



Dates for your Diary

JAN

- 15th Anti-Bullying parent workshop
- 23rd Reception to Museum of Cannock Chase
- 26th Y2 Parents Literacy & SATs workshop 9am

FEB

- 2nd Y6 SATs parents workshop
- 3rd Swimming Gala, Walsall Baths, 5.30pm
- 8th Parents Evening 1
- 14th Y4 Assembly
- 15th Parents Evening 2
- 16th Break up for half term

MARCH

- 9th YR Assembly
- 20th Y5 Class Assembly
- 29th Break up for Easter

APRIL

- 16th School re-opens

MAY

- 3rd Closed for elections
- 14th SATs week KS2
- 21st SATs week KS1
- 23rd Y6 residential parents meeting 8.15am
- 25th Half term starts

JUNE

- 4th School re-opens Y4 to Sutton Cricket Club
- 8th Y6 Whitemoor Lakes
- 11th Y5 to Sutton Cricket Club

JULY


- 4th Secondary School Induction day *
- 5th Secondary School Induction Day*
- 24th Break up for summer


* check individual schools

Closures

- 3rd May Voting Day
- 7th May Bank Holiday
- 23rd July Training Day
- 24th July Training Day


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Welcome back, I hope you had a lovely Christmas with your family and wish you a very Happy New Year.



Literacy Project—The Matchbox Diary

To welcome the children back for the start of the New Year, we have begun our whole school unit of work based on a book called “The Matchbox Diary” by Paul Fleischman. A special assembly took place on Tuesday morning where the beginning of the book was shared. The story is based on a little girl finding out about her great grandfather’s life through his diary which is in the form of special mementoes stored in matchboxes. Each special item triggers a memory which he then shares with her and this develops into a tale of how he emigrated from Italy to America. Some members of staff shared what special memento would be put in their virtual matchbox, revealing the significance and origin of the items, complete with heart-warming explanations. The children had great fun

guessing who each object belonged to and the assembly ended with Mrs Whittaker, who was Mrs Murphy’s special memento, jumping out of a life-size matchbox! Over the week the children have been finding out about what else was stored in the matchboxes in the story and undertaking further activities related to the themes in the book. It has been great to see the enjoyment of learning in the different year groups.

YR have enjoyed their first few days back learning all about The Matchbox Diary. They have been busy sharing their favourite Christmas memory and all brought in a matchbox, filled with exciting things, to share with the rest of the class. They have also painted their favourite Christmas memory. They thought about how it would feel to travel somewhere new and how they could make new visitors welcome in our school. They came up with some lovely, kind ideas. The children have also been ordering boxes by size and estimating how many small objects fit into a small matchbox. The children estimated brilliantly and then counted accurately to check if they were right. They are looking forward to continuing with their work next week and will be doing some writing based on memories, thinking about days of the week and months of the year and what they would take with them on a special journey.

This week KS1 have been completing lots of exciting activities. In Year 1 the children described an object that is special to them. This work will be put on display. In maths, the children have been learning how to use a ruler to measure different sized matchboxes. The children have also completed a New York skyline by exploring different line and pattern pencil techniques. Next week, the children will be designing their own matchbox and writing a setting description based on a picture from the story.

In Year 2 the children have been studying the features shown in the diary, looking at the use of speech marks and creating descriptions of the storm. This is being built into a descriptive diary entry. During art the children are designing their own match box and studying objects to create line drawings in the style of the sepia pictures.

In Years 3 and 4, the children have discussed the objects they might include in their matchboxes. Suggestions included teddy bears, objects from early childhood, tickets or photographs of momentous occasions, significant jewellery and gifts from family members. It was really interesting to hear which objects the children treasured and why. In maths, the focus has been on measurement including comparing, ordering and converting units. In the story, the boy travels to Ellis Island in New York City from Italy in the hope of a better life with his family. Year 3 and 4 have been researching the geographical location and history behind these places. They also discussed related PSHE topics including immigration and prejudice and the impact of these on the immigrants. After learning about the journey across the ocean in the book, the children took part in some drama in English, leading to a written diary entry about the voyage from Naples to Ellis Island. The quality of the writing and mature discussions that have taken place have been impressive. The children have really enjoyed this week and are looking forward to studying the rest of the book next week.

In Years 5 and 6, the children have been discussing the themes and making inferences using text and illustrations from the book. Authorial intent behind vocabulary choices and illustrations were analysed. Along with writing in role as a character from the story about how he would feel meeting the “hookman” at Ellis Island, the children also drew and wrote about their favourite school memory to place in a matchbox. As the story originates in Italy and leads the family to America, the children have also been developing their map skills to locate Naples and Ellis Island on a world map (along with the journey the family would have made), have explored the term immigration and discussed why America was an attractive option. Furthermore they have researched the Statue of Liberty, investigating key facts and its symbolism. In maths, the children have explored 3D shapes and their properties, including those of a matchbox, and investigated volume and surface area. The children have really enjoyed the many different elements and the links between all of the lessons.

