



A message from the Head...

Dear Parents,

It has been a much more settled week for our school with Covid cases dropping significantly to just a very small number and having almost all of our staff back has made such a difference.

This week our children in year 5 and year 2 have enjoyed wonderful trips to The National Space Centre in Leicester and to Shuttlesworth. The children were a credit to our school and behaved brilliantly and had a fantastic time!

We are looking forward to seeing you at parents evening next week on school cloud - please don't forget to book your appointment - this parents evening is important as the teachers will be discussing the progress your child is making this year so please try to join us!

Finally, we would like to give a warm welcome to Mrs Felicity Guy who joined us this week as Communications Officer.

Have a lovely weekend,
Denise Burgess

This week's letters home

Year 2 – Phonics Screening Results

Year 6 – SATs Reading Sessions (selected children)

Year 6 – SATs Maths Sessions (selected children)

Friday 11th February

On Friday 11th we will be holding a '#gobright' non uniform day to raise money for the charity Muscular Dystrophy UK. This is a charity close to our school's heart and the one that myself and Mrs Swanepoel are running the long awaited London Marathon for this October. The Friday also celebrates the end of children's mental health week so we are inviting the children to come to school in non-uniform and wear something bright and bring a small donation for the charity.



Online Safety

National Online Safety this week: What parents need to know about RESPECT ONLINE and inspiring children to build a better digital world (see attached poster).

If you haven't signed up already, please take advantages of this brilliant resource by following the link below: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com>

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We are now on Facebook and Instagram as well as Twitter. Please follow us to keep updated with the latest school news and activities.



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Parents' Evening 2022

Please see below dates and times for this terms parents' evening:

Tuesday 8th February 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Tuesday 8th February 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Tucana Only (Mrs Rose)

Wednesday 9th February –
4:00pm – 7:00pm

All years (including Tucana)

Thursday 10th February – 3:30pm – 5:30pm
All years (excluding Tucana)

Bookings will open on Monday 31st January at midday and close at 10am on the day of the parents' evening.



YEAR GROUP UPDATE



Year 2

Year 2 has had a fabulous start to their new project! We have been blown away with how much they have learnt already. In the first week we had a visit from the Birds of Prey centre. They brought in 4 birds for us to see - a hawk, falcon, owl and eagle. The children were amazed when the birds flew and spread their huge wings out. The best part was getting to hold one of the birds – it was so light we could hardly feel it.

Last week we wrote newspaper articles about the fails and successes of the amazing Wright brothers. We had to have a real understanding of what the brothers went through to achieve their dreams. Mr White, Mrs Baker and Miss Dix were elated with the content and presentation we all showed in our articles. This week we have started to learn about Amelia Earhart and how she vanished in to thin air after attempting to fly around the world. Quiz us when we get home and we'll show you how much we know already!

This week we went to Shuttleworth to see all the old planes and gain a real understanding into the history of aviation. I wonder where our project will take us next?



SPORTS UPDATE

Next week events:

Tuesday 8th February
4pm - 6pm

Year 5 & 6 Boys Basketball
finals at Westfield

Wednesday 9th February,
3.15pm – 4.15pm

Year 4, 5 & 6 Running club

Thursday 10th February
4pm - 6pm

Year 3 & 4 Boys Basketball
tournament at Westfield



Physical Education (PE)

Our focus in our PE sessions this half term has been **respect** and **teamwork**. Children from early years through to year 6 have worked hard to develop these lifelong skills through Gymnastics and OAA (outdoor and adventure activities). The children continue to amaze us with their creativity and effort when balancing, jumping, rolling and performing sequences in gymnastics. Team work has been at the heart of our outdoor adventurous activities, many of which have been challenging, exciting and relied on communication and decision making to be successful.



School Sport

Despite the challenges of covid, we have continued to participate in every fixture and competition so far this term. Our aim is to offer as many competitive opportunities to our children as possible.

Year 5 & 6 Girls Table Tennis County finals

First of all, what an achievement to get to a county final! We are incredibly proud of the team for making it through to the finals and encouraged them to enjoy the opportunity. The finals presented a real challenge for the girls, however they showed respect, resilience and friendship throughout. Overall they achieved 6th place- wow, well done!

