



## Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 17th January 2020

### COMING UP

#### Saturday 18th January

9.00—12.00pm Cross country event at Wendover C of E Junior School

#### Monday 20th January

Class 3 Enterprise week

#### Thursday 23rd January

Class R and Class 6 to have height and weight checked

#### Friday 24th January

10.00 Class R to Multi-skills festival at the Grange School.



### Child of the Week

#### EYFS:

Madilyn L for trying her best to be a wonderful friend.

#### Year 1:

Amber S for her fantastic 'space' homework.

#### Year 2:

Jack C for his amazing independent writing about the polar express/

#### Year 3:

George S for making a real effort to edit his newspaper.

#### Year 4:

Andrzej for asking to do extra reading during

breaktime.

#### Year 5:

Toby M for an extremely creative and informative piece of homework.

#### Year 6:

Isabelle H for putting in fantastic amount of effort for homework this week and creating a very clear presentation to the class.



### Stepping Stone to Success Award

Perseverance: to Tilly H (Class 2) for showing perseverance in going to Forest School.

Perseverance: to Faith W (Class R) for showing excellent perseverance with her writing.

Compassion: to Joy S (Class 5) for being a wonderful thoughtful friend.

Responsibility: to Thomas P (Class 1) for taking responsibility for his belongings.

Community: to Max S (Class 3) for being so helpful with tidying.

Responsibility: to Jessica P (Class 4) for engaging with the lessons and always putting her hand up.

Responsibility: to Natasha W (Class 6) for being a responsible member of the class and researching lots of information about volcanoes for her homework.

## Hot Chocolate

Oscar—yr R, Sienna—yr 1, Dillon—yr 2, Lucy— yr 3, Sofia—yr 4, Lily—yr 5 and Veer— yr 6 all had hot chocolate with Mrs Morrison to celebrate their special acts of kindness this week.

## Life Skills Skills for Life

We are continuing to focus on growth mindset for the next few weeks. This week we learnt all about Lucy Hughes, an engineer who has discovered a way of making bioplastic which decomposes in 4-6 weeks. Lucy has found a way of using fish scales to create this eco packaging. We discussed the skills Lucy would have had to use to create this, including a growth mindset, perseverance, resilience, questioning and problem solving. The children were so inspired by Lucy and we pointed out that anyone can do the sort of thing Lucy has if they keep questioning the world in which we live, work hard, persevere and put the effort in. Please see the video for your information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHKaChoCDW8>

We listened to New Day by Take That:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ophOW8ckMpc>

### Recommended resource:

Please find attached strategies which children and adults can use if they make a mistake.



## Go Orange

On Friday 7th February, we will be taking part in Go Orange for Muscular Dystrophy to raise funds and awareness of muscle wasting conditions. In return for a donation to Muscular Dystrophy UK (suggestion £1), children can wear orange to school - whether it is a T-shirt, hair bobble or pair of socks. Attached is an orange bow tie in case your orange wardrobe is rather scarce!



## Thank You

A huge thank you to Mrs Fox for repairing one of our beanbags in the school library this week, it means the children are still able to use it when they are spending time in the library.



## EYFS Stay and Play

A number of parents/carers joined us for EYFS Stay and Play yesterday. It was great to welcome grown ups in to play with the children and share their learning journey books. The children were all so proud of their learning and excited to share this. The theme for the morning was 'What a Wonderful World', based on the book by Bob Thiele, which the children have shared this week. Activities included making a giant class collage of the world, making flowers to give to someone special, making their own 'Firebirds' and writing thank you letters to the world. Adults and children enjoyed sharing the story and watching an orchestra play 'The Firebird', as well as listening to 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong. Adults were invited into the children's play and enjoyed being transported to 'Planet Bong' in a space car made of giant construction! We enjoyed meeting the residents of Planet Bong and exploring the landscape.

Thank you to the EYFS staff for working so hard to make this session so enjoyable for all involved and to all parents/carers who took the time to attend.





## Readathon

Today we had our sponsored Readathon in school. The children and staff were very keen to take part and it was lovely to see such a wide variety of books, magazines and comics brought into school by the children. We are hoping to raise enough money through our Readathon to update our reading scheme to enable the children to access different texts through their daily reading. Thank you for all your support and sponsors with our Stone School Readathon.

### **Top tips to support your child's reading** by Tara Parker, from the National Literacy Trust

Do you remember your favourite books as a child – you know, the ones you read time and time again and knew practically every word of? Maybe you were lucky enough to regularly read stories with your family and had someone to read you a bedtime story before you drifted off to sleep? You won't have known at the time, but those experiences were building vital building blocks for your future.

Reading, being read to, and sharing books in the home helps to build a child's vocabulary and understanding of the world.

Reading with your child, or encouraging your child to read independently for just ten minutes each day can make all the difference. Here are some tips to help children of all ages to enjoy reading and to get reading more often.

