

16th February 2024

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been filled with many wonderful opportunities for the children to participate in during the school day. I was invited to watch the Year 2 street dance performance on Thursday and what a treat it was! The children had worked together over the last few weeks of term to choreograph and create their performance. Myself and children from year R and year 1 joined the audience and were able to watch the whole of year 2 perform together and it was fantastic! The concentration of every single pupil coupled with their energy and enthusiasm led to a great creative piece to watch. Well done to all in year 2 and Mrs Ambler!

Today the children in Year 3 and 4 have been immersed in their history topics of Vikings and Egyptians. They have all had a truly wonderful day enjoying dressing up, being creative and learning even more about the past.

I wish you all a happy and restful holiday and we look forward to seeing you all at the parent consultations evenings after half term.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Boyle'.

Mrs S Boyle
Headteacher

Reception Classes – Acorn and Chestnut

Reception classes started the week learning about Chinese New Year, the children listened to the story of the New Year race and how each year is named after a different animal which is a sign off the zodiac.

They thought about Shrove Tuesday and have spoken about Lent and then decorated their own pancakes to celebrate.

They then moved on to thinking about Valentine's Day and what it means to show love and kindness to friends and everyone around the world. The children made a love hand print to give to someone special in their family.

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Year 1 – Hawthorn and Willow

In Maths Year 1 have been working on numbers to 50 including counting in 10s. In English they have continued to read 'Walking through the Jungle' and looking at different verbs to make the book more interesting.

In Science they have been looking at every day materials of objects around the class room and where their original source was, for example a table is made of wood and that comes from a tree.

Please can we ask for any unwanted newspaper to be collected over half term and brought into school as we will be needing this after the break.

Year 2 – Maple and Sycamore

This week Year 2 have performed a street dance routine that they have been learning and creating together since the beginning of term. They have learnt steps together in their Thursday PE lessons and the children have also choreographed some of their own steps.

This was performed in front of Mrs Boyle and several of the younger classes in the school and was wonderful to watch. Well done everyone!

This week has also been busy finishing off different topics for the end of this term.



Year 3 – Palm and Pine

Year 3 have been exploring units and non-unit fractions in their maths this week. Pupils have been learning about numerators and denominators and looking for patterns so that they are able to identify and order fractions. They have carried out lots of practical investigations and have learnt the smaller the denominator the bigger the fraction when working with non-unit fractions.

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The children and staff of Year 3 also had a great day celebrating Egyptians, some photos of what we got up to are on the next page.

Reminder for Year 3 Faith tour, if you have not already done so please can we have consent for your child to attend the Faith tour and ask for the suggested donation of £9 for the trip to be completed by Monday 26th February.

Year 4 – Elm and Oak

Year 4 have really enjoyed their Viking day, they have been creative in making Thor hammers out of clay and they have been learning about the jewellery that Vikings wore. They have learnt about trolkors which were used to ward off bad spirits and then created them out of wire. They have also painted long ships in water colours.

The planned Fire with marshmallows will be rearranged for after half term which we are still looking forward to.

Please see some photos on the next few pages...

Conifer class

The children have continued to access their personalised curriculum in English and Maths whilst building and strengthening relationships with their peers and adults. Some of the children continue to access some mainstream lessons in the afternoons. We have read the story 'Aliens Love Underpants' this week and carried out a couple of science experiments. The children enjoyed creating patterns using white crayons and paint – it was like magic!

Some children enjoyed the activities for Ancient Egyptian Day and Viking Day in Key Stage 2.

We made 'elephant ears' in our cooking session! They were sweet and looked a bit like elephant ears!

Egyptian Day



VIKING DAY



Attendance for this week

Acorn	98.1%	Chestnut	98.9%
Hawthorn	96.0%	Willow	95.2%
Maple	97.6%	Sycamore	97.2%
Palm	94.6%	Pine	97.4%
Elm	92.1%	Oak	98.4%
Conifer	90.6%		

Please find the link to the NHS website regarding 'Is my child well enough to be in school'
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child has a temperature for more than 2 days please take them to the doctor to get them checked for an infection.

