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School
Newsletter 9
21.1.2019



Headteacher –Mrs C Hughes

Deputy Headteacher/Co-Headteacher – Mr G Dyer

Spring Term News

Our whole school 'Eureka' topic for the spring term encompasses all of the STEM subjects and we will be focusing upon developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills (STEM) through this theme. Classes will be researching different inventors and engineers, conducting their own scientific experiments and creating structures and models using different objects and materials. We will also be enjoying a whole school topic day on Friday 1st February led by STEM representatives. Years 1-6 will take part in an architecture workshop with a focus upon developing teamwork, problem solving and listening skills as the children use small Tetrahedrons to build a 2.5 metre structure. Whilst the school is able to part subsidise this workshop, we are also asking for parental contributions towards the cost. The suggested voluntary donation is £3 per family. Thank you so much for all donations already received.

Empathy and Equality are the School Values in focus this term and the children demonstrated excellent awareness of both of these important values in assembly last week. We were pleased to award the first badges in Praise Wall on Thursday to a child from each class who was observed demonstrating outstanding empathy in school last week. Well done to Tosia in the Equality team who drew the winning design which features on our Equality and Empathy badges this term. You can see Tosia's design in the image below.

We are in the process of moving website providers and will be launching a new site at the end of January. The new site will be easier to navigate and more accessible on all devices including Smartphones and tablets. Please bear with us whilst the old content is transferred and new information uploaded.



Healthy Lifestyles

As you know, part of our whole school development focus this year is to teach the children about the importance of healthy lifestyles and emotional well-being. We focused upon the mental health aspect of this aim in the autumn term with the 'Be Brave' topic theme and this term the focus will be upon raising awareness of healthy lifestyles and the positive impact that a healthy diet and exercise can have on both our physical and mental health. We will be holding a whole school topic day related to this on Tuesday 19th February. Parents will be invited into school for the first part of the day from 9.00am- 11am. In collaboration with Tesco, this will be a healthy eating focus day and the children will have the opportunity to prepare snacks and lunchbox contents which will include a variety of fruit and vegetables.

We ask that school lunchboxes contain a balance of healthy choices including a savoury option such as sandwich, wrap or pasta. Chopped fruit and fresh vegetables are also good options. It is also important for children to have a dairy product included such as yoghurt or cheese. There should only be one sweet item such as a cake or biscuit bar. Full sized chocolate bars and sweets are not allowed in school. Children can bring fruit juice with them for a drink at lunchtime but fizzy drinks are not allowed.

Children in KS1 are provided with fruit at morning break and therefore do not need to bring a snack with them. KS2 children can bring fresh or dried fruit or a healthy cereal bar for snack although we do ask that these are the non-chocolate covered variety.

Parent Reading Sessions

Thank you to all of the parents, carers and grandparents who attended the Mercury reading session on Tuesday 15th January. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who came and shared books with the children. It was lovely to see the children sitting on knees and snuggled up listening to stories, practising their letter sounds, talking about pictures and characters and events in the stories. The smiling faces around the room really showed how lovely it is to share books and stories with children. If your child is in Venus (Year 1) you are invited into school for the story session tomorrow afternoon at 2.30pm. We hope to see you then!

Winter Weather Procedures

With the colder weather officially here it is important that children have extra layers to wear outside at play and lunchtimes. We do take the children outside in all weathers so thick coats, gloves and hats are essential. Children in KS2 should also bring a winter PE kit with a sweatshirt and jogging bottoms.

In severe weather conditions, the decision may be made to close the school to ensure the safety of both the children and staff travelling to school. If the decision is made to close school prior to the start of the school day, parents will be informed via text message as soon as possible. We will also put alerts out via BBC Radio York and on the school Facebook page. If school ever has to be closed, or partially closed, during the school day parents will be contacted via text message and then by phone if children are not collected. It is vitally important that the school office has an up to date text number and also at least two phone numbers on which we can contact either yourself or another responsible adult you have nominated, in the event of an emergency.

Fire Safety

Members of the fire service in the Selby district visited at the start of the term to speak to the children in Y5/6 about fire safety and the importance of making sensible choices to keep themselves and others safe. They also spoke to the children about the importance of having smoke detectors fitted at home. If you do not have smoke detectors fitted, the fire service will come out to your home and fit them for free. All you need to do is contact the team on 01757 702453 to make the request.



Important Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 22nd January	Venus Reading Session- Parents invited to read with their child in school – 2.30- 3.05pm
Thursday 24th January	Mercury class open morning for parents: 9.00- 10.00am
Tuesday 29th January	Earth Reading Session- Parents invited to read with their child in school – 2.30- 3.05pm
Thursday 31st January	Venus class open morning for parents: 9.00- 10.00am
Friday 1st February	STEM Topic Day KS1 and KS2
Tuesday 5th February	Mars Reading Session- Parents invited to read with their child in school – 2.30- 3.05pm
Wednesday 6th February	KS1 visit to Lotherton Hall
Tuesday 12th February	Jupiter Reading Session- Parents invited to read with their child in school – 2.30- 3.05pm
Friday 15th February	Earth class open morning for parents: 9.00-10.00am
Tuesday 19th February	Whole school healthy eating day- Parent open session 9.00-11.00am
Thursday 21st February	Mars class open morning for parents: 9.00-10.00am
Friday 22nd February	School closes for half term
Monday 4th March	School opens
Tuesday 5th March	Saturn Reading Session- Parents invited to read with their child in school – 2.30- 3.05pm
Tuesday 12th March	Neptune Reading Session- Parents invited to read with their child in school – 2.30- 3.05pm

SEND Funding Proposals

North Yorkshire County Council have requested that we share information with parents about their current consultation on proposals for the use of Year 2 and 3 of the Special Provision Capital Funding (SPCF). The capital funding will be used to create more local education provision, so that young people can have an inclusive environment within or near to their own community wherever possible. The consultation started on 7th January and runs until 15th February 2019 and can be accessed at www.northyorks.gov.uk/capitalphase2 or via the North Yorkshire current consultations page at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/current-consultations>. Thank you.

