

NEWSLETTER

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Dates for your Diary

26th October - 30th October 2020
HALF TERM - No School

Friday 18th December
**END OF TERM - EARLY CLOSURE
FOR PUPILS**

Monday, 4th January 2021
STAFF INSET DAY

Tuesday, 5th January 2021
**PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
FOR THE SPRING TERM**

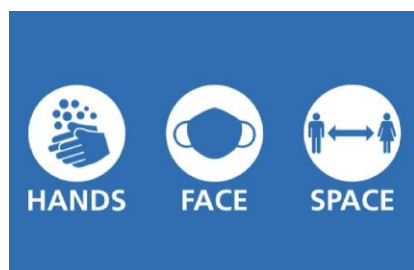
15th - 19th February 2021
SPRING HALF TERM - No School

Wednesday, 31st March
**END OF TERM - EARLY CLOSURE
FOR PUPILS**

Monday, 19th April
STAFF INSET DAY

Tuesday, 20th April
**PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
FOR THE SUMMER TERM**

Monday, 3rd May
**BANK HOLIDAY - NO
SCHOOL**



A Message from Sandy

During these strange times with pupils and staff working in bubbles to keep them safe, some of the tasks the Senior Leadership Team carry out can prove to be very different.

Over the past week or so, we have been carrying out learning walks. These walks are undertaken on a regular basis to ensure that as a school we provide the best possible provision for your child.

During these walks, we make classroom observations and usually I enjoy getting close to the students to see their work, assess their understanding of the topic and ensuring their learning is being developed.

Our students drive our curriculum and our teaching and learning. We are ambitious and are only satisfied when our students reach their full potential. We will never allow complacency.

Having to adhere to 'bubble' risk assessments means I cannot get close during observations, instead having to watch from the side of the classroom. I really miss this direct interaction and communication with the students, but the new virtual ways we run assemblies and meetings are proving to be a valuable tool, meaning that communication amongst different groups continues.

It was good too, to see so many parents attend our virtual Link Association AGM last night. In truth probably more than would have been able to attend in person if we had held it on-site. It was nice to hear fresh ideas for fundraising and I look forward to perhaps some on-line quizzes and craft sessions in the future!

Thank you as always for your continued support.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE LINK?

Our School Council members are thrilled to let everyone one that we raised [£109.60](#) from our cake sale.

The money will be sent to Macmillan Cancer research at the end of next week. Our thanks to everyone who supported their efforts and well done to all the children who made cakes.



Attached to this newsletter are the minutes of the last School Council meeting.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a Pirate? Well if you need to know, just ask anyone in Maple Class, because [at the Primary School this week](#), this is exactly what their focus was.



Following instructions on treasure maps; finding buried treasure; learning lots of new words (valuable, island, eye patch and telescope among them) and having great fun with role play exploring the topic,



Beech Class have been watching the leaves change colour in our sensory garden and have enjoyed experimenting with their creative side.



At the Secondary School, Johnson Class have been busy tie-dying masks and bags as part of their new enterprise. The results were fantastic, as you can see.



It is now their aim to extend their business by selling our products to staff, students and parents. Watch this space!



History in Weir Class was brought to life earlier this week, when students marched around the building wearing their handmade Roman Soldier helmets for all to admire.



This week's Hot Chocolate Friday winners were:

Kelvin for kindness - helping another student stroke Major the dog, and for positivity - staying positive when things go wrong or if his taxi is late.

George for kindness - being helpful to staff and students.

Our staff members were:

Elena for kindness - giving students confidence to achieve.

Emily for resilience - juggling university work with her teaching and being flexible to students'

needs. Students always enjoy her lessons.



Sandy really enjoys this part of the week, having the opportunity to chat over a welcome cup of hot chocolate.

OUR THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Praising the positives and seeing pride in achievement is high on our agenda.

Our reward systems are many and to see the happy faces when presented with Head Teacher's Golden Book Certificate at the primary or to be told they have won Hot Chocolate Friday at the secondary is a joy to see.

But we also use lots of praise and reward in classes too. As visits to the school are currently off the schedule, we thought we would

share a sample of the reward charts used across the two schools. From climbing pirate ladders to reach a treasure chest in Oak to collecting 8 stars to receive a lucky dip in the prize box in Maple. Whilst in Yates Class they have students' faces on one of their favourite things - an owl, princesses even Boris Johnson - as they move along the chart to win a prize.



Encouraging and supporting our students from age 5 to 19 to do their best!