



Dear Parents,

This is my favourite term - the weather is nicer for one thing and the evenings are longer to enjoy spending time after school with friends and family. This is also the term where we see children make significant progress towards end of year standards.

This term, Year 6 and Year 2 completed their SATs tests. All the children did really well and we are so very proud of them. All results, alongside teacher judgements will be included in the end of year report that you will be sent on the 17th July. We have gone paperless as a school but if you require a printed paper copy for any reason, please do ask your class teacher once you receive your reports.

Please keep an eye on all the dates as Summer term (like all the other terms!) is a really busy one.

Have a great half term break.

Mrs Woods

<https://amzn.eu/axxWlw5>

EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage - Nursery

This half term has been a busy one in Acorns Nursery.

We have celebrated St. George's Day making hats and flags. We focused our learning on London, where we looked at maps and landmarks. We made a great big London bus with the big wooden blocks outside. We thought about spring, sharing the story 'When will it be spring?', then we went on a spring walk with binoculars to find signs of spring. We have learnt about the frog life-cycle. We did some frog yoga and explored rhyming, sharing the story 'Oi Frog'.



We celebrated the King's coronation, thinking about the royal family and our family. We made a big throne in our reading area and had a crown and a sceptre to dress up like the King. We had a very exciting delivery of tiny caterpillars to our classroom for our learning on the butterfly life cycle. They have been eating and eating and are very big caterpillars now. We can't wait for them to turn into butterflies. We have also welcomed some new friends to Acorns Nursery too.



EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage - Reception

During the summer half term, Oaks Reception Class has been actively engaged in learning about the fascinating topic of new life. The children have eagerly absorbed new information, expanding both their vocabulary and knowledge. We focused on lifecycle of caterpillars. The children had the opportunity to witness this magical process first-hand as they nurtured and cared for five caterpillars, observing them grow and develop into beautiful butterflies, which we later released and watched them fly away.

The sunny weather provided an excellent opportunity for the children to explore and have fun outside. They embarked on a "learning hunt" within the school grounds, discovering and observing various seeds and learning about how plants grow. This hands-on approach allowed the children to develop a deeper understanding of nature and the natural world around them. Furthermore, the Reception class actively participated in planting their own seeds, fostering a sense of responsibility and connection to the environment.

Overall, the summer half term for the Reception class was an enriching and exciting period of exploration and discovery.



Key Stage One – Year One

This half term Willow Class has been learning all about materials! We have enjoyed lots of opportunities for practical learning while investigating materials and which are best for different purposes. Our Maths on measure and multiplication has also lent itself to a lot of practical activities which has seen the children work on their collaboration and independence skills. We have loved learning about the Creation story in RE and thinking about how beautiful our world is and how we can help look after it. Year 1 have been particularly interested in looking at what other countries' weather and terrain is like. We are excited for opportunities to continue to take our learning outside next half term as the weather improves!



Key Stage One – Year Two

In Holly Class this half term we have been learning about the Great Fire of London. We started the half term by baking bread rolls because it is believed that the fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane in London. The children were intrigued by the fact that you can still visit Pudding Lane today and that the monument built to remember the fire and celebrate the rebuilding of the city, if laid flat, will reach the place in Pudding Lane where the fire started. Our favourite fact has been that Samuel Pepys buried his most valuable possessions (cheese and wine) to protect them from the spreading flames.

Our other highlights have been playing trust games in Jigsaw and all of the Coronation celebrations.



Key Stage Two – Year Three

In Hawthorn Class this half term, our 'Buzz Off!' unit has given us lots of opportunities to get outside and experience the natural world and the changes that happen at this time of year. In the classroom we have learnt about the life cycle of flowering plants and have read different excerpts from 'The Secret Garden' in order to write our own setting description. We also got the chance to decorate our own sunflower pots with a stencil design which are now at home with sunflower seeds (hopefully!) germinating in the soil. During our visits to the wild area at the back of the field, we have been able to discuss the best ways to describe that sort of environment in our writing, and have also had a go at observing the landscape in order to draw it in our sketch books.



