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### Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all. The Spring Term sees children starting new topics, and you will receive news of these in class newsletters which outline each theme and the areas to be covered. Do not forget also to look at class pages on our website as well as our Twitter feed and Facebook page which are regularly updated with news and events.

Thank you to all the parents who supported with holiday homework projects in preparation for the new term. Each week in Years 1 to 6 we send home a literacy and maths task as well as some tricky spellings. We encourage children to look, say, cover, write, check when practising spellings and there is a list of common words that children should know in their homework diaries.

In two weeks' time we will be celebrating Work and Enterprise week with a range of activities including trips and visits to places of work. There will also be visits from parents/carers from different professions and an entrepreneur's fayre after school. Work and Enterprise Week forms part of our personal, social and health curriculum which encompasses life skills and ways to be safe, healthy and happy.

We have listed key dates on the back of this newsletter including new coffee morning themes to which all parents are invited to drop in. Please make sure you take note of our holiday dates as we will not authorise absences outside of the 3 months that children have as holiday each year. We monitor attendance very closely with the aim that our pupils get their full 190-day educational entitlement each year. Our classes start with learning activities from the very start of the day, so lateness means that practise of key skills such as handwriting, number facts or spelling will be missed, as well as being disruptive for the rest of the class.

Communicating with our community is an important part of what we do. Making sure you get timely information about activities and events is something we care about. For questions and concerns, class teachers are always happy to speak to you when you pick up your child at the end of the school day. Alternatively, you can contact the school office to arrange an appointment. Our senior leaders are also available at the school gates at the beginning and end of the day to answer any queries, questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support.

**Mr Stephen O'Brien - Headteacher | Ms Rachel Davie - Executive Headteacher**



### Reminder



**CHILDREN MUST COME TO SCHOOL IN FULL UNIFORM AND SMART BLACK SHOES!**



**SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:55AM AND LEARNING STARTS STRAIGHT AWAY. BE ON TIME AT FIVE TO NINE!**

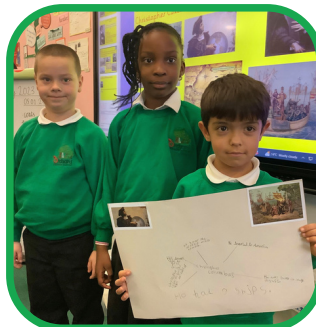
### Exploring Modes of Transport

EYFS have been exploring their new topic on transport by role playing in their 'airport', getting ready to fly to different countries around the world. They have also presented their fantastic holiday homework projects, and have had fun creating their own cars using a range of collage materials.



### Historical Figures

Year 2 researched their first explorer, Christopher Columbus in their history lesson last week and created posters to display their new found knowledge. The children will learn about a range of explorers including Mae Jemison who was the first black female astronaut.



### Plants in Space

Year 5 learnt and discussed how plant growth may be affected in space during their gardening workshop last week. As part of an experiment, they planted seeds in different materials (including space rock) to test the best ground conditions plants need in order to grow.



## Coins and Calculations

In maths, Year 2 have been developing their understanding of addition using money. They have been looking at different coins to identifying their properties and work out their value, then they have worked in pairs to calculate the total value of three different chosen coins.



## Chess Skills

Year 3 have been refreshing their knowledge of chess during lessons conducted by a specialist teacher. This week the focus was on castling which consists of moving one's King two squares toward a Rook on the same rank and then moving the Rook to the square that the King passed over.



## Key Dates

### SPRING TERM 2023

Staff Training Day (SCHOOL CLOSED):  
Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Children's Start Date:  
Wednesday 4th January 2023

Work & Enterprise Week:  
Monday 23rd January - Friday 27th January 2023

Safer Internet Day:  
Thursday 9th February 2023

Half Term Holiday:  
Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2023

Children's Start Date:  
Monday 20th February 2023

World Book Day:  
Thursday 2nd March 2023

Parents' Evening:  
Thursday 23rd March 2023

End of Term Finish Date:  
Friday 31st March 2023 (SCHOOL CLOSES at 2pm)

## Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexi Space at 9:15am on a Friday morning. These are an opportunity to meet with other parents as well as learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

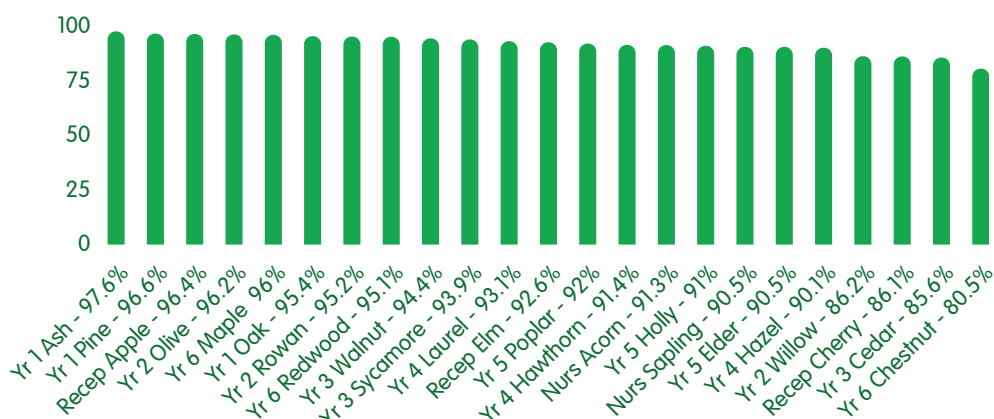
Date	Focus
Friday 6th January	<u>Maths</u> : How can I support my child with their Maths homework?
Friday 13th January	<u>Writing</u> : What can I do at home to help my child develop their writing?
Friday 20th January	<u>MfL</u> : What do children learn in Spanish and how can language learning be supported at home?
Friday 27th January	<u>Music</u> : What does the music curriculum look like at our school?
Friday 3rd February	<u>Physical Education</u> : What do the opportunities for Physical Education look like throughout my child's time at school?
Friday 10th February	<u>ICT</u> : What are children expected to know in ICT?
EYFS Parent/Carer Workshops	
Date	Focus
Thursday 26th January	<u>Speech and Language</u> : How can I use stories to support my child's language?

## Attendance

As a school we take punctuality very seriously and we are proud that our children are at school and in their class lines at 8.55am. This means children have a settled and uninterrupted transition into the school, and teachers are able to ensure the day starts promptly. Thank you for your continued support!

Whole school attendance for the last week was 92.1%.

Well done to Year 1 Ash class, the weekly winners with 97.6%.



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