Menu for Next Week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Bolognaise Chicken fillets Fish fingers Cheese pasty Jacket potato *	Chicken pie Chicken fillets Fish fingers Cheesy pasta Jacket potato *	Chicken Curry Fish Cruch Pizza Jacket potato *	Roast lamb Fish fingers Cheese flan Baguettes/wraps Jacket potato *	Pork sausages Veggie sausages Lemon sole grill Jacket potato *
Spaghetti New potatoes *	New potatoes Pasta *	Rice New potatoes *	Mashed potatoes Roast potatoes *	Pasta Mashed potato *
Sweetcorn Green beans Baked beans *	Carrots Sweetcorn Baked beans *	Sweetcorn Peas Baked beans *	Carrots Broccoli Baked beans *	Broccoli Sweetcorn Baked beans *
Iced flapjack Yoghurt Fresh fruit	Iced sponge Yoghurt Fresh fruit	Chocolate hedgehogs Yoghurt Fresh fruit	Cookies Yoghurt Fresh fruit	Rice pudding Yoghurt Fresh fruit

Clothing Collection for the Homeless

Thank you to everyone who has sent in donations of men's clothes for distribution to homeless charities. We are still collecting, so if you are able to help, please send donations into school with your child. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Anti-Bullying Workshop

'Our Place' will be conducting an Anti-Bullying Workshop on Monday 15th January, to which all parents are invited. The workshop will clarify the definition of bullying and make you aware of how the school deals with any incidents. The session will look at the law regarding bullying. It will also reinforce the role of parents in preventing and tackling bullying and give information about where to go for advice.

In addition, there is a salad / fruit bar and a basket of crusty bread available.
Please note that choices may vary slightly due to circumstances beyond our control.

This Week's Awards

This week the following awards were presented in Celebration Assembly:

Lunchtime Behaviour Award— 1JS & 3TV
Classroom Awards— RMF & 6MK
Attendance— 4SA with 97.33%
Overall Attendance— 94.26%
Annual Attendance Target—97%
Respect Award— 2CH & 6MK

Congratulations to the following children who received awards in Celebration Assembly —
Thomas YR, Brooke Y1, Isabel Y2, Nikaash Y3, Amara Y4, Molly Y5, Olivia Y6.

Juice Appeal

3 baths filled!! Well done everyone. The winning class is 1JF with 94 litres collected! Second place goes to RMF with 33 litres. Prizes will be awarded to both classes next week.

Aston Villa

We have received details of February half term Football Roadshows and Soccer School Days that Aston Villa are running at several locations across the city. They are also starting a Development Centre for Girls at Bluecoat School, Harborne, commencing 1st March. For more details see their website or to book a place go to tickets.avfc.co.uk or call 0333 323 1874.

Action Aid

Thank you to everyone who wore their Christmas jumpers proudly and donated to ActionAid. We raised the wonderful total of £327.05 for this excellent cause. We have received a very appreciative letter from the charity who have assured us that the money will be used to help change the lives of women and children across the world living on the 'margins of survival'. They work with communities to improve their access to education, water and reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

E-Safety Tip of the Week

A campaign called Stop Speak Support has been created to help young people spot cyberbullying, helping them know what steps they can take to stop it happening and provide support to the person being bullied. Visit- www.stopspeaksupport.com or #stopspeaksupport

Safeguarding

A reminder that if you ever have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of one of our children, please report this to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Davis, or to Mrs Whittaker or Mrs Arkinstall, our Deputy DSLs.

Catch it, Bin it, Kill it

Please may I remind you about the NHS campaign to encourage everyone to adopt good hygiene practices to help reduce the spread of infection. It states that if you cough or sneeze 'Catch it' in a tissue, 'Bin it' straight away and 'Kill it' by washing your hands well. Please could you reinforce this message at home with your child to help us keep a healthy school this winter.

Reminders

We are very keen to maintain our high standards in school uniform. May I remind you that children should wear black school shoes and not trainers or boots. Nail varnish and jewellery should not be worn, but watches are permitted. Please also avoid large decorative hairbands.

We are trying to encourage our children to take responsibility for looking after their belongings as school uniform is expensive and we want to ensure if items are misplaced, they can be returned easily. We have a constant high volume of lost property and to help this problem we are asking that all uniform is clearly labelled, including jumpers, cardigans, coats, shoes, bags, PE kit and lunch bottles. Thank you.

FoLSS Update

Ladies Pamper Night—Friday 2nd February, 7-10pm. Save the date! By popular demand our retail and pamper evening is back. Tickets £5, available in the new year.