



Newsletter

21st April 2023



Basic Skills

Creativity

Emotional Literacy

Positive Contribution

Message from Mrs Bradbury...

What a wonderful start to the term we have had! The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and with exemplary attitudes to learning. Year 6 in particular are to be congratulated for their focus and determination: we know they are working hard and are doing their very best to prepare for the upcoming SATs.



This week, we have been focussing on making a positive contribution. The S61 litter pickers came in to talk about how we might help. The children were very enthusiastic about having the chance to make a noticeable difference out in the community. We have been lucky enough to

borrow a set of 15 litter pickers from the council. These will be available to borrow each weekend. Please fill in this link if you would like to borrow the litter pickers. Once you have filled in the form, we will email you to let you know when it is your turn.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xoAlcPiwSEW1F0HuEnm9pmiDqOAQb5IPp1jxGyPJI3hURE5SNTIBU1ZDOEo5WUNPN0EwNjNLWVdKUC4u>

This week, we had a review of our writing from a national consultant. In the last 15 months, we have implemented 'Talk for Writing' in school which is an approach which helps children to develop their writing using lots of talking, investigating vocabulary and learning about text types and toolkits. Alongside the reviewers, we are really pleased with the progress that has been made which is a testament to the effort that our staff have put in. We always have lots of positive comments about the quality of our children's books and learning when we take them to moderation events across Rotherham. Our staff and children have worked really hard to embrace the changes to our curriculum which have had a huge impact on our children's writing.

Before the Easter break, we had a wonderful week focussing on inspirational figures. Firstly, Ray Matthews came into school with the CEO of Rotherham United and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire. Ray has raised thousands of pounds for children's charities by running. He wants to spread the message about running regularly and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Before the Easter holiday, Cara from RUFC came in to teach the children a dance inspired by Ghana and the RUFC fundraising effort to take a group to Ghana. Shaun Campbell from the Arthur Wharton Foundation came in to tell us all about the inspirational man. Arthur was the first black professional footballer (this was for RUFC) and the fastest man in the world over 100 yards. Arthur's descendants are Redscope children and it was lovely that our children could be so connected to such an inspirational figure. We were so pleased that Jackson, a former pupil and Declan in Y4 were able to share their family's history. They are rightly proud of their roots!



Reverend Sam came into school for our Easter service which was wonderful. He was a fantastic guest judge of our bonnet competition. Congratulations to all our winners – they were all fantastic!

The term ended with our 'Champions' assembly and the staff had such a difficult decision in deciding who would win. Congratulations to all of our champions! Children will be voting for two of the new champion categories and one will be 'learning behaviours'.

	Art	Pride	Kindness
Y6	Jayden	Grace	Ella
Y5	Sofia	Nooram	Alisha
Y4	Isabelle N	Adam	Ellie P
Y3	Amber	Anabella	Poppy
Y2	Taylor W	Makanaka	Gracie- Leigh
Y1	Corby	Lucas	Maisey
FS2	Luna	Georgie	Millie Rae
REY and Clever Kittens	Arabella, Isabella, James and Brody		
Staff	Mrs Ross	Mrs Swift	Mrs Jackson

INSET 2023-24

In order for you to plan for next year, here are our INSET days. We have put them after school holidays so that families might get cheaper deals on holidays and therefore not need to go during term time.

4th September 2023

5th September 2023

30th October 2023

19th February 2024

3rd June 2024

Fire Drill

Each term (so 3 x per year), the children practise a fire drill. Thank you to the Y2 parents who were good sports and understood that sometimes we have to practise with other people on site! We exited the building quickly even with the extra people in the mix. We also practise lockdown drills twice per year.

Over the Easter break, we have had an upgrade to the fire alarm and lockdown alarms after securing a bid of over £90,000 for some additional funding specific to the fire alarm system. This means that in the next few weeks, we will be making sure that the children practise and we test the new sounds fully.

King's Coronation

To celebrate the King's Coronation, on Friday 5th May, children are invited to come into school wearing red, white and/or blue. Children will also be contributing to a time capsule and (if it is a hot day) be having ice pops at break time.

We understand some children may prefer to still come to school in uniform and this is fine (and is read and white anyway). There is no charge for this.



Key Dates (new or changed items are in a colour)

Date	Event
17 th April	Back to school after Easter
27 th April	Strike day for some teachers – children expected in school as normal
1 st May	May day – School closed
2 nd May	Strike day for some teachers – children expected in school as normal
5 th May	Rescheduled Bacon Butty Morning and red, white and blue clothes for the King's Coronation
8 th May	King's Coronation Bank Holiday
9 th – 12 th May	Y6 SATS week
18 th May	Open Event – Collect from class
26 th May	Break up for Spring Bank Holiday
5 th June	INSET day
6 th June	Return to school
10 th June	Summer Fayre
16 th June	Bacon Butty Morning
23 rd June	Sports day
30 th June	Y6 Leaving Assembly pm – parents/carers of Y6 pupils invited to watch
3- 7 th July	Y6 residential (over 3 different days in two classes)
10 th July	Y6 children begin Winterhill/ Wingfield

School Nurse Drop in Sessions

Did you know that we are now running regular drop in sessions with the school nurse and Educational Psychologist?

The next session with the school nurse will focus on sleep issues. The school nurse will give some general advice then parents are free to ask questions about specific issues, this can be as a group or in private.

If you have a different issue, then please still come and there will be time at the end to privately discuss your concern.

Date to follow.

Eco Warriors Message

You may know that we have a council of Eco Warriors in school. For this newsletter, they have a top tip about being sustainable.

Drive less, bike or walk more!

With the more pleasant weather expected for Spring and Summer, it is an ideal time to ditch the car.

Walking and biking boost wellbeing and are good for your health, your wallet and the environment.

By walking to school, or just to get around, we can help to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

Online Safety Tip

Online safety is so important particularly around Social Media. We advise that children don't have access to apps with age restrictions as these are there for a reason. The NSPCC has some great tips and pointers for parents. Click on the link to find out more.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

E-Safety Tip of the Week

Before you...



THINK!!

- T** = is it True?
- H** = is it Helpful?
- I** = is it Inspiring?
- N** = is it Nice?
- K** = is it Kind?

Oxford Reading Buddy

Following our Reading survey, we are delighted to tell you that our school is now trialling Oxford Reading Buddy for the next three months in Years 2-6 (Classes 5-14). This is a digital reading service which contains hundreds of books and quizzes to support children's reading development at home as well as at school when children have moved beyond phonics reading

Please see the separate letter for more details and log in to Oxford Reading Buddy when your child brings home their sign-in card (stuck in their diary) and have a look around. Encourage your child to use it regularly and discuss what they are reading with them. You might be interested in watching them reading one or two of the Coaching eBooks because Reading Buddy is a good model of how to support and encourage children's comprehension skills as they read. If children do spend 15 minutes or more on this program in each session, this can count towards their home reading in their diaries.

Dogs near the Gate

Some of our children have mentioned that they feel anxious around dogs on the way into and out of school. If you do have a dog, please wait away from the school gate to minimise the worry felt by some of our pupils. As always, dogs are not allowed onto the school site.