



Dear Parents / Carers,

This week we have been listening to the guitar playing of B.B. King. The children loved hearing him. We also learnt in our Monday (Y1 & 2) and Wednesday (Reception) assembly about Martin Luther King Junior, (MLK Day was on Monday). We talked about the struggles and injustice that he and many others faced and how courageous he was. We encouraged the children to dream big and to strive for a fair, happy and safe world for everyone. One of the Reception children told me in our discussion that his dream was for everyone in the world to be filled with love.

We also kick started Chinese New Year this week with a sweet and sour meal for Thursday's lunch. The hall and reception area have been beautifully decorated by the PTA.

It was quite a sight when we first walked in.



Other learning taking place this week has been rich and varied.

Reception children have continued with their learning about dinosaurs. They have been describing dinosaurs and writing about their long tails and sharp teeth and claws. It is great to see them put all that phonic knowledge they are learning into their writing. They have made salt dough fossils, as well as learning how to problem solve and think creatively about the wonderful world that we live in.

Year 1 have been writing non-chronological reports about meerkats. They included all the correct features such as headings and subheadings and wrote about appearance, diet, habitat and predators as well as including a fun fact. Did you know that a meerkat cannot kill a snake on its own?

I have learnt a lot from our Year 1s this week.

Year 2 have been writing diary entries as if they were a witness to the Great Fire of London. They were able to include lots of important details from their history study as well as add in thoughts and emotions to make it seem like they were really there. They have also been learning about the Muslims faith and learning the respectful ways that a Muslim will treat their holy book, the Qu'ran.



Congratulations to some of our Year 2 children who were able to attend a football tournament this week at Weston Green School. Despite the cold weather, they did amazingly. They didn't concede a single goal and I am reliably told that our goalkeeper made some incredible saves!

We wished we were given the opportunity to settle the final with a penalty shootout. I am convinced we would have won, if given the option.

We are very proud of the children and look forward to taking part in further activities with other schools later on in the year.

Thank you to the staff who helped organise it and parents who supported it.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.
If you are celebrating, enjoy! See you on Monday.

Mrs Cary



PLANNED STRIKES

The NEU has announced national and regional action in England on the following dates:

Wednesday 1 February 2023

Thursday 2 March 2023

Wednesday 15 March 2023

Thursday 16 March 2023

I will write to early next week with more information about whether teachers at the Orchard are striking, but I do recommend ensuring that you have alternative arrangements in place for your child on those days.

It is important to differentiate between previous arrangements for school closure (e.g. lockdown) and these proposed strike days. Unlike lockdown, when classes were covered by other staff, for the purpose of a strike day there will be no arrangements in place to cover the class of a teacher who has chosen to strike.

As such, there will be no school for that class on that given day.

Schools locally will have varying numbers of NEU members, therefore the impact of the potential strikes will differ from school to school.

Kindness Awards

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Matilda	Maple	William L	Beech	Clayton
Elm	Edward	Rowan	Sammy	Oak	Xanti
Holly	Lexi	Willow	Sidney	Sycamore	Henry
		Pine	Louis		



Kindness is like snow – it beautifies everything it covers.



Kahlil Gibran

Thank you for the kind donations already received via our Amazon Wish List.

We really do appreciate them.

Please find the links below if you are able to donate:



Hansler Grove Gate

Please do not prop the Hansler Gate open with tables or bags of sand. We appreciate that recently the gate has sometimes been closed during our regular pick up and drop off times. Unfortunately, we have found that during other times some parents were tying the gate up and were not allowing it to close. This meant that the gate was left open during unmonitored times.

If you are entering or leaving via the Hansler Grove gate at any other times of the day, please do not keep the gate open yourself through the use of another object. That is the responsibility of staff only.

Collections from after school clubs and activities should be made using the Bridge Gardens gate.

Thank you for helping us to ensure that all pupils and staff on site stay safe.

Artist of the Week: ARTFUL DODGER

We do like to go from one extreme to the other with our artists of the week!



Love it!

This week we will be listening to music from garage band Artful Dodger. What have found really interesting is that Mark Hill and Peter Devereux are both classically trained musicians in piano and violin respectively. They formed their duo in Southampton and have developed a distinct electronic 2-step style. One of their most famous tracks was a collaboration with Craig David called Re-Rewind.

Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUYgNEwD3gQ>

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that we will rearrange activities where we can if they affected by strike action.)

w/c Monday 23rd January

PTA: Chinese New Year celebrations
(Chinese New Year is Sunday 22nd January)



Friday 27th January 2023

Parent Mental Health Day



Tuesday 7th February 2023

Safer Internet Day



Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd February 2023

Parents Evenings
(more details to follow later in the term)



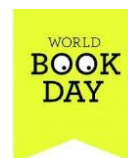
Wednesday 1st March 2023

Whole School
Drama Workshops



Thursday 2nd March 2023

World Book Day



w/c Monday 6th March 2023

Book Fair



w/c Monday 13th March 2023

Science Week



Thursday 16th March 2023

Year 1 and 2 Circus Skills workshop



Friday 17th March 2023

Red Nose Day



Tuesday 28th March 2023

Easter Disco



DATES FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

I am sure that some of you have already started making plans for holiday time for this summer and next year etc. Please be advised of the dates for the 2023/24 start and end of each term, the half term holidays and also our planned INSET days. These can also be found at the Surrey weblink here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates>

Autumn term 2023

Start of term	Half term	End of term
1 September 2023	23 October to 27 October 2023	15 December 2023

Spring term 2024

Start of term	Half term	End of term
2 January 2024	12 February to 16 February 2024	28 March 2024

Summer term 2024

Start of term	Half term	End of term
15 April 2024	27 May to 31 May 2024	23 July 2024



INSET DAYS:

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 30th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024

Friday 12th July 2024