Being late for school can affect your child's attendance, anyone arriving after 8.55 and entering through the front doors will be marked as late and anyone arriving after 9.15 will be marked as an unauthorised absence which will affect their attendance (unless there is an acceptable explanation).

Star and Leaves awards

We are proud of the hard work the children make with their academic work, their resilience and positive attitude to learning in addition to the efforts they make to follow our school values. Each week in our celebration assembly we congratulate children who have gone above and beyond and have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and thus achieved the Behaviour for Learning Star. We are also very proud of the children who demonstrate our school values to a high standard and are awarded the Values Leaf. All children who are recognised for their hard work in our celebration assembly will enjoy a hot chocolate with Mrs Boyle, our Headteacher.

This week we are celebrating:

Class	Stars	Leaves
Acorn	Charlie B	Maddison
Chestnut	Arlo	Camille
Hawthorn	Halim	Grace
Willow	Chloe	Thomas
Maple	Elena	Harry
Sycamore	Max	Mason
Palm	Amaya	Zohra
Pine	Abigail	Lexi
Elm	Ellie A	Zach M
Oak	Scarlett	Ellie
Conifer	Poppy	



General Information

Wear what you love day – PTA

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated items for the PTA's Wear what you Love day we have had lots of lovely items donated.

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Shine Bright Event

The final total of money raised from our Shine Bright event is £155 thank you to everyone who donated we will share this between Chums and Making Me.

PTA

Thank you to the PTA for providing a fabulous set of books for use with the children who use our sensory room.



Home Languages Day

On Friday 22nd March, we would like the children to come into school dressed in the colours of the flag that represents their family heritage. Mrs McCarthy is planning to come in the colours of the Irish flag as most of her family are Irish. Children are welcome to come into school simply in their flag colours or they can go that extra mile and enter our competition for the most creative flag outfit and winners will receive a prize. Please no team kits are to be worn.

During the day, children will be invited to share words, phrases and facts about cultural events that they celebrate at home related to the country that is linked to their family.

Olympian Visit – Steve Frew

On the 28th February, Great Britain Gold medalist Steve Frew will be visiting school for the morning. Steve will complete sponsored circuits with each class and hold an inspirational worship with the opportunity for the children to ask questions. Further information will be sent home on Wednesday. We cannot wait to welcome Steve into our school to learn from his experiences and be active together.

Mrs Gates

GB GYMNAST STEVE FREW

is visiting this school

Most important role model?

My parents

What's your motto?

Dream big!

Top tip for life?

Be all you can be/ anything is possible

Greatest high?

Winning my country's first ever gymnastics gold medal

Greatest low?

Not reaching my potential

What are you most grateful for?

Life. Being blessed with a talent. My parents

Who would you like to meet?

Myself when I was younger - to offer encouragement

Steve Frew

Steve grew up in Scotland, in a small town where he started his gymnastics career – he was 5 years old when his mum enrolled him in a gymnastics class because he was such an energetic child. Steve's gymnastics career went on to last 23 years.

Steve has represented Great Britain at two World Championships and competed for Scotland at five Commonwealth Games. At the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, Steve created sporting history by winning his country's first Gymnastics Commonwealth Games Gold Medal.

Some of Steve's achievements include:

- ★ 2006 Commonwealth Games, rings - Finalist
- ★ 2002 Commonwealth Games, rings - Gold
- ★ 1998 Commonwealth Games, rings
- ★ 1997 World Championships
- ★ 1994 Commonwealth Games, pommel horse and high bar- Finalist



Before and after school clubs by external providers

Please find details below of our clubs which are available after half term by external providers.