Team: Alice, Anaya, Bella & Zuvena

Year 5 & 6 Mixed Badminton tournament

Both of the teams put in some fantastic performances, in a series of single matches, with the results adding up to their overall team score. As the competition progressed, so too did the enthusiasm and passion to play their best. Many matches against the opponents had very close results often resulting in a win or loss by only one or two points. Congratulations to all the players and for finishing in 4th and 5th place out of eight teams.

Team A: Amber, Joe-Joe, Sienna, Yusuf

Team B: Deborah, Grace, James, Max

Year 5 & 6 Boys Basketball league matches

The team played two matches against Bromham's A and B team, and wow what amazing performances! Each week this team train hard, listen to feedback and work hard to improve their teamwork and it is paying off.

Team: Aalijah, Bandile, George, Harman, Ilyas, Leo, Tobi

Player of the match: Ilyas



Physical Education

The sports team, made up of; PE staff, Year 6 Sports Captains, Year 5&6 Sports Leaders and class Sports Ambassadors are working hard to encourage our whole school to be as active as possible. The government expectation is for all children to be active for 60 minutes a day, 30 minutes of which must be whilst at school, in addition to their PE lessons.

We have made some positive changes to help everyone achieve their 30 minutes in school; start off the day with a 'Get in, get active' 10 minute workout, varied activities that are accessible at playtimes and lunchtime sports clubs that are run by our Sport leaders on the MUGA daily.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

Can you knit or crochet? Our local maternity unit at Bedford Hospital are in desperate need of newborn baby hats and have put out a big appeal to anyone that can help.

If you have time to make any baby hats for them, they would be gratefully received. Hats can be 34 – 37cm in circumference.

Please bring them to the school office and we will pass them on.



Gates at the start of the school day

We are experiencing difficulties at the start of the day on the Kingswood Way gate. Please can I remind parents that all gates must be locked at 8:40am promptly. We have noticed lately that a significant number of children are arriving in the approach to the gate at 8:40am or on the other side of the road, resulting in them rushing across the road in a dangerous manner, or in parents asking us to let children through after 9:40am.

This is also making it difficult for staff to lock the gates promptly at 8:40am. Please can I ask that you try to arrive a little earlier so that it means that we can lock the gate on time. As well as this, we are noticing an increasing number of parents from the early years wanting to exit via this gate after 8:40am which again results in us not being able to shut the gate on time - if you are held up in early years please exit via the early year's gate.

Registers take place promptly at 8:40am and lessons start at 8:45am and so if gates aren't closed on time, it then delays the registers being able to be taken and lessons starting on time which results in lost learning for the children.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on **7-13 February 2022**. This year's theme is **Growing Together**.

Place2be will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. If you'd like any information or advice, you can find free resources over on their website: www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk



Awareness days and religious festivals

February- **LGBT History Month**

14th February- **Valentine's Day**

LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS

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Workshops include:

- Concept Curriculum
- Deep Dive in PE
- Creating an Active and Engaging Playground
- Quidditch
- EYFS -Boosting Communication, Language and Literacy through Movement
- Mini Muay Thai
- Supporting all your pupils in developing a physical activity habit

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2022

Center Parcs, Woburn Forest

Early Bird Rate - £175pp for bookings made by 18th March

To register your place head to www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/cyp-conference

Or scan QR code



JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR

February 2022 Camp

NEW FOR 2022 horse & wilderness day



Tennis		Dance		Go Karts	
Nerf		Baking		& More	

Feb 14th - 18th

Templefield Lower School
Loughton Manor
Milton Keynes
Horse and Wilderness

Feb 21st - 25th

Banbury Cherry Fields
Willen Primary School
Great Linford Primary School
Tickford Park Primary School



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It's a new year and Friday 4th February sees the return of our monthly Community Cinema sessions at Great Denham Community Hall!

For those that don't know, we run a family friendly film on the first Friday of the month, but as our licence doesn't allow us to tell you the name of the film in advance - and because it's a little bit of fun too - we post clues leading up to movie day so you can have a little guess at what the movie will be. Check our Facebook page for clues!

Entrance fee to the hall is JUST £1.50 which includes Popcorn and a drink, and there's no need to buy tickets in advance, you can just turn up!



Doors open at 3pm with the film starting at 3:30pm 🎬

We would suggest the children bring cushions, pillows or beanbags to sit on. Big chairs will be available for grown ups 😊
Further refreshments will also be available to buy ☕🍪