



Head of Primary News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst we have had a wonderful time in school this week, we know that the tragedy and difficulty in the news is upsetting and difficult to observe. Some of your children are aware of the situation in Ukraine and some are not. We wanted to let you know that we will not specifically be teaching the children about what is happening but that we will answer any questions, in an age appropriate way, that the children might have.

The following strategies are ways that we will be supporting any child who is feeling frightened or stressed:

Talk to the children – We instinctively want to protect children from things that might frighten them; however, not talking about something can make children more scared. We will continue watching Newsround with our students in class assemblies and will also allow them to continue reading the children's First News Newspapers that we have delivered weekly.

Answer questions – Staff at school will always listen to any worries and provide honest answers to their questions about what is going on; we will give honest, simple answers should any questions arise to support those feeling anxious. Avoiding answering their questions about the situation could promote more anxiety, so we plan to keep to basic facts. We also recognise that too much information can be overwhelming.

Reassure them – Children often personalise situations and may perceive the danger to be closer to home. We are letting them know that, although the war is very serious, they do not need to worry about it happening in their local area. We are telling them that they are safe and taken care of by their families and school. We can talk about Ukraine and show them where it is in relation to England, if necessary, using a globe or map. Children may also ask us what the impact might be on the lives of children and young people over there. With this, it is important to be realistic, we cannot promise that no one will get hurt. Overall, we can help children feel safe by letting them know we will always care for them no matter what. And we will point out that many people are doing good and showing solidarity; messages of security and safety are important for all children, as are examples of people helping and working hard to support those who have lost their homes or can't go to school.

Avoid stereotyping – We will not lay the blame on any nation and will always challenge hateful talk. We have a legal duty to provide an impartial and balanced view of any political matter. We do occasionally use Newsround as an age appropriate, unbiased news programme and will continue to

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use this. We will however, continually monitor the frequency and the appropriateness of the programme for our children.

I hope this will reassure you and also give you some helpful strategies to use at home.



Diary Dates

Kind regards,

J Tate

Mrs Tate
Head of Primary

- **10th/11th/12th March:** Secondary Phase production of We Will Rock you!
- **Friday 11th March:** Year 1 Windsor Castle Trip
- **Wednesday 15th March:** Wellbeing Day
- **Tuesday 29th March:** Fantastic Fred NHS Theatre Show KAO
- **Wednesday 30th March:** Parents Evening
- **Thursday 31st March:** Fantastic Fred NHS Theatre Show KAB/Parents Evening

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Executive Principal: Mrs Sarah Howells

Willow

Last week, Willow class had great fun joining with the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' by Michel Rosen. They loved retelling the story and making their own sensory map of the story. We all enjoyed saying all the onomatopoeias in the story, like 'swishy swashy' and 'squelch squerch!' and creating new ones. The children learnt about different types of bears, created beautiful paintings of their favourite ones and enjoyed going on their very own bear hunt around our classroom, using tally marks to record the number of bears they found.

This week, we've been learning about Pancake day, using the book 'Mr Wolf's pancakes'. We had great fun making pancakes on Tuesday and the children did some really careful weighing, measuring and mixing to make the batter. We devoured our pancakes with some tasty toppings! We've had fun pancake races during our PE lesson and have really been perfecting our pancake flipping skills with a maths game where we had to see how many flips of the pancake we could do in a minute!

In preparation for World Book Day, the children enjoyed taking part in our school display competition by creating an amazing collage of their favourite story book, The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. The children looked just amazing as they entered their classroom on Thursday dressed up as their favourite book character.

Word of the week (last week): Onomatopoeia

Word of the week Devour



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Ash

We have had an exciting and busy couple of weeks in Year 1! We have begun looking at our topic in History this half term 'Kings and Queens' which was kicked off with an enrichment day! We wrote down what our rules would be if we were king or queen for the day and coffee stained them to look more authentic. We also had a go at writing our names in calligraphy which turned out beautifully. I was so impressed with all the children as we had learned a traditional dance for our ball, had a banquet and told jokes to entertain our Kings and Queens!

In English, we have been looking at "The Stinky Cheese Man" and we have begun learning the story using actions to help us. We made some Wanted or (Not Wanted) posters for the stinky cheese man focusing on using lots of adjectives! For World Book Day, we had fun reading in an unusual place, went on a book scavenger hunt around the school and put together our book of 'The Stinky Cheese Man' for our classroom door competition.

In Maths, we have begun counting in 2s and 5s and applying this knowledge to word problems to challenge ourselves. Year 1 have been learning to play the recorders in Music this term taught by our Year 2 teacher Miss Begbie. I have been so impressed with their progress and how hard they all work. It has been wonderful to hear some beautiful notes being played these past couple of weeks. On pancake day, Year 1 had a go at tossing a pancake in a frying pan and all the children were so supportive of each other and encouraged their friends to have another go if they didn't quite get it. As a little treat, we also had a go at tasting some pancakes thinking about our 5 senses!

