

Weekly Newsletter

ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK

In our Monday assembly this week we read *The Night Gardener* by the fabulous Fan Brothers. This is a lovely story about an old man and a boy who spread joy in a community by sculpting trees in the shape of various wondrous creatures. We used the story to discuss how people can come together to benefit others even if there is nothing material in it for them. We linked this to our character traits of citizenship, kindness and gratitude.



Other assemblies this week focused on.....

Holi

This is a Hindu festival celebrated across the world and marks the victory of good over evil and the arrival of Spring. It is often known as the 'Festival of Colours' in reference to the traditional, playful throwing of coloured powders known as *gulal* which also represents love and equality.

If you would like to explore Holi further with your child at home, [there is a nice BBC Bitesize page here.](#)

World Down Syndrome Day

This is being celebrated across the globe today and this year has the theme of 'Improve Our Support Systems' as a plea to governments but also all local communities to ensure that people with Down Syndrome are given support to have their needs met and to give them choice, control and dignity.

Down Syndrome is a genetic condition caused by an extra chromosome that can affect learning and physical development. [More information about World Down Syndrome Day can be found here.](#)



DIGITAL WELLBEING

This weeks update from our Department for Digital Culture contains [tips for managing screen time and can be accessed by clicking on this link.](#)

Whilst excessive screen time doesn't automatically mean an increased risk of exposure to worst of the dangers of the online world, it does encourage some really unhealthy habits and crucially means children are being neither physically active or engaging in any in-person social interaction which is so incredibly important for their social skills as well as their vocabulary development.



PARENT COUNCIL

Many thanks to our Parent Councillors for joining us earlier in the week for this terms meeting. It was pleasing to get positive feedback on developments in school including communication to parents and useful to receive feedback on issues such as school events.

The main topic of the meeting which we asked for feedback on was online safety, so on top of the weekly updates on this which the Department for Digital Culture started last week (see above for this weeks), we will be moving forwards on a number of other points which we will share over the next few months.



Bravery



Citizenship



Curiosity



Gratitude



Integrity



Kindness

PLAYGROUND MARKINGS

For any parents who haven't had the pleasure of seeing the new additions in person yet...



STAFF BOOKSHELF

Each week we are celebrating the teams love of reading with their own personal Bookshelves - this week we are sharing Mr Talbot's favourites...



For more book recommendations, see your child's year group page on our school website.

PARKING

Over the last couple of weeks we have seen instances of staff (both from school and the neighbouring site) and other parents being spoken to in an unacceptable manner over the issue of parking.

Whilst we appreciate parking on site is limited and the beginning and end of the school day can be busy and stressful, every school in the country has issues with parking (in fact the vast majority will have absolutely no parking on site for parents) and this cannot be an excuse for conduct which so clearly counteracts the levels of respect we are trying to instil in all our pupils.

BOOK FAIR

A big thanks to everyone who joined us for our Book Fair over the last week which took a huge amount of money and as a result raised a massive £500 for the school to spend on new books for our school library. I'd personally also like to thank the team here for organising it and volunteering their time to support the fair on each afternoon it was open.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

For a full list of dates for the 2024-25 academic year, please see our Annual Planner which can be accessed by clicking on this link.

4th April - Year 4 Assembly

10th April - Whole School DT Exhibition

11th April - Last day of term

28th April - Start of Summer Term

5th May - Bank Holiday (School closed)

14th May - Maths Methods workshop for parents

20th June - INSET Day

25th June - Digital Wellbeing workshop for parents

27th June - Year 1 Assembly

