



## A message from the Head...

Dear Parents,

So we have made it to half term! This half term has been extremely challenging with high covid cases and staff absence but I am pleased to announce that over the last couple of weeks, things have really started to calm down and this week has been almost 'normal' whatever normal may be! Thank you again for your support and patience this term.

We hope you found parents evening helpful this week - if you didn't get to speak with your child's teacher please catch them on the door to arrange an appointment. This parents evening is an important one to discuss how your child is progressing towards their end of year targets.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our 'Go Bright' day today and gave donations for Mrs Swanepoel's and my London Marathon challenge for Muscular Dystrophy - we will be in touch after half term with how much we have raised.

Have a lovely half term, enjoy the break and stay safe,

Denise Burgess

This week's letters home

KS2 – Volley Ball Competition

Y5 & Y6 – Girls Basketball Team and League

Y5 - Netball Tournament

Y5 & Y6 - Mixed Handball Team and League

Y5 & Y6 - Basketball Friendly Match

## Thank you

Two of our year 4 children were thrilled last Friday to receive their very own chrome book to support them with their learning at home. The chrome books were kindly paid for by one of our parents - the children were thrilled as you can see from their faces!



## Online Safety

**National Online Safety this week: What parents need to know about CHECKING IN WITH YOUR FRIENDS. One in every 5 children struggles with their mental health, so let's make sure we support each other through any difficult times** (see poster attached to email).

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



### Exciting News!

The school shop opened today for all the children who have achieved 75 or more stars!

## Dates for after Half Term

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Year 3 & 4 Author Visit

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Reception Class trip

## Chinese New Year

Last week was Chinese new year and children across the school enjoyed learning all about it in assembly. Our youngest children enjoyed a special assembly from Jasmine in Year 1 who told them all about how her and her family celebrate at home - she even brought in lots of interesting things for the children to look at - well done Jasmine for showing our school values of courage and excellence!



## 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 8:40am.

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.



## YEAR GROUP UP DATE



## Year 3

This week marks the end of the first block of learning for our spring term project. We have had a jam-packed half term full of exciting learning opportunities which have sparked our curiosity and creativity! We kick-started the half term with our Stunning Start day which began with the children finding a curious looking scroll of paper asking for their assistance with locating a stranded crew. Armed with maps and using our teamwork skills, we succeeded in the mission! Along the way, we found several bizarre items, such as a compass, an old black and white photograph and a pair of worn-out snow boots. We soon realised that it was Ernest Shackleton who needed our help and in preparation for our Antarctic adventure, we embarked on a series of challenging activities such as tent building, blind-folded obstacle courses and knot tying.

Through the exploration of our key text, 'Shackleton's Journey' we imagined ourselves as one of the crew members and replied to a newspaper advertisement entitled 'Men Wanted' by writing some persuasive letters of application. We have also explored the location of Antarctica, its climate and the wildlife that can be found there. We have also taken inspiration from the illustrations in our key text by William Grill and created some wonderful wax-resist art work. We are very excited to see what exciting opportunities await us when we return from our half term holiday!



## SPORTS UPDATE

### Sports events after half term:

**Tuesday 22nd February –**

Year 5&6 Boys

Basketball friendly match (non-league players)

Away at Westfield, 4-5pm

**Thursday 24th February –**

Year 5&6 Girls

Basketball league

Away at Westfield, 4-6pm

## Physical Education (PE)

The children in Early years up to year 6 have excelled in developing their gymnastics skills this half term. They have engaged enthusiastically in sessions, working hard to improve their shapes, jumps, rolls, balances and sequences.



This half term, year 2 have worked hard to learn and choreograph their own dance, linked to their project of flight. They used colourful scarves to create an interesting, bright and busy routine to the song 'Let's go fly a kite' from the Mary Poppins film. Their performances have been turned into QR codes and will feature in their project books. Be sure to check them out at the end of term.





# School Sport

## Key stage 2 Curling competition

We took 3 teams to participate in this exciting competition, which normally would take place on the ice. The children embraced the sport and very quickly grasped the skills required to succeed and beat their opponents. As the competition progressed so too did the confidence of tactical planning and play! This is another sport that we are keen to continue playing at school.

Well done to all of the players and special congratulations to Lillian and Lewis who were awarded the school games value certificates.

**Team 1:** Ayesha, Jake & Rilee - finished 7th place

**Team 2:** Florian, Lewis, Muhammad & Tommy - finished in 5th place

**Team 3:** Kianna, Lillian Markuss & Tanisha - finished in 1st place



## Year 5&6 Boys Basketball FINALS

The boys played their strongest performance to date, showing greater determination to win the ball and attack. This basketball league has been an exciting one, which has seen the team train hard and improve their understanding of the game. Well done for all of your achievements and for finishing 4th overall, against very strong opposition, we are proud of your achievements.

