

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a restful half term break and are ready for the second half of the Spring Term. Whilst reading, writing and counting will always be a central part of what we teach, we are also keen that our pupils receive a wide and rich curriculum which inspires learning in other areas and teaches life skills too. We have a busy half term coming up with a number of events planned including a cross-site timetable competition and Design and Technology Day. Last year we were successful in securing funding which means a group of KS2 pupils will be undertaking a visit to Tenerife in April. Children will have the opportunity to visit our partner school and practise their Spanish learning. If you are not yet following our social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter, you can use the link in the newsletter to find us and see the broad range of learning experiences undertaken as part of our curriculum and enrichment offer.

Thank you to all the parents who completed our school survey last term. We had 190 responses from parents of children in all year groups. We are very pleased that 100% of parents strongly agree or agree that the school provides a good education for their child, that they are happy with the progress that their child is making and that their child feels that their teachers work hard and teach well. We will use your feedback to continue to make sure we are providing the highest quality education and care. As part of this, we are keen that all children understand how to be healthy. All classes receive lessons about the importance of a healthy lifestyle including the dangers of drugs and alcohol as well as the importance of exercise and healthy eating. Our school kitchen has a salad bar which is available for all children taking a school dinner to choose some vegetables or freshly made salad to go with their meal and we encourage them to take this option. All children under the Mayor's funding commitment receive free school meals from Reception to Year 6 and the school provide free school meals for full time Nursery children also.

If you have moved or changed your telephone number recently please make sure you have let the school office know. It is essential that we can contact you quickly in case of an emergency, and also have a second number to call if we cannot get hold of you. The number and email for our office is on the back of this newsletter.

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

In this issue:

- Headteacher's Letter
- Punctuality
- Book Bags
- Exploring Technology with EYFS
- Firefighter Workshop with Year 1
- Talent Recruiter Workshop with Year 4
- Orchard Friends
- Dr Bike
- Coffee Mornings
- Attendance
- Key Dates
- Term End and Start
- School Uniform

Reminders

Punctuality

Please make sure children arrive in good time to line up in the playground with their class. School starts at 8.55am and every minute counts.



Book Bags

Remember book bags need to be brought to school every day. This teaches both responsibility and independence.



Exploring Technology

As part of Safer Internet Week, EYFS have been exploring technology through time. They enjoyed talking about what phones, games and computers look like today and compared them to what they looked like in the past. They used their cutting and sticking skills to sort the different forms of technology into past and present.



Firefighter Workshop

During Work and Enterprise Week, Year 1 were exploring jobs in the emergency services. We had a visit from local fire fighters where we learnt all about the responsibilities, daily routines and uniforms. We then had the opportunity to assist the fire fighters with spraying the hose from the fire engine.



Talent Recruiter Workshop

To expose our children to a wide range of work and career opportunities, each year group had a visitor from a different work sector during Work and Enterprise Week. Year 4 had the pleasure of meeting a Talent Recruiter from Universal Music Group. In her role she gets to work with a variety of people in the music industry and assigns them to various roles.





Orchard Friends

At our After School Club, 'Orchard Friends', pupils take part in activities such as arts and crafts, board games, construction games, as well as outdoor play. We try to incorporate the ideas our pupils share and regularly update our activities in order to engage all pupils, as well as provide them with opportunities to develop a range of skills.



Dr Bike

Our mechanics oversaw a Dr Bike check at each of the Viridis Schools, checking over 50 bikes in all. All pupils, parents and staff are welcome to bring their bike in for a check up. The next Dr Bike session is scheduled for Tuesday 30th April.



Key Dates

Year 5 Poplar Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 29th February 2024 at 11:00am

Year 3 Walnut Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 29th February 2024 at 9:05am

Year 1 Ash Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 29th February 2024 at 10:30am

World Book Day
Thursday 7th March

Year 5 Holly Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 7th March 2024 at 11:00am

Year 3 Sycamore Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 7th March 2024 at 9:05am

Year 1 Pine Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 7th March 2024 at 10:30am

Year 5 Elder Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 14th March 2024 at 11:00am

Year 3 Cedar Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 14th March 2024 at 9:05am

Year 1 Oak Class Assembly - New Hall
Thursday 14th March 2024 at 10:30am

Parents' Evening (School finishes at 1:45pm)
Thursday 21st March

Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space at 9:15am on a Friday. These allow you to meet with other parents as well as to learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home. EYFS Workshops are held separately. Please see the dates below.

Date	Focus
Friday 1st March	<u>Physical Education</u> : How do we develop children's physical development in school?
Friday 8th March	<u>Belonging</u> : How do children learn about bias and equality over their time in primary school?
Friday 15th March	<u>Easter Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
Date	EYFS Workshop
Thursday 7th March	<u>Physical Development</u> : How can I support my child's fine and gross motor skills?

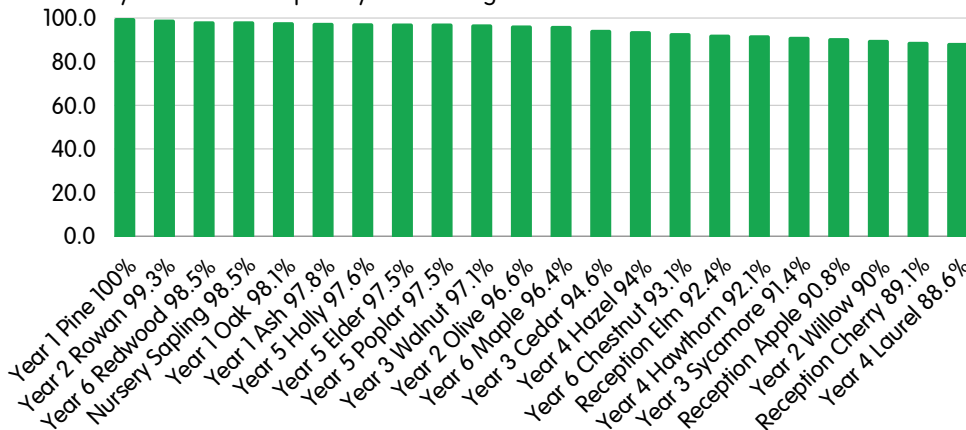
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 94.9%.

Well done to Year 1 Pine class, last week's winners with 100% attendance.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



Term End and Start

The second half of the spring term ends at 2.00pm on Thursday 28th March 2024, and the Summer Term starts at 8:55am on Monday 15th April 2024. All holidays must be booked out of school term time to avoid penalty fines.



School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



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