Monday morning Performing Arts Collective Years 1 - 2 [Performing arts collective Year 1-2](#)

Tuesday AM Premier Education Gymnastics club Years 1-4 [Premier-education](#)

Tuesday PM Premier Education Dodgeball Years Reception – Year 2 [Premier-education](#)

Tuesday PM Choir Places will be confirmed via email by Friday 16th February. **Please do not send children if places have not been confirmed as they are limited.**

Wednesday PM Jam Coding Years 1-4 [Jamcoding](#)

Thursday PM Performing Arts Collective Years 3 – 4 [Performing arts collective Year 3-4](#)

Friday PM Tennis Club Years 2-4 Sign up via SCOpay.

Measles

Please can we remind all parents to check that their children's vaccinations are up to date. As you may be aware there is an increase in cases of measles across the UK and the disease is very infectious. The NHS is warning that as many as nine out of 10 unvaccinated children would be susceptible to measles if a single classmate brought it into school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's vaccinations please contact your GP.

Diary Dates

Please find below dates for the rest of this school year. Please note dates which have changed or added have been highlighted.

16/02/2024	All Day	Y4 Viking Day
16/02/2024	All Day	Y3 Egyptian Day
28/02/2024	All Day	Visit from Steve Frew – Sponsored circuits
29/02/2024	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations
05/03/2024	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations
06/03/2024	All Day	Y3 Faith Tour
07/03/2024	All Day	World Book Day
11/03/2024	All Week	National Science Week
22/03/2024	All Day	Home Languages Day
26/03/2024	3pm	Y4 Grafham parents meeting
27/03/2024	9.30am	Easter Service at the Church – parents invited – Y1, Y3 & Oak Class
27/03/2024	2pm	Easter Service at the Church – parents invited Reception, Year 2 & Elm
18/04/2024	TBC	Y4 Transfer Festival at Arnold Academy
25/04/2024	All Day	Y4 Bikeability – children to bring in bikes & cycle helmets
13/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
14/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip

15/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
16/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scolastic Book Fair YR, Y1 and Y2
17/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scolastic Book Fair Y3 and Y4
07/06/2024	All Day	Y2 Herrings Green trip
12/06/2024	Morning	School Photographer – Class Portraits
24/06/2024	9.15am	Y4 Moving up assembly/workshop
26/06/2024	3.45pm to 5.45pm	Book look & meet your new Teacher for 2024 to 2025
27/06/2024	All Day	Transition Day
28/06/2023	All Day	Y1 Mount Fitchett Trip
01/07/2024	All Week	Sports Week – details to follow nearer the time
05/07/2024	TBC	Y4 Leaf Walk in Silsoe
08/07/2024	All Week	Back up Sports Week (for events cancelled during w/c 01/07/2024 due to adverse weather conditions)
10/07/2024	TBC	Y4 Visit to Silsoe Parks
19/07/2024	9.30am	Y4 Leavers Assembly

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Easter Trail & Fete

FRIDAY | 29TH MARCH | 12:30 – 15:30

PEOPLE OF SILSOE, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS,
ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR SILSOE PRE-SCHOOL EASTER TRAIL
& FETE. TICKETS ARE PRICED AT £6 PER CHILD AND INCLUDE A
TRAIL SHEET AND GOODY BAG UPON COMPLETION.

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE EMAIL
PRESCHOOL.SECRETARY@YAHOO.CO.UK

ADULTS AND CHILDREN UNDER ONE GO FREE.

DEADLINE 15TH MARCH ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

FOOD AVAILABLE AT THIS EVENT MAY
CONTAIN ALLERGENS SO PLEASE BE AWARE.

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13 February 2024

Re: Measles – information for schools and early years settings about suspected cases

Dear head teachers/early years settings,

Thank you for the work you are doing to promote MMR vaccination to parents and carers in our area. It is very much appreciated.

