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NEWSLETTER 1 - 09.01.2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to see everyone back after the holidays and welcome some new children into Nursery. They are all settling in well, making new friends and enjoying their learning. If you are a new parent to school please feel free to come and ask any questions you may have or to clarify things. I am on the playground most mornings or you can come and find me at reception. It is absolutely fine to ask questions and a worry shared is always easier to solve than one which has been dwelled on.

GYMNASTICS

Willow and Rowan classes will be having gymnastic lessons on a Tuesday this half term and Oak class are welcome at the gymnastics after school session. Willow and Rowan will visit Torworth Gym on Friday 9th February. For safety reasons please ensure that your child has their hair tied back on a Tuesday for these lessons.

AUTHOR VISIT - GRANDAD WHEELS

On Monday 22nd January we have an author, Brian Abram visiting school and reading his stories. Brian is a full-time wheelchair user and his books are called 'The Adventures of Grandad Wheels'. In Brian's books he tells hilarious stories of his silly adventures with his grandson. His books aim to show that anyone in a wheelchair can have fun and be fun to be with. Before Brian's visit parents have the opportunity to pre-order signed copies of his books. He can include a dedication to your child. Titles available are 'Charlie's Big Idea', 'Chaos at Cheapfoods', 'Grandad goes for Gold', 'Grandad's New Chair' and 'Grandad in the Grotto'. They can be bought at a discounted price of £6 each (or £27.50 for the set of 5) and Brian will donate all proceeds from these sales to two important charities that support people who have suffered a spinal injury - The Spinal Injuries Association and Back Up.

If you would like to order a book (or books), please pay on ParentPay and either email the office or pop in and tell us which title(s) your child would like. There are copies of the books to look at in reception.

I LOVE YOU DAY



Please come and celebrate the love you share with your children on Thursday 8th February. The children will work with you on a variety of activities which will celebrate Valentine's Day. If you are unable to come please feel free to send granny, granddad etc.

If this is not possible please speak to me and I will happily go and work with your child. If you have two children at the same time please feel free to take one child to the other child's classroom.

Class	Time	Location
Rowan (Year 2)	9:00 - 9:45 am	Rowan Class
Willow (Year 1)	9:00 - 9:45 am	Willow Class
Oak (F2/Reception)	9:00 - 9:45 am	Oak Class
Acorns (F1)	9:00 - 9:45 am	Acorns (Nursery)

VALENTINE'S DISCO

The Valentine's Disco takes place on Thursday 8th February. The cost will be £2.50 (this includes a drink and snack) -please pay on ParentPay. The times for each class are as follows -
Acorns (Nursery/F1) 4:30-5:15pm -enter by the front door, exit at Willow Class door.
Oak (Reception/F2) 5:15-6:00pm-enter by the front door, collect from Willow Class.
Willow (Y1) & Rowan (Y2) 6:00-7:00pm -enter by and collect from the front door.
Acorns (Nursery) children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.
Please note - there will be NO Premier PE Club that day.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day so we are asking all children (and staff!!) to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We are looking forward to seeing some fantastic outfits but are very happy for you to be creative and use what you have at home or equally for your child to come in non-uniform if they are not a fan of dressing up.

ASSESSMENTS

Year 2 Assessments will take place in the months of May and June so it is important that the children are in school every day.

Year 1 Phonics test will take place during week beginning Monday 10th June 2024. These are statutory government assessments which have to take place and it is vital that your child is in school prior to this week to recap the phonemes and also to take the test.

Please do not book holidays during these times.

Y2 SWIMMING

ADVANCE WARNING: Please be aware that if your child has their ears pierced they will need to have their earrings taken out before school on swimming days and if they get them newly pierced and cannot take them out then they will not be allowed to swim - these are Notts School Swimming rules. Y2's will start swimming on Monday 26th February and will swim every Monday until the end of the summer term. Girls have to wear a one piece swimsuit and boys have to wear fitted (speedo type) swimming trunks or shorts - not fabric shorts with pockets. We will send out consent forms nearer the time.

SPRING TERM CLUBS

Please contact the office if you would like your child to take part in any of the clubs below. If your child is already attending a club we will assume they will continue unless you tell us otherwise.

Club	Day	Cost	Times	Open to:	Availability
Gymnastics Club	Tuesdays (starting 9 th January)	Free	3pm - 3:45pm	Reception (Oak)	20 spaces
Sports Club	Wednesdays (starting 10 th January)	£3.00	3:20-4:30 pm	All year groups (Oak, Willow and Rowan)	30 spaces
Premier PE Club	Thursdays (starting 4 th January)	Free	3:20-4:30 pm	Year 2 (Rowan)	15 spaces

DIARY DATES

Monday 22 nd January	Grandad Wheels author visit to school
Thursday 8 th February	I Love You Day - see above
Thursday 8 th February	Willow & Rowan Class Visit to Elizabethan Dance Festival - PM
Thursday 8 th February	Valentines Disco
Friday 9 th February	Willow and Rowan visit to Torworth Gym - AM
Friday 9 th February	Break-up for half term
Monday 19 th February	Inset Day - school closed
Tuesday 20 th February	First day back at school
Monday 26 th February	First swimming session for Rowan class
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Monday 11 th March	Baby chicks arriving in school
Thursday 28 th March	Break-up for Easter Holidays
Monday 15 th April	First day back at school after holidays

Reminder: we have some preloved school uniform (lots of trousers, skirts etc) and shoes so please ask at Reception. Uniform does not have to have the school logo on or be new!

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term of learning. Please continue to support children in Oak, Willow and Rowan with getting as many reads recorded as possible - I am looking forward to nibbling some more chocolate with them all!

Mrs Cook
Head Teacher