We had a lot of laughs in PSHE this week where we have been learning about fairness and what that actually means. I had asked children to think of time they had been hurt and needed a plaster to help them and one pupil told us he had hurt his knee whilst playing and cut it, so I gave him a plaster for his knee. Then another pupil told us they hurt their finger and needed a plaster so I gave them a plaster for their knee... The children were very quick to correct me that I needed to give them a plaster on their finger rather than their knee but I told them that "it wasn't fair" - one child gets it on their knee so why can't the other child? We soon started to realise that "fair" does not always mean equal but rather about people's needs. We most certainly had a good giggle with this one and I have loved hearing the children being so kind in correcting each other this past week when someone says something is "not fair".

Word of the week (last week): Monarch

Word of the week: Fairness



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Birch

What a great start back to school Year 2's has had so far! There are so many exciting topics that we are starting and the children are very excited about. In History we have begun to look at castles and in Science we have looked at plants and bulbs. We looked at some snow drops with magnifying glasses and could see the bulb at the bottom with all the roots. We then pressed some flowers so that when they are ready the children can label the parts of a plant and stick a real flower in their books! They even made sure they used scientific language when describing what each part of the plant does. Next we will be writing an investigation which will be very exciting!

In maths, the class has been learning about and revising their shape and getting to know all the important language that you need to remember when describing their properties. They have been getting very good at sorting them into 3D and 2D shapes and telling their partners how they know.

This week was World Book Day and the children had such a great time looking at each other's costumes, parading them in assembly and reading stories. They ended the day with a book scavenger hunt and they found all of the pictures (after lots of running around!). I've been very impressed with how the children have settled back and we can't wait to show you all the learning we will do!

Word of the week: Source



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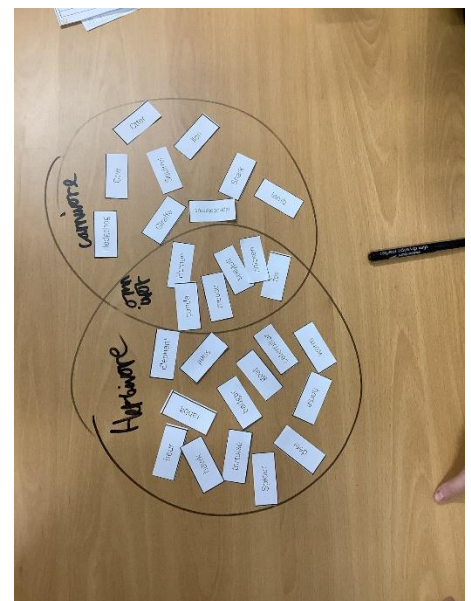
Chestnut

Chestnut class have been working extremely hard since returning from the half term holidays. In Maths, we have been focusing on Money. The children have shown great understanding, when converting between pounds and pence, and also when adding quantities of money.

In English, we have just begun exploring Historical fiction. We have been reading *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit. The children have been writing a continuation of the story based on their own predictions. I have been very impressed with the clarity of their writing and the variation in sentence openers that the children have been using.

In Science, we began our new topic of animals including humans. We have so far been finding out about different food groups and categorising animals based on their diets. In History, we began our new topic of The Romans. We have been learning about the expansion of the Roman Empire and the Roman Invasion of Britain. We then moved on to explore the many reasons the Romans chose to invade Britain. During Art lessons, children have been learning about Roman mosaics. We have begun designing our own mosaics before using mosaic tiles to bring our designs to life next week.

Word of the week: Loathe



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Pine

We've started a new unit on fairy tales. Children have used the story map below to learn 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' from memory focusing on the punctuation and structure. This week, the children used the structure to write their own fairy tales including expanded noun phrases and introducing a dilemma. Ask your children to use the story map below to tell you the story.

