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Dates for Diary 2022

Monday 28th February – First day of Spring term 4
 Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day
 Tuesday 15th March – FOHWPS "Sponsored Gallop" raising school funds during race week
 Friday 18th March – Red Nose Day – Wear something red and activities in school
 From week 4 – Class parent sessions to share learning, presentations and stories
 WC 21.03.22 and WC 28.03.22 – Invites will be sent for SEND Reviews with class teacher and SENDCo
 WC 04.04.22 – Parents Evening – details to follow
 Friday 8th April 2022 – Last Day of term

Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, a huge thank you to parents, carers and teachers for making **World Book Day** such a wonderful day for our pupils. The children's costumes were fantastic. Some pupils have spent such care in their design and creation of their diorama's representing their favourite story or book.



The children can buy a book for £1 with their voucher at local supermarkets and shops. Our children love reading in school and it is brilliant when they can practise and share their reading with you at home.

School Coats



Thank you for returning the size form regarding the school coats. The Soho Coffee House have donated nearly £3,800 now to our school, to pay for all children to have school coats. This is currently a "one off" donation, as they have been recycling "Cardboard to Coats". This is an amazing donation as a result of their staff team's hard work. A huge thank you to them all!

Our plan is to have the school logo embroidered on them, so that the children feel unified as a school family. The PE kits have had a great impact on children feeling part of a team, equal to their friends, as well as smart and comfortable. We want the children to feel the same and to have the protection needed for the seasonal weather, so that they can enjoy outdoor learning and play.



Liked by fienasuttall and 18 others
 sohocoffee We're so excited to introduce our brand new local community initiative, Cardboard into Coats
 We're working alongside local primary school Hester's Way Primary in Cheltenham to help them raise £3,400 to buy coats for all the children so they can play outside in the winter



World Events

We would like to reach out and share our sympathies, thoughts and prayers with our pupils and their families, who are affected by the current situation in the Ukraine and Russia. We would also like to reassure you that the teaching staff are dealing with questions and queries about this world event, sensitively in school. If you think that your child may need additional support with this, please speak to their class teacher. The Pastoral Support Team can also help and support where needed.

A subject such as this can be difficult and challenging for children to deal with, as such we ensure that this is done through child friendly talk and it is approached at a level depending on the age of the children.

Physical Education and Sports Update

It is brilliant that we have started clubs again and have invited specialist teachers back into school to lead sessions.

The Year 3 and 4 classes were so excited to go swimming this week, at Cheltenham College. They will have swimming sessions for the rest of this term. Year 5 and 6 will attend later in the summer term. Thank you to Mrs Godzisz our Sports Lead, one of our Governors and the Cheltenham College, for organising this.



Chris Dee, from The Forest School Learning Initiative, was back in school this week, with a new teacher. They taught Year 1 and Year 5. Children in Year 2, 3, 4 and 6 will have the opportunity to have forest school sessions for a term, over the rest of the academic year. Reception Class will do Forest School, according to their curriculum and timetable.

Reception and Year 1 are having a term of Yoga lessons. This is a fantastic way for them to exercise, as well as learn calming and meditation techniques for their mental and physical well-being.



After school clubs are taking place for different classes for football and dance. Letters have been sent out for these clubs to the specific classes, as needed.

As expected, we will still continue to monitor our Covid situation and adapt to the Outbreak Plan where needed.

The 11+ Club and "Shaping Futures" Pates Grammar Programme



Last year, Mrs Mulligan, a member of our teaching staff, started an 11+ Club to support and boost Y5 children who we identified as having potential for grammar school entry. They worked so hard on their independent learning, closing gaps in their knowledge and some went to sit the admission test. This is an extremely competitive process and admission cannot be guaranteed. However, the children also learnt, experienced and gained improved self-esteem, confidence and resilience during this time.

This year, Pates Grammar School has invited some of our pupils to attend a "Shaping Futures" programme to support, engage and motivate a group of identified children. This is an exciting opportunity for them to visit the school and work with Pates.

As a school, we have identified other children who we feel have the same potential. We will combine these groups to form our "11+ Club". The children will have home learning, feedback, meetings and discussions with staff. Information will also be shared about the other grammar schools in the county that the children can visit and apply for admission into, such as: Denmark Road, The Crypt and Sir Thomas Rich's.

We are so proud that our pupils have these aspirations, as well as a positive "can do" attitude to their learning.



Fund Raising

Information will be shared shortly by our Friend's of Hester's Way Primary School (FOHWPS) group about the "Sponsored Gallop". They intend to raise money for the school, during race week. It was a hugely successful event previously held in school. We look forward to this taking place and the children having fun, whilst raising money for their school and enjoyment.



With regard to charity work, we know and understand that finances are and will become increasingly challenging for families. We never want to make anyone feel uncomfortable or ask for donations that people find difficult to afford. Please only give what you can.



As it is Red Nose Day, in the same week as our "Sponsored Gallop", we will dress in red and do fun activities to raise awareness for the charity but do not expect any money towards fund raising. There is no need to buy any red clothes specifically, red accessories, socks or a face painted nose will do, or any non-school uniform.

We will do something as a staff team, if anyone would like to give. This leaves parents/carers free to choose and give if they wish online or at supermarkets.

"Catch you being good!"

This term, we are running an extra behaviour reward. The children will get a piece of paper or raffle ticket, when they are "caught being good". The children write their name on the ticket and it goes in a box. At the end of term, names are drawn for the winning "Easter Egg" prize, in each year group.

This will be in addition to us working with the FOHWPS who liaised with local supermarkets and other local charities to ensure that every child had an Easter Egg last year. We will try our best to make sure that this happens again!



Everyone has made a great start to this term and we wish everyone a positive Spring Term 4.

Kind regards, Miss Kirsti Ashman (Head Teacher) and the HWPS Team.