The national measles incident is ongoing, and cases are still being reported. These are still predominantly in the West Midlands, but we are starting to see cases confirmed in other areas of the country. The latest situational update (updated every Thursday) is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-measles-statistics-published>

To date, no confirmed cases have been reported in Central Bedfordshire.

We are writing to you to provide additional information on what to do if you suspect a child in your setting has measles, or a parent or carer reports that their child has been diagnosed with measles.

Measles is a notifiable infection. This means that doctors should report any suspected cases to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). The UKHSA will then assess whether the suspected case is likely or unlikely to be measles based on speaking to the doctor and the individual (or their parent/carer if the suspected case is a child). The assessment will take into account MMR vaccine history, contact with known cases or unvaccinated communities and recent travel abroad. **If UKHSA assess the case is likely, then public health measures will begin along with urgent testing to confirm the diagnosis.**

If the likely case is a child in your school or early years setting, you will be contacted by UKHSA and advised what to do next, including any communications to parents or staff members. Public health measures may include contact tracing and further advice to avoid onward transmission.

We have provided FAQs attached to this letter, which compliments the Health Protection in Schools and Other Childcare Facilities guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-specific-infectious-diseases-a-to-z#measles> and information recently published by the Department of Education:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/22/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/>

If you have any further questions that are not covered here, please contact us at healthprotection@bedford.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Vicky Head

Director of Public Health, Central Bedfordshire Council

Frequently asked questions

Q. What are the signs of measles?

Measles is a highly infectious condition that can be a serious illness and in rare cases can be fatal; the first signs of measles are:

High temperature	Runny or blocked nose	Sneezing
Red, sore, watery eyes	Coughing	Aching, feeling generally unwell

A blotchy red brown rash usually appears a few days after initial symptoms, note that this can be harder to see on black or brown skin.

More information about measles: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Q: What should I do if I think a child has measles?

Follow your usual procedure for children who fall ill at school or at your setting. Keep them separated from other children and staff members (as far as is practical and safe for the child) and call the parents/guardians to collect them as soon as possible. Advise the parents to isolate the child at home and call their GP or NHS 111 initially to get the child assessed. If measles is suspected the GP will support the parent in a clinically safe way to avoid transmission to others.

Initial contact with health services should be over the phone (or 999 in a life-threatening emergency).

Q: What should I do if I think a staff member has measles?

Advise the staff member to go home (avoiding public transport and contact with others) and call their GP or NHS 111 initially for an assessment. If measles is suspected the GP will support the staff member in a clinically safe way to avoid transmission to others.

Initial contact with health services should be over the phone (or 999 in a life-threatening emergency).

Q: A parent has told me that their child has measles, what should I do?

Ask the parent if they have been in contact with their GP or NHS 111 and measles has been diagnosed by a doctor. Ask the parent if the doctor has notified the case to the UKHSA (they may not know this but if they are able to check with the GP, this will be helpful).

If you are not already aware, it may be helpful to establish if the child has had their MMR vaccinations. In most cases, if a child is vaccinated, it is unlikely the child will have measles, which may provide some reassurance.

At this stage there is no need to inform other parents. If the case has been notified to the UKHSA, you will be advised by UKHSA if the case is confirmed and what to do next. In areas where measles is not circulating and there is high vaccine coverage, most suspected cases of measles that are notified do not turn out to be measles.

Q: Are children who have only received their first dose of MMR at risk from catching measles? Should they stay away from others or early years settings until they have had two doses?

One dose of MMR gives a high level of individual protection from measles. It is fine for children to wait to have the second dose when it is due and continue with their usual activities. There is no need to keep children out of childcare or schools before they have had their second dose. As well as providing full protection for the child, the purpose of two doses of MMR prevents measles spreading to those who cannot have the vaccine (this is called providing herd immunity and occurs when over 95% of the population has received two doses of MMR).

Should a positive case be reported in a childcare or school setting, the UKHSA will advise on any further actions required.

OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:

Patience

*‘But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with
patience.’*

Romans 8:25