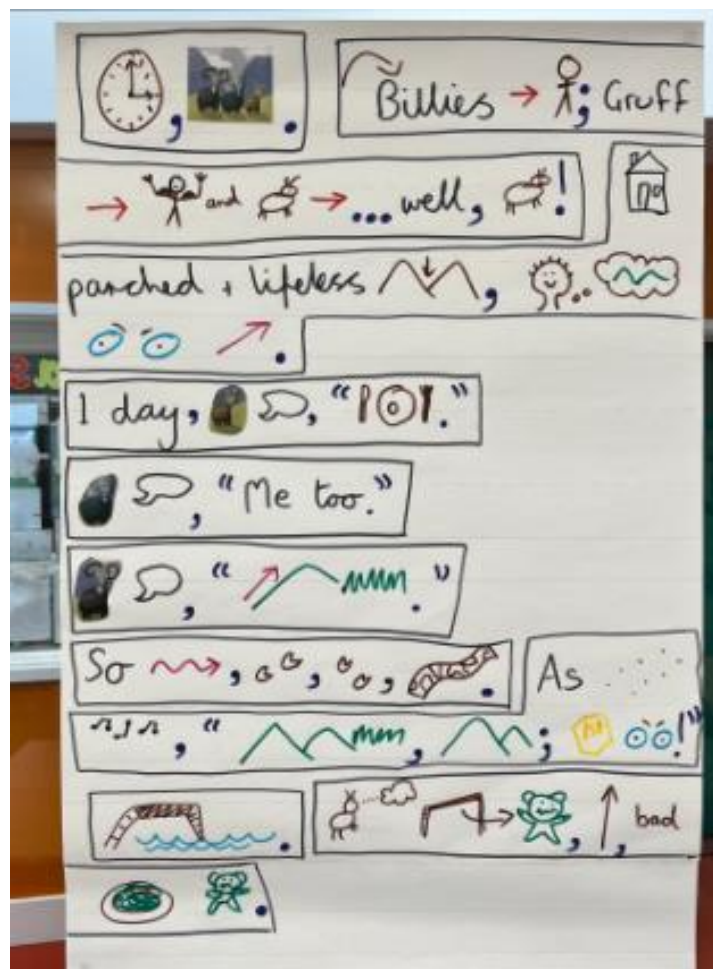
In maths, we started the term celebrating Twosday (22.2.22) and the children took part in a variety of '2' based challenges - shown in the photos as well as learning about palindromic numbers. We then continued our topic on fractions; learning how to change between improper fractions and mixed number fractions and learning how to add and subtract fractions.

In our afternoon sessions, we have started exciting new history and science topics: *Riotous Royalty* and *Sound*. Pine class were surprised to learn that the shortest reign of a British monarch was just 9 days! They also had lots of fun making their own sounds, using instruments and a collection of materials - I think popping the bubble wrap was one of the most popular. We will soon be investigating how sounds change and designing our own musical instruments.

World Book Day was truly fabulous in Pine Class. Everyone dressed up and we had a book quiz, a scavenger hunt; we shared our characters and turned our classroom door into a 'Where's Wally?' page. In the afternoon, their teacher was Shakespeare and he ran a workshop all about his play, *The Tempest*. The class learnt about a magical island and its wizard, Prospero. They even turned the classroom into a ship to get him back to Milan.

Word of the week (last week): Intrepid

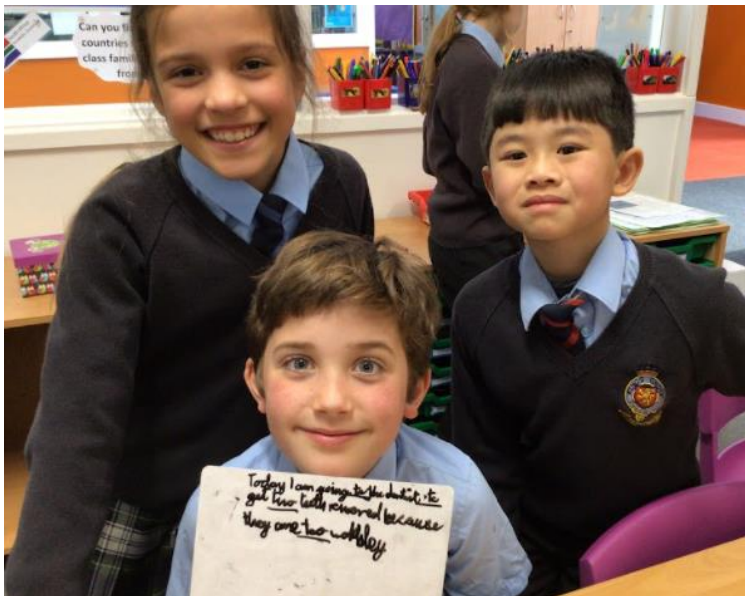
Word of the week: Optimistic



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Sports News

On Thursday 24th March, 12 of the Year 4s from King's Academy Oakwood attended a School Games Sports Hall Athletics Competition at Bracknell Leisure Centre. Those involved were thoroughly excited to represent the school in a sporting event for the first time. The children participated in relay races as well as jumping and throwing events. Overall, out of the 19 Bracknell schools who participated, we came 9th. This was a fantastic achievement at the school's first Sports Hall Athletic event. Throughout the event, the children demonstrated great sportsmanship and it was lovely to see the children supporting their teammates with such enthusiasm!



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