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06/03/2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Our World Book Day this week was wonderful. Thank you for the fantastic costumes; we had dragons, Teletubbies, Mary Poppins, Storm Troopers and much more. The children had a fantastic day and we managed to fit in many activities based around books and reading. Thank you to all the families who completed the form about family reading- for many of the staff it brought back memories of childhood books- many of these are still being read today. The children are also busy helping us re design our shared area into a better reading space which will hopefully encourage more children to choose to read. We also entered into a World Book Day competition where we need to collectively share 1 million books as a nation. This sounds like an awful lot but every time a class read a text, this is recognised as 30 shares. We want you to help us to contribute to the 1 million shares by reading lots of books with your children and colouring in the grid that was sent home this week. Mrs Kane will count these all up and submit our total- there is even a chance to win £1000 worth of books!

Staffing

Mr Geoff Bell, our school Caretaker, officially retires today. We wish him all the best for his retirement and know he will have every minute of his days filled with gardening, golf and his many other interests. His humour will definitely be missed. We would like to take the opportunity to wish him well and thank him for all of his hard work over the many years he has been here.

Until we are able to appoint for maternity cover for Miss Brown in her Afterschool Care and Teaching Assistant role and to cover staff absence- Miss Starkie, Mr Swift and Mrs Isaac will be covering Afterschool Care and Miss Davies will be supporting the school as a Teaching Assistant. As soon as we have appointed for these roles we will let you know the details.

Miss Brown (who took over from Miss Fletcher supporting children with SEND) is becoming established in school and has been getting to know many of our children. Our children have really taken a shine to her and she has begun to develop strong relationships with both children and staff, which is wonderful.

After School Clubs

After school clubs have now started again and, as always, they are very popular. These clubs will run until the end of term- including the last week. Father John also had a small number of children join his church choir group but is looking for more interested children. If your child would like to attend then please ask at the office for a consent form. Children are collected straight after school on Wednesday and walk to the church. They have a quick snack before choir starts and children are collected from St Andrew’s church when the club finishes at 4:30pm.

We do ask parents to collect children on time from all of our clubs, as children often become anxious that no one is there to collect them. We do understand emergency situations happen with traffic jams etc but where lateness is a weekly occurrence we will put children into our childcare facility and families will be charged the cost of this. Thank you for your understanding.

Parent Evenings

Parent evenings take place across next week and many of you have already booked your place through our online booking system Eschools. If you have not yet booked your appointment, the online system is now closed but teachers are still taking bookings if you contact them directly- they are usually out on the yard before and after school. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sporting events

We have taken part in numerous sporting events recently and we continue to be widely recognised for our successes. This week we have taken part in a Martial Arts festival and also a ‘New Age Kurling’ competition. In this, we won the league level and were put through to the championship knockouts. Children played very well and we got very close to winning. Well done to all of the children who take part in these events- they are great fun and encourage children to try new sports.

Coronavirus

Obviously, many children will have heard the news regarding this virus and whilst we have not discussed it in detail at school we are following all of the Public Health England guidance, encouraging children to be as hygienic as possible by washing hands properly and more regularly. We will continue to follow any recommendations put in place but at the moment, do not anticipate any disruption to school events and clubs taking place. If, in due course, the situation and advice were to change we would notify you.

Mother’s Day

It is hard to believe this event has come around again already. We will be hosting another afternoon tea and would love either mums, grans, aunts or family friends to join us on Friday 20th March at 1:30pm. This event is always extremely popular and we ask that everyone who wishes to attend must return the request slip by Wednesday 18th March. This allows us time to make catering arrangements. The children absolutely love this event and the excitement builds throughout the day until their ‘special adult’ arrives. The request form has been sent home with your child today so please look out for it in their bag.

Attendance

Well done to Year 4 who had the highest attendance this week with 98.8%! The overall school attendance this year is 96% while this week it has been 95.7%. No classes were perfectly punctual and in total across the school 235 minutes were lost due to lateness.

Finally, I have received an email last week from a Facebook group who are aiming to help local residents and, most importantly, is focussed on providing family events for primary school children. The Helping Spennymoor team have joined forces with Spennymoor Youth and Community centre to run some great family events throughout the year. Once people have signed up to the group, members can join in with local events, groups, fundraising and charities. From the 5th -27th of March, members of the group will be hiding children’s books around the town for our local children to find, enjoy and re-hide.

On the 15th April, as part of our Easter celebrations, members from the group and the community centre will be hosting a ‘Mad Hatters’ tea party. Easter games, party and a crazy hat competition.

Other events are also coming up such as reading in the park, lantern parade, planting projects etc

We would love parents and children to join the Helping Spennymoor group and take part in different events to boost the Spennymoor community. All ages are welcome. Please check out Facebook- Helping Spennymoor for more information.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. We always try and help. Equally, if you would like to volunteer in school we continue to need people of all ages to help with children’s reading- if you are interested please do get in touch.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head teacher