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Newsletter



From the Head Teacher



Early Learning

Studies consistently show that the following home learning activities support children's early language development and vocabulary:

- Going to the library
- Painting and drawing
- Playing with/ being taught letters and sounds
- Playing with / being taught numbers
- Songs/poems/ rhymes

Parental involvement in learning can make as much as **3 years difference** to a child's learning by the age of 16, so don't put it off to next week or even next month. New Home Learning menus will be coming home after half term and children are also expected to read with an adult at least 3 times per week.

500 Words

I'm looking forward to judging this year's **500 Words story competition** and there are always some wonderful entries. Closing date for school is **1 March** and the winning entries will receive a prize and their story will be published on the school website. The national Radio 2 competition closes on 8th March at 7pm.

PTFA



The PTFA (**Parents Teachers and Friends Association**) is an important part of our school and raised £3,700 for our children and school last year. A leaflet is coming home with more information and we would be pleased if you could read it and return the reply slip attached. Many thanks in advance.

Internet Safety

Thank you to Mrs Elson for two lovely assemblies this week about how we can work together for a safer internet, and to the parents who attended a session at school. There are lots of free resources available for parents on the **ThinkUKnow** website, which you can reach via the school website, in 'Learning Links'. Hopefully the children will soon receive their SCIB bCyberwise sessions which were postponed a few weeks ago.

Half Term

The children have worked very hard this term and the work in their books is fantastic. Those of you who have visited for Learning Mornings or the **Take One Picture exhibition** will have seen the progress that they are making yourselves. We hope that everyone has a well-earned break next week and returns to school fit and ready to learn on **Monday 25 February**.

Best wishes,

Neil Blackwell





Community Events

It's a busy weekend ahead at the Burchester Community Centre. First there is the Community Fridge Charity Fundraiser on Saturday, 16 February from 1-6pm, with raffle, henna, and chocolate fountain. Then on Monday it is the Grimsbury Funday from 11am -2 pm with a hot lunch and face painting. Why not start the half term break with some fun?



School Health Nurse Team

Please find attached the Spring newsletter from the School Health Nurse Team and I would ask you to consider the article on children's sleep in particular. Tiredness is often a sign of poor sleep routines and leads to irritability and poor concentration, so please think about how children get the rest that their bodies and minds need.



English Language Courses

Karen is again leading some English classes, on Thursdays from 21st March to 23rd May, 9.30-11am, in the Diamond Building. She will cover speaking and listening activities, basic reading, some grammar and writing skills. It's designed to improve spoken and written English and help support children with English. There is a booking form at reception, to be returned by 28th Feb please so that we have enough numbers.



Playground Leaders

Earlier this term, we had 20 children from Year 5 and 6 volunteer to become Playground Leaders. They undertook training, teaching them how to deliver playground games and activities to younger children. For the past two weeks they have been successfully leading sports activities with the children in Years 1-4 during lunchtimes, and will continue to do this for the rest of the school year and hopefully beyond, in order to raise the activity levels of the children while they are at school; promoting good social relationships between pupils of different ages and boosting interest in a range of sports.



St Valentine



Yesterday was **Saint Valentine's Day** and the children enjoyed watching Gnomeo and Juliet at the PTFA film night. Who was Saint Valentine and why is he celebrated each year? It turns out he lost his head over a woman, literally! He was a priest who married Christian couples against the will of the Roman Emperor. In jail, he cured the jailor's daughter of blindness with a miracle and on the day that he was executed he wrote a letter to her signed "Your Valentine"and that day was 14 February!



St Leonard's Church

Find out what is happening in our church by going to their website: <http://saintleonards.org>



On Tuesday 26th February we are marking the Scouting World Thinking Day by allowing anyone who attends Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts or Guides to wear their uniform to school.



Dates for your diary ...

Monday 25 February	School reopens for children
Thursday 28 February	Year 3 Learning Afternoon
Monday 4 March	Atomic Tom Science Week
Wednesday 6 March	Year 5 Learning Afternoon
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day
Monday 11 March	Sean Callery, author visit
Monday 11 March	Year 5 Family Meals Week



Job Vacancy



We have a vacancy for a school Cleaner, starting in March. This is an essential role in the school and requires high standards of performance in order to create the right conditions for pupils and staff alike. Further details are on the school website (News, Vacancies) and the closing date is Thursday, 28 February.

SHROVE TUESDAY TUESDAY 5TH MARCH

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE SHROVE TUESDAY WITH LEMON AND SUGAR OR
SYRUP PANCAKES FOR LUNCH

