives and children. Young soldiers did not want to leave their sweethearts. So the king, being the cruel man that he was, banned all marriages and made it illegal for anyone to become engaged.

Father Valentine was very upset at this, and he performed weddings in secrecy. Young couples in love would sneak through his garden, past the lovely flowers and butterflies and in through the back door where they would be married.

Eventually, Claudius heard that Father Valentine was still performing marriages and ordered his guards to go and arrest the priest. The good Father was taken and thrown into the dungeon! While he was in the dungeon, Father Valentine learned that the jail-keepers daughter was blind and sent for her. He touched her brow and she was immediately granted her sight. It was a miracle!

When the cruel King Claudius learned of this miracle, he thought it was witchcraft and immediately ordered that Father Valentine's head be chopped off! On the morning of the execution, February 14, of the year 270, the priest sent a letter to the jail-keepers daughter, whom he had fallen in love with. He signed the letter "From your Valentine". That is why we sign our Valentine's Day cards the way we do today.

As Father Valentine was being buried after the execution, a huge swarm of red and white butterflies appeared and circled over the people at his funeral. They fluttered here and there, and eventually landed upon Father Valentine's coffin. The people looked at the pattern that the butterflies had made when they landed and saw that it was shaped like a big heart. And that is why we use the heart as a symbol of love today.



Recommended Reading

As you all know, our school priority is Reading this year. With Valentines Day fast approaching we would like to encourage you to spend some time reading some classic stories all about love and kindness. Here are a few of our favourites :)



Love Monster is a hairy monster trying to fit in with the cuddly residents of Cutesville and find someone who will love him just the way he is. His journey is not easy, but he soon discovers that love can find you when you least expect it.



Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare compare their love for each other in this sweet story.

This board book for little ones, I Love You to the Moon and Back, shows all the different ways you can show someone you love them, even when you're a bear cub!



Love from Paddington is another beautifully written story of this loveable bear on his adventures out in London city. This captures his letters home to Aunt Lucy.



Romeo and Juliet a classic love story for older children. This version is a perfect retelling of one of Shakespeare's most famous stories :)





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Vilius K, Nicolas DS, Struan E, Isabelle F, Savannah-Rose L, Harry S, Jake H, , Storm G, Lola-Belle TE, Cohen CD, Jack D, Courtney C, Konrad A, Gabriel R, Lena S, Blake N, Fenton B, Charles B, Orlando D, Lucas L, Connor T, Nathan W, Morgan T, Cameron W, Travis W, Saskia TD, Matas M, , Faith S, Jan A, Freya B, Jessica B, Kelsie B, Aleena O, Luca S, Neisha D, Bartosz A. Ella-Louise J and Sophie C.

HOUSE WINNERS

KS1 - Kings: Dorian D (JWa) and Thomas R (NP)

Queens: Lily W (VJ), Faith (JWa), Lilia (VJ) and Madie H (EW)

KS2 - King: Filip (NB)

Queen: Seren (HP)

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| 1st Canaries | 633 |
| 2nd Parrots | 630 |
| 3rd Kingfishers | 589 |
| 4th Robins | 579 |



PARENT'S COMMENTS TO THE HEAD

As always we really value your opinions about our school. Please add your comments here for the Headteacher. You can return them in an envelope if you would prefer them to remain confidential.

Please use the remaining space to make any further comments about things you like, the things you think we need to develop or any ideas you may have and we will try to use them in school.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Year 4 Sports Hall Athletics 03.02.17
 Year 3/4 Gymnastics competition 07.02.17
 Class photos and Yr 6 Individual 08.02.17
 Internet Safety Day 09.02.17
 Valentines Disco 10.02.17
 Year 2 Stibbington Residential 13 & 15.02.17

March

Year 4 Harry Potter 01.03.17
 World Book Day 02.03.17
 Year 5/6 Swimming Gala 02.03.17
 Year 3 Flag Fen 03.03.17
 Year 6 Cross Country 03.03.17

TERM DATES

Spring Term 2017

Opens Wednesday 4th January
 Half term - Monday 20th to Friday 24th February
 End - Friday 7th April

Summer Term 2017

Opens - Wednesday 26th April
 May Day - Monday 1st May
 Half term - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
 Ends - Thursday 20th July