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AND RESOURCED PROVISION FOR
HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN
Headteacher: Mrs C Findlay

12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year!

I think last week was a little bit of a shock to us all coming back to school on 2nd January, but learning is now in full swing! As a school we have reflected upon how tricky it can be to keep New Year's Resolutions and looked at ways at over-coming the common pitfalls. Changing habits and learning new things is extremely hard and even as adults we can appreciate that, when things feel tricky, we sometimes want to give up! This term we will continue to encourage the children to have a 'growth mindset' and to develop their resilience when faced with challenges in their learning as this is the key to getting the most out of lessons.

Clubs

I am very sorry that this term we have not been able to place all children in a club. Unfortunately, many of the clubs were very oversubscribed and at these times children were selected in the fairest way possible by pulling names out of a hat. I also appreciate that many of the clubs available run on the same night of the week. To explain, the vast majority of our clubs are run by school staff who are not paid any additional money for doing so. Staff also have a duty to attend other meetings after school and as a minimum attend a weekly staff meeting and secondly a planning night with their team and this then limits the nights they have free to offer a club. We will continue to review the clubs on a termly basis and try to ensure that all children are given opportunities over the academic year. If you, or your children, have any good ideas for clubs you would like us to consider then please let us know.

Parent / Carer Governor Vacancy

I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that the deadline for applications to be a school governor is next Tuesday 16th January. Being a governor does mean commitment and will take some of your time and energy - but it is also rewarding in giving you an even greater feeling of involvement with the school and pride in being part of the "Manor Team". Training and support will also be available to help you in your role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training.

Update from the Year Teams

Year 3

It's been a busy start to the term in Year 3. We have launched our history topic by learning about the chronology of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. This week we braved the cold in our class tribes to create tracks and trails; practise our spear throwing and aiming to hit a target accurately. We have been lucky enough to bring our learning to life as we had the opportunity to handle a variety of artefacts and replicas from Farnham Museum. The children were amazed to feel how heavy stone hand axes were.

We have really enjoyed starting to learn the recorder and the notes B, A and G. It won't be long before we are able to play a tune!

In maths we have started to learn more about telling the time using an analogue clock. Please do practice this at home so your child is confident telling the time to the nearest minute on both an analogue and digital clock.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy two weeks. Last Friday we went on our local walk and collected some data about our environment. We then turned the data into bar graphs. We were surprised at some of the litter that we found. As a comparison, we looked at our lunchboxes and the school grounds. Thankfully we didn't find any abandoned sofas or beds in the playground! We are looking forward to learning more about our environment and our community litter pick in February.

Last week we finished our DT project and made our torches. The hardest part was fitting the electronic circuits into our torches to make them work. In our maths, we have been finding the area by counting squares and looking at fractions. In English, we are just about to write our speeches in the viewpoint of an animal wanting to save the Kapok tree from being cut down.

Year 5

Year 5 have settled back into learning really well after the Christmas break and have now started a new topic looking at aspects of North America.

In English, they have been studying a book called *The Journey* by Francesca Sanna. This book has provided a stimulus for the children's own recounting writing. In maths lessons they have been looking at factors, multiples and prime numbers.

Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic first day back into school last week, as they had a visit from Zoolab. Pupils had the opportunity to see and hold a variety of rainforest creatures and this was a great experience for all. We are currently writing some beautiful descriptions of the rainforest in English lessons. In maths lessons, we have been exploring ratio and proportion.

Next week we will be holding a mock SATS week in school for the children in Year 6. We do not want the children to be anxious about this, but as always just to try their best. The aim is to give the pupils a practice and 'feel' of what the SATS week will be like and also for us to ascertain strengths and areas for development for each pupil. We will let you know how your child has performed in these tests, so you too can help them prepare for May.

Reading

Please could I ask and encourage you to hear your child read at home regularly no matter what year group they are in. It really has such a huge impact on their progress with reading. When you are hearing your child read at home, please could you record this in your child's yellow reading book. If you have not yet made a New Year's resolution –this could be it!

Having checked the weather, it looks chilly, but bright this weekend – good weather for a family walk! If this is not your thing however, I wish you well with whatever you get up to.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Findlay
Headteacher