**Team:** Bandile, George, Harman, Ilyas, Thomas, Tobi & Zachery

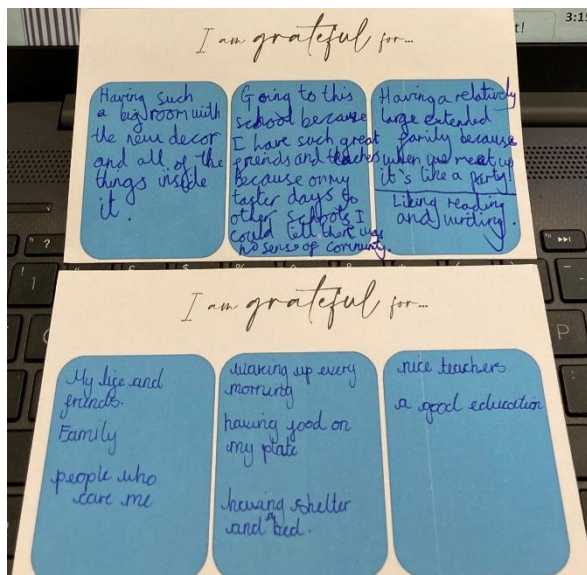
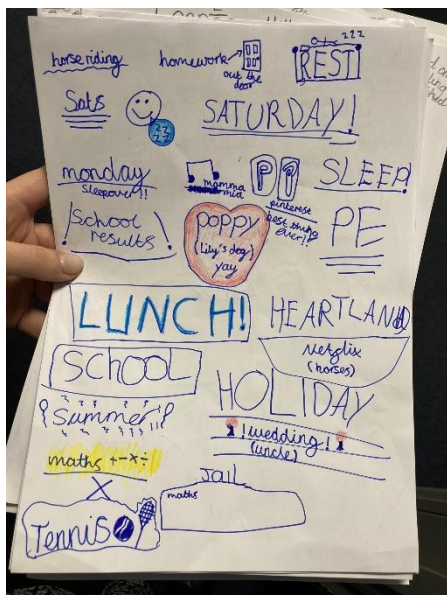
Player of the match: Bandile



# Physical Education

As this week has been Children's mental health awareness week, we have embraced opportunities to reflect on growth and engaged in activities that have been kind and positive for the mind, body and soul. Forty children, from years 2-5, attended training sessions with an external company and are now 'Mental health and wellbeing champions' for our school. The Champions are already committed to raising the profile of mental health and wellbeing across the school and we look forward to learning from them and working with them in a bid to prioritise everyone's mental health and happiness.

Our sports team meets monthly to share ideas on how to improve physical activity opportunities, new ideas are always



## 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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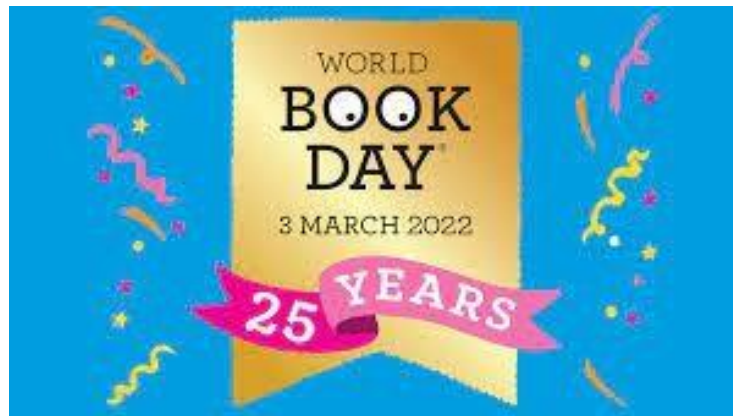


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## Celebrating 25 years of world book days!

This year, we would love the children to dress up for the occasion. We would like to encourage them to dress up as a character from their class key text linked which links to their project (where possible) or failing that, as their favourite book character from any story!

During the day, the children will set up their classrooms ready for a book party – celebrating 25 years of world book day. They will create book themed decorations, play book themed party games and enjoy a party tea menu full of book tasting samples. We invite the children to bring in a book they no longer wish to keep, to swap with a brand new book! They will then bring this home with them, along with their book token!

We would also like to take the opportunity to support the charity 'caring for humanity' ([www.caringforcommunity.org](http://www.caringforcommunity.org)) brought to our attention by students at Wixams Academy, who have asked for our support in raising money to aid their donations for the charity as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. If you happen to have extra books you wish to donate for others to buy at the end of the school day, please bring these in too.

Our year 5/6 reading ambassadors will set up a stall similarly to the one earlier in the year, where you will be able to buy books for 50p-£1.00 at the end of the school day.

We look forward to celebrating world book day and thank-you for your support.



# LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



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**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE PE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2022**

Center Parcs, Woburn Forest

**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

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

To register your place head to [www.teambedsandluton.co.uk/cyp-conference](http://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	


<b>Feb 14th - 18th</b>	<b>Feb 21st - 25th</b>
Templefield Lower School	Banbury Cherry Fields
Loughton Manor	Willen Primary School
Milton Keynes	Great Linford Primary School
Horse and Wilderness	Tickford Park Primary School


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