

Newsletter

September 2019



Dear Parents/ Carers,

It is always difficult to know when to write this first newsletter of the academic year as it takes a little time for teachers to plan events and activities for the children to enjoy. However, we have now been back just over three weeks and there is lots to report!

The children have settled back into school life like ducks to water! It has been a little bit of a shock for some of our children moving into a new year group with new teachers, new expectations around learning and an increase in taking responsibility for themselves. This is perfectly normal and we find that by half term the anxiety the child may have experienced has dissipated.

Postponed Year 2 Camp Night

We ended the first week back with the one-night camp night for last year's year 2 children. We were lucky that the weather held and we were able to do everything outdoors, however, it was quite a shock to realise how much the temperature drops at night in comparison to June/ July when we usually hold the event. The children were their usual well behaved group and it was enjoyable spending this very different time with them. A big, big thank you to all of the staff who supported the camp night: Mrs Verwey, Mrs Wright, Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Palmer and Mr Tierney who stayed over with the children, Chef Nye who organised all the food, Ms Pink who provided some games after supper and our own Miss Stubbs who led team games and aided in tiring them out! We are all looking forward to next summer when our new year 2s will have the same opportunity (weather permitting!).

Our new curriculum

This term we implemented our new topic based curriculum, which is designed to cover all of the objectives in the National Curriculum, provide progression across the year groups building on learning in the previous year and preparing for the learning in the following year and provide learning across subject areas. The following are some examples of the topics being studied.

Year 1's topic of 'Bright Lights Big City' focuses on Britain, British traditions and geography facts linked to Great Britain. The children have enjoyed afternoon tea with the Queen and a trip to the fish and chip shop!

Year 2's topic is 'Land Ahoy' and they have had a walk to the canal to see the narrowboats (not quite a pirate ship!) and a day dressed up as pirates when they built pirate ships.

Year 3 are studying 'Mighty Metals' and as part of their lessons they have visited the park to investigate pulleys and levers as well as walking to the local bridge to provide opportunities for language exploration to support their English writing.

'Bile, Burps and Bottoms' is year 3's topic when they find out about the digestive system. They have had a visit from a dentist (Maria's mummy!) when they found out how to keep their teeth, gums and mouth healthy and practiced cleaning their teeth correctly.

Culture Week

We have all enjoyed a week of colourful costumes, exotic food, dance, music and storytelling exploring the different cultures within our school community thanks to Mrs Del Grosso and some of our parents. On Thursday, we had some African visitors that worked with the children creating wall hangings and teaching them African drumming. I am hoping we can create a large wall hanging that will be hung in the library showcasing the children's work.

A few gentle reminders

I cannot emphasise enough, the importance of reading with your child every day. We have some exciting competitions to act as incentives for children to read to an adult or older sibling. Ask your child about the competitions and I am sure they will explain!

Please ensure you drive into, around and out of the carpark with extreme care, there have been a couple of near misses with some of the children. Please walk with your child when you use the zebra crossing to prevent the chance of a child running out in front of a car.

Please remember there is a one-way system when collecting your child at the end of the day (not Early Years children). This is for safeguarding reasons, as we can make sure children do not leave the school premises without an adult.

The weather is getting colder and increasingly wet; also, teachers may decide to take their class out and about the development. Please make sure your child attends school with their coat (clearly labelled!).

Our next school event will be our Harvest Assembly; which we will be holding outside to enable everyone to gather. Please refer to the Dates for Diaries for the first and reserve dates.

Warm regards,

Pippa Villa

Dates for Diaries

1 st October	Family Play 8.45am – 10.30am
4 th October	Macmillan Cake Sale
9 th October	Edale parents information evening
14 th October	School Photographs
15 th October	Family Play 8.45am – 10.30am
22 nd October	Harvest Assembly 2.45pm
24 th October	Reserve Date Harvest Assembly 2.45pm
25 th October	Inset (children not in school)
Half Term	25 October – 3 rd November
4 th November	Back to School
6 th – 8 th November	Year 4 Edale residential
7 th October	Year 4 (non-Edale) Caldecotte Day
10 th November	School taking part in Bletchley Remembrance Parade 8.45am
13 th November	Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evening
14 th November	Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evening
26 th November	Learn Alongside
27 th November	Learn Alongside Reception – Winter Crafts Open Morning
28 th November	Learn Alongside
4 th December	Nursery – Winter Crafts
7 th December	School outdoor carol concert

17 th December	Christmas Production
18 th December	Christmas Production
19 th December	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
6 th January 2020	Inset (children not in school)

Term Dates 2019-2020

Autumn Term

Wednesday 4th September – Thursday 24th October

Inset Days 2nd & 3rd September, Friday 25th October

Half term holiday Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December

Holiday Monday 23rd December – Monday 6th January

Spring Term

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 14th February

Half term holiday Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

Holiday Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April

Summer Term

Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May

Bank Holiday Friday 8th May

Half term holiday Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July