#### 1. Take breaks while reading

Your child doesn't have to read an entire book in one go! Any time spent sharing or talking about a book is beneficial, even if it's just a couple of minutes at a time. If they have to close the book early because they've arrived at their bus stop, it's time for tea, or they're just losing interest, that's okay. Reading can take a lot of mental energy and taking breaks gives children a chance to slowly build the mental stamina they need, so that soon they will be able to read for longer stretches of time.

#### 2. Build reading into your child's daily routine

Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine. This can be any time of day. Some children enjoy reading before bed, but others can just be too exhausted at night. It might be better for some children to read just after dinner, or in the morning before going to school, when they have more energy.

You can encourage your child to track their reading using a weekly reading chart. This will help them celebrate their progress.

Also, create a cosy place in your home that you can call the 'reading corner', which can be any size you like. Let your child decorate it with their favourite books and soft toys, so they look forward to going there to read. When you can, try to make sure they see you reading, or read with them, so they know adults read too!

#### 3. Encourage your child to follow their interests

Let your young children choose the books they read. You can do this by keeping books on a shelf they have regular access to, or presenting them with two to three books and letting them choose. Let them read the same book, or same genre of reading material (such as football magazines!), over and over again. Repetition will help younger children learn words and understand how language is structured. Following their interests is also the best way to keep them engaged and make reading fun, which will make them more likely to want to read more widely going forward.

Finally, if you are reading the book to them, let them turn the pages, skip pages, return to pages and let them interrupt you – even if it feels like they are getting off track. Talking about the book helps them makes sense of what they are reading.

#### 4. Use technology together

National Literacy Trust research has found that, when used appropriately and with an adult, technology can provide an important route into reading for many children, including those in the early years, and boys. Feel free, at times, to use your mobile phones, tablets, computers, laptops and other devices to engage your child in reading and activities that can help them build their vocabulary. This can include a multitude of activities, such as:

- Telling a story using pictures on your phone
- Video calling friends and relatives to engage children in conversation
- Using YouTube to find the lyrics to nursery rhymes
- Using apps to read interactive books or listen to audiobooks

These activities, or similar ones, can be used with children of all ages. Young children will learn best when doing these activities alongside you, and you can help your older child by showing them how to use the technology appropriately. All children benefit from seeing and hearing their parents and carers do things. This helps them understand how to do it

and vocabulary skills they need for school. Let your child pick the topic they want to talk about, listen to them, ask questions and share your ideas. You can do this anywhere and at any time, and you'll learn a lot about your child's interests! You can also use everyday activities to spark a conversation with your child, such as getting dressed or going to the park.



themselves. Technology is also most effective when it is linked to other things your child is learning, and when it is balanced with other learning activities.

#### 5. Encourage your child to be the author

If your child doesn't have a chance to read a story, help them tell a story. You can do this anytime and anywhere - even while you walk to school or go to the shops. When telling stories, children are practising important language skills, such as past and future tense and transition words. You can model this behaviour, by telling them stories. Children love to hear stories about your childhood or other experiences, and it gives them inspiration for telling their own stories.

Then, you can show them how to write or draw their story. They can draw it through pictures, or type it on a computer, depending on their age. For some children, becoming the author is the best way to activate their imagination and their interest in stories. Through their writing, you can learn about some of their interests and find books to match!

#### 6. Have a chat

Research shows that children who engage regularly in conversational turn-taking with an adult learn faster when they're older. Taking every opportunity to chat with your child will help them build the language

#### 7. Share stories using the pictures in the book instead of the words

Pictures are a great support for young and struggling readers. They are enjoyable to look at, capture children's attention and help them make sense of what they are reading. If your child is unsure about reading all the words in the book, they can start by telling a story using the pictures. Ask your child to describe the pictures they see, ask questions about what the characters are doing and why they might be doing it, and see if they can guess what might happen next. By the end of the book, you may find they have created a whole new and exciting tale!

#### 8. Visit the library for free books

Libraries are fantastic places for children to explore. They're child-friendly, welcoming and free to join. Many libraries will have a number of great things available for you and your child to borrow, including books, audiobooks, DVDs and magazines. Librarians can help you find what you are looking for or recommend something your child might like. It's also useful to know that most libraries won't charge for overdue children's books, or for wear and tear!

Many libraries also organise activities for children during the school holidays and others run regular story and rhyme time sessions to join.

If you live in England, you can find your nearest library and more about library services at

<https://www.gov.uk/local-library-services>

Reading is so important for your child's future, but it can also be fun! Let your child's interests and abilities lead the way, be patient, and soon you should see their reading flourish.

Thank you to all the children and parents for collecting sponsors. Please send all sponsorship money into school by Friday 7th February.

Thank you for your support.

### **Inset Days 2019/20**

Friday 22nd May 2020, Friday 10th July 2020

### ***Dates for 2019/20***

*Spring Term 2020: Tuesday 7th January to Friday 3rd April 2020*

*Half Term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2020*

*Summer Term 2020: Monday April 20th to Tuesday 21st July 2020*

*Half Term: Friday 22nd May to Friday 29th May 2020*