Key Stage Two – Year Four

As always, this half term seems to have flown by in Maple Class.

It started with Bikeability in the first few days back. The children loved practicing their skills and beginning to think about how they can make sure their bikes are safe.

Over the term, our theme has been rainforests. We've enjoyed finding out about the different layers and types of wildlife you could find in each. We've also thought about why rainforests are being destroyed and the effect it has. Alongside this, we have looked at some of the work of Henri Rousseau and tried to create our own pictures based on his works. Finally, in science, we've been thinking about states of matter and explored the properties of solids, liquids and gases.

We had a great day celebrating the Coronation. We spent time finding out about some of the regalia the King was presented with, exploring the meaning of some of the pieces and the history of them. We also really enjoyed the celebration lunch together!



Key Stage Two – Year Five

Of course, the highlight for Sycamore Class this half term was our trip to High Ashurst!

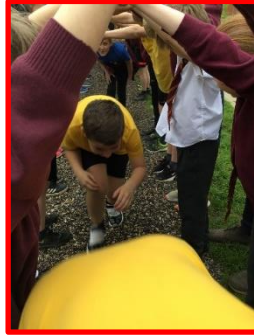
The children really shone and loved experiencing the outdoor environment for a few days. They completed a range of activities such as rock climbing, high ropes, woodland skills and code breaking. The children particularly enjoyed having 'free time' to play with their friends and explore the woods around them! They were resilient, worked hard and showed positive and supportive encouragement for each other. Year 5 should be really proud of themselves.



Key Stage Two – Year Six

It has been a very busy and successful half-term in Year 6! The children showed fantastic determination, resilience and perseverance during SATs week, and everyone tried their best and gave it their all. To celebrate their achievements, the whole school created a human tunnel on the field for Year 6 to run under! Well done Ash Class!

Our topic this half-term has been 'The Golden Age of Islam'. We have been reading, sequencing and discussing themes of traditional tales from 'One Thousand and One Arabian Nights'. The class then did an incredible job at writing their own tales, which were inspired by the book. They then wrote their tales up neatly and we published them a book, which we called 'The Last 26 Arabian Nights.' We have also been learning about the importance of Baghdad during the Early Islamic Civilisation, and how advanced the city was in comparison to Europe at the time.



Ms Davidson is getting married!!

This half term Ms Davidson is getting married and will become Mrs Stephens .

We wish Ms Davidson the very best for her wedding and marriage and cannot wait to see the photographs – she will make a beautiful bride.



ROAD SAFETY

I have been looking at how we use the entrances and exits and I would like to re-establish some expectations in order to keep all children and adults safe.

No parents to use the staff car park unless given permission by the Head - this applies to all times in the day.

If you are dropping off to breakfast club before 8am or picking up from Camp glide after 5pm you may use the staff car park but only park in a **parking bay** – not behind other cars or on the access road.

All children and adults to use the footpaths during drop off and pick up.



I know that this adds on a couple of minutes and is a bit further to walk but we really do need to be aware of where it is appropriate to walk and where it is not – this ensures that children receive clear messages about road safety.



When parking on the surrounding roads by school please do not park on double yellow lines – they are there for a reason.

Double yellow lines are outside of the school to ensure that all cars and pedestrians have a clear sight of the road in both directions from the school gates – this is a safety and safeguarding matter.



Serious concerns have been raised about the safety of children due to careless parking and driving, resulting in near misses – I urge you all to take this matter seriously to prevent any harm befalling one of our children.

Parent guide to teaching road safety

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Useful information for drivers in the recent updates and changes to the Highway Code

<https://www.comparethemarket.com/car-insurance/content/cyclist-pedestrian-safety-awareness-for-drivers/>

Sports day – Friday 23rd June 2023

This year we are re-shaping sports day!

Here are all the details.

Children to wear their house colour t-shirt with PE kits to school – teachers will clarify this with you over Google classroom.

