



Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this I can hear the squeals of excitement and peals of laughter coming from our two Foundation Stage classes. It's fabulous to hear and is a constant reminder of why I have the best job in the world. There cannot be many jobs where you are greeted with big hugs and children running in through the gates with beaming smiles. Long may it continue...



## Reception

In our Reception classes this week we have continued with our topic of 'Journeys' and have taken inspiration from *The Little Boat*. The children have made their own junk model boats which we then experimented with: can they stay afloat? Will they sink? Will they sail? The children have written stories about their boats and the outcomes i.e. eaten by a shark, reached an island far away. They have learnt about telling stories too. We have drawn large scale chalk story maps outside and inside we made smaller scale ones. We have also made underwater scenes on paper plates (displayed in the corridor). In Maths we have continued with our addition and subtraction skills - what great mathematicians we have!



## Year 1

This week we have been very busy! Our solar systems books are well under way and we can't wait to show them to you. On Tuesday we had our Tim Peake day. We have started to make our own papier maché planets, sparkly stars and woolly solar systems! We LOVED watching Tim Peake live from space, especially when he played space ping pong with water!

Please can we have any junk modelling in on Monday please, as the children will be making their own space rockets! Don't worry, you will all be invited in to see all of the amazing things we have been doing next term! Our Space topic will continue until we break for Easter.

## Year 2

This week in Year 2 we have been learning from the instruction text, *How to Trap a Dragon*. We have read the text and discussed the features of instruction texts. We are now learning the text off by heart and are using actions to help us act it out. In Maths we have been investigating 2D and 3D shapes and have been describing, sorting and building shapes. We have also learnt what reflective symmetry is and we have investigated how to find lines of symmetry in 2D shapes, build patterns with symmetry and we have used the iPads to recognise lines of symmetry.



In Science, we have been learning about the 7 life processes and have learnt some very tricky scientific vocabulary! We have made some MRS NERG posters to help us remember these life processes.

On Thursday, Mrs Lewis came to teach us some amazing printing techniques! With the help of Mrs Mackereth, we have created some incredible Amazonian fish inspired artwork that will soon be decorating the hallway upstairs. Thank you Mrs Lewis and Mrs Mackereth!

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

All classes will be celebrating Chinese New Year next week. It will be the Year of the Fire Monkey. We would love to know how many of you are 'Monkeys': 1968 Earth Monkey; 1980 Gold Monkey; 1992 Water Monkey and 2004 Wood Monkey.

## SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is also next week. Don't forget to have your pancake batter ready.

## HEALTH SCREENING for RECEPTION CLASSES

The Berkshire Healthcare nurses will be visiting school on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February in order to measure height, weight and hearing for our Reception classes. Information about screening was sent out in November but is also being sent with this newsletter. If you do not wish your child to be screened or have any questions about this process not answered by the letter, please contact the nurses direct on: 0118 938 2145 or at [bks-tr.CSNReading@nhs.net](mailto:bks-tr.CSNReading@nhs.net).

## STAFF RECRUITMENT

We are currently recruiting for an Assistant Headteacher and new class teachers from September. Interviews for the former role are taking place this Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. We have also advertised for the role of Secretary as sadly Ms Greenwood will be leaving us at the end of the school year.

## AWNINGS

Thank you so much to Stuart (Gus) Guntzenbach, Craig Dolby and Jerry for all their time erecting 'Phase 2' of our awnings. We have just ordered a few more resources to help with completion.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30pm	Start of Half Term break Deadline for school disco payments
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	8.45am	School begins Term 4
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> + Thur 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Reception Classes healthcare screening
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	5-6pm 6-7pm	School Disco - Reception Classes School Disco - Years 1 and 2

## SAMUEL'S CELEBRATION

We were delighted to share Samuel's celebration of the first anniversary of his recovery from cancer. He remains an inspiration for us all!

## PUPILS OF THE WEEK

At assembly this afternoon Pupil of the Week awards were presented to: Finlay and Jermaine in Year 2; Sienna, Daisy, Eddy and Umar in Year 1; Lucy M, Finn, Ralph, Natalia in Reception. Congratulations to them all.



Karen Edwards  
Headteacher

