

17th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Updates and News

Well, we are now at the end of week 2 and already it has been a very busy time in school:

- All children have taken part in dance workshops where it was great to see the participation and enjoyment from all
- Clubs have restarted – this includes phonic clubs for which I would like to pass on my thanks to all parents and family members who attend
- Two groups performed in the dance festival at the Wyvern
- Miss Roberts' and Mrs Vaughan's classes were due to go on a local walk however this has been rain postponed to happen again soon
- World book day saw the school come alive with a range of characters from books or people who just enjoy reading! As part of the day, Mrs McDonald had set the challenge of being creative with a book. We were really impressed with the models, poems, cakes, drawings and detailed writing which our children produced – thanks to all the families who supported with this at home. All of the children who took part were celebrated in assembly and the photo below shows some of the great examples.





The Importance of Home Reading

Within school, we teach phonics and reading skills such as inference, fluency and deduction. There is a wealth of research that shows how reading at home can be a massive influencing factor in how well children progress through school. Children who read regularly at home:

- Have a broader vocabulary and richer range of words to use when speaking and writing
- Have a rich general knowledge – they can find out more about the world around them
- Understand others well as they can read about emotions in stories or learn about the world in which we live

Please help us strive for five reads at home 😊

Enjoy Reading: A guide to reading at home

Top 10 tips to help children enjoy reading

To help make reading enjoyable and fun, we asked experts and authors what they recommend to help get kids reading.



- 1 Make books part of your family life** – Always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
- 2 Join your local library** – Get your child a library card. You'll find the latest, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
- 3 Match their interests** – Help them find the right book - it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
- 4 All reading is good** – Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
- 5 Get comfortable!** – Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
- 6 Ask questions** – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'
- 7 Read whenever you get the chance** – Bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.
- 8 Read again and again** – Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
- 9 Bedtime stories** – Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.
- 10 Rhyme and repetition** – Books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child or children to join in and remember the words.

PTA Updates

As you know, the PTA recently held some discos in school. These raised an impressive £379.57 which will be used towards supporting activities, resources and events for the children. A great example of this is they have again donated £500 towards our Year 6 residential which has helped lower those costs for all the children. A big thanks to the PTA!

School Attendance

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting us with getting everyone in on time for the start of the school day. It does make a difference to arrive with your friends and settle in altogether. Please can I ask that appointments such as opticians and dental appointments can be arranged outside of school hours. Every session in school is important and we don't want anyone to miss learning and time with friends.

Parentpay /Facebook

One of the ways in which we communicate with parents is through Parentpay. So that you receive these messages please can we ask that you add your mobile number to the system – we can not do this as it needs to be done through your accounts. These messages can be important – such as when we needed to close the school last term – and we would not want anyone to miss out on the information. Please pass this message on to other parents also as we would like more parents to sign up.

We do also send updates and news via Facebook so please do follow our school page.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Mackinnon - Headteacher