Sports day will run all morning from 9.00am until 12.15. Followed by a family picnic lunch. FOTO will provide all children with an ice pop treat after their lunch.

At 1pm all children will go back to their classrooms to register with their teacher – after which you can pick them up from their classroom door and take them home if you wish.

FOTO will be there all morning providing soft drinks and pastries/ice creams. There will also be a tea station for you to help yourself and contribute a donation. These refreshments are for adults.

VIP (Very important parent) lunch – Friday 16th June

This Year we are starting a new tradition by inviting a VIP (Very important parent) in to school to have lunch with their child!

This is intended as an inclusive family celebration of Fathers day.

Each child can invite one parent or adult to come and have lunch at school with them – you can enjoy fish fingers and chips followed by a chocolate cake – all prepared by our very own 'Max the chef' in the school kitchen.

There will be two sittings:

Reception, Year One and Year 2 – at 12.00pm

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 at 12.30pm.

(We have made the decision to not include Nursery in this, as it will be too disruptive for them at this stage)

This does mean that if you have siblings across the school you will be able to stay for both sittings – maybe pace yourself and share a course with each child. (Chew slowly!)

You will be able to sit with all of your children during this time – over the course of the hour.

If your child prefers to have their packed lunch you can still come in to share their lunch time and enjoy fishy Friday!

The price for an adult 2 course meal will be £5 to be paid via parent mail by 9am on the 7th June.

We will not be able to take any last minute orders as Max will need to order the fish fingers!

We are looking forward to enjoying this time with you – but please do not worry if you cannot make it as we will repeat this twice yearly starting next year.



DIARY DATES

Wednesday 24th May	Open afternoon in Acorns Nursery – prospective parents and children
Friday 26th May	Last day of half term - normal time.
Monday 5th June	INSET DAY – school closed to children
Tuesday 6th June	Back to school
Friday 9th June	MUFTI – bring in bags of sweets for the summer fair
Week beginning 12th June	Key Stage One phonics screening check
Thursday 15th June	FOTO – Summer Disco !
Friday 16th June	MUFTI – bring in bags of sweets for the summer fair VIP lunch – 12 – 1pm
Saturday 17th June	Horley Carnival
Tuesday 20th June	New reception parents meeting – 6pm – 7pm
Friday 23rd June	SPORTS DAY! Children to wear house colour t-shirt Morning only – followed by family picnic. Bring in bottles for the summer fair
Tuesday 27th June	Transition day – meet new teacher (this is when you will be told the teacher for your child’s class)
Wednesday 28th – Friday 30th June	YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL
Thursday 29th June	Spelling Bee
Friday 30th June	MUFTI – bring in bottles for the summer fair
Monday 3rd July	Open morning in Nursery – prospective parents and children
Monday 3rd July – Friday 14th July	Year 2 swimming - letter from Ms Davidson to follow
Thursday 6th July	Year 3 – singing picnic
Thursday 13th July	District sports
Friday 14th July	Cake donation for fair – cakes taken into classrooms please.
Saturday 15th July	FOTO – Summer fair !
Monday 17th July	End of Year reports to parents
Monday 17th July	Year 6 performance (supported by Year 5) - 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Tuesday 18th July	Year 6 performance (Supported by Year 5) - 9.15 – 10.45 am

Thursday 20th July	Year 6 Graduation ceremony – 6.00pm
Friday 21st July	Last Day of term – finish 2pm
Friday 1st September	INSET DAY – no children
Monday 4rd September	INSET DAY – no children
Tuesday 5th September	Children back to school !
Friday 20th October	Last day of term (Half term 23 rd – 27 th October)
Monday 30th October	Back to school
Thursday 14th December	End of term – early finish 1.30pm
Friday 15th December	INSET DAY – no children

DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

Academic year 2023 to 2024

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 for 2023 – 24 (preliminary dates)

Friday 1st September
 Monday 4th September
 Friday 15th December
 Tuesday 2nd January
 Monday 3rd June

FRIENDSHIP RESPECT COURAGE THANKFULNESS

