



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
4th March 2022



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Our overall attendance this week was

99.0%



Well done everyone - we have had a really good week for attendance!

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE:

Firstly, I wanted to say a huge thank you for the effort that you and your children have put into World Book Day T-shirts and activities. It was great to welcome the children into school this morning to see some of the wonderful creations on display. The children have enjoyed a fun-filled day with lots of reading and book-based activities. The whole school quiz this afternoon has been a huge hit and I am sure that your encouragement and the activities planned by teachers will help to inspire a love of reading in our children.

The recent news has been dominated with awful stories and images of the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is probably something that many of your children are asking questions about. At present we will not be formally discussing the current ongoing events in Ukraine, however we understand that families have different opinions and thoughts on the situation and that children will discuss things together when they interact at school. All of the staff have the knowledge and experience to deal with any conversations or interactions that occur on an individual basis and will continue to support all of the children in our care. If there is anything you wish to discuss further please contact Mrs Barker.

These are a selection of specialists websites and information pages that have been designed to help you to talk to your children about the current Ukraine/Russian crisis below if you wish to do so:

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)

Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation

(Department for Education)

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:

Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:



Reception

- Austin B for exceptional imaginative play

Year 1

- Felix S for fantastic counting in maths

Year 2

- Mara C- N for excellent letter writing

Year 3

- Jack H for consistent hard work and a great attitude to learning

Year 4

- Thomas L for an excellent explanation of the water cycle using scientific vocabulary

Headteacher's Awards:

- Harriet B in Y2-for being a super helpful friend.
- Olivia L in Y2-for working so well as a team, well done!

SCHOOL UPDATES

PANCAKE DAY - TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 2022:

As you can see from the pictures below, the children had loads of fun eating their pancakes on Pancake Day. Well done to Miss Swan too for her tremendous efforts in producing pancakes for everyone. It was worth it as the children raised £128.50 for our school Eco Committee so watch this space for all the exciting things they are planning with the funds raised.



Parents Evening

PARENTS' EVENINGS:

Thank you to everyone who has already booked their parents' evening slot with their child's teacher. The booking system is still open for anyone who hasn't yet done so.

The parents' evening meetings are now back face to face so please come to the main front door and make your way to your child's class. You will be able to look at their work books while you are waiting for your meeting. We would ask that parents try to stick to the 10 minute appointment times to make the evenings run as smoothly as possible.



STEM WEEK :

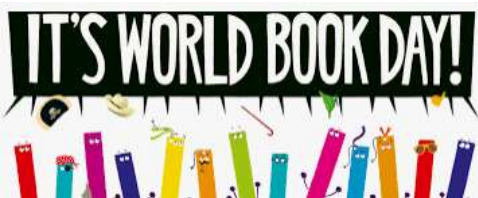
Next week is our STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics) week and we have a busy week planned in school. The main theme is 'Growth' and the children will be taking part in experiments including launching rockets, olfactory investigations and planting seeds in different media.

On Wednesday we are having a special visit from a company called Sublime Science. The children will have a science-tastic day taking part in investigations and experiments. We are requesting a voluntary contribution of £5.00 per child to cover the cost of bringing Sublime Science into school and to provide resources for experiments. Payment may be made by Parentmail PMX, cash or cheque (payable to Tyne Community Learning Trust). Thank you to everyone who has already paid - these contributions enable us to keep providing vibrant and exciting activities and opportunities for the children.



SUNFLOWER SEEDS:

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Baker (mum of Harriet in Y2 and Jack in pre-school) for donating sunflower seeds for each child in school. We had a few packets of seeds leftover so we are hoping to create an amazing display in school. Please send us photos of your sunflowers when they start to grow. This also ties in nicely with our STEM week theme of 'Growth'



WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS:

Wow - what a colourful and amazing day we have had today to celebrate world book day. The children were all very excited to show off their T-shirts and tell us all about their favourite books and characters which ranged from Supertato to Stickman to Roald Dahl

and everything in between.

The day kicked off with a special book day assembly. The children then spent some of the morning preparing activities and questions for the Buddy Book Quiz in the afternoon where the whole school got into teams to take part. The day ended with a fantastic story time where the children moved in their groups to listen to stories read by the teachers. Thank you also to everyone who sent in books for the Big Book Swap - hopefully your child will come home with a new book that they are itching to read.

Here are a few pictures from Reception, Y1 and Y3 to give you a flavour of the day:



BOOK REVIEW CORNER:

We have some amazing book reviews for you today to celebrate world book day.

The first review is from Thomas R in Y1 who loved reading 'Mr Happy finds a Hobby' by Roger Hargreaves.

'We enjoyed talking together about what a hobby is and all the different kinds of hobbies people have. Thomas decided his favourite hobby was drawing and he has drawn a Mr Men picture to go with his book review. Thomas enjoys the Mr Men books as he is able to have a super attempt at reading them himself!'

Thomas says: 'It was funny because Mr Rush speeds around! Mr Happy could not think of a hobby for Mr Grumble because he only likes grumbling!'





We have also received a review from Alice in Y2 who has written about the book "The Crocodile who didn't like water" by Gemma Merino.

Alice and her sister Flossie have loved this since they were little. Here's her review: "I like how it's telling the reader how small the crocodile is and what the crocodile likes. He wanted to play with his brothers and sisters but they were too busy at swim club. He spends his money from the tooth fairy on a rubber ring, the next morning he went to the pool but he still couldn't play any games. It gets exciting when he makes fire, AAACHOOOO!"

Thanks to both Thomas and Alice for those reviews - we love the sound of both of those books.



COMIC RELIEF - RED NOSES FOR SALE:

Red nose day is on Friday 18th March and we will be supporting it by selling red noses in school. If your child would like to buy a red nose then please send £1.50 cash in a named envelope marked 'red nose day'. The red noses are again 100% plastic free this year, so a better option for the environment too! The noses will go on sale from next Monday.

Watch this space for more information on what else we are doing for Comic Relief.

THINGS TO DO:



HEXHAM NORTH OF THE TYNE UNDER THE STARS EVENT:

Join in the magic in the grounds of Hexham Abbey on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th March from 6 - 9 pm, for a spellbinding, free outdoor event, blending spectacular projection, fire and music with a sprinkling of magic. Inspired by local stories and landscapes from across Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside. No booking required, suitable for all ages. Find out more at www.undernorthtynestars.co.uk

No booking required.

Stocksfield Community Centre Annual Challenge Quiz: Friday 11th March 7.30 pm at the Community Centre. Come along as a team (max 6 people) or as an individual for a light hearted fun evening. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £4 per person - pay on the door. All are welcome.



DIARY DATES

- W/C 7th March STEM Week - more information to follow
- W/C 7th March Parents' Evenings - class dates and times to be confirmed and more information to follow shortly about booking appointment slots
- Friday 11th March Deadline for Y3 and Y4 to pre- order Jenny Pearson books before her visit to school
- Friday 18th March Comic Relief Red Nose Day -Children to wear something red for a donation to comic relief
- Mon 21st - Fri 25th March Neurodiversity Week - celebrating learning differences and the strengths and talents that come from thinking and perceiving the world differently
- Tuesday 29th March Author Jenny Pearson to visit Y3 and Y4
- Friday 8th April School closes for Easter holidays
- Monday 25th April School reopens for Summer term
- Tuesday 7th June Whole Class Photographs - Debbie Young Photography
- Thursday 21 July School Closes for Summer holidays
- Friday 22nd July Additional holiday for Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Tuesday 6th September School Reopens for new school year

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher