



## Fortnightly Newsletter



8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Firstly, thank you so much for returning the EV4 medical form to school in preparation for our imminent residential visit to Beaumanor Hall next week. The children are clearly very excited and are looking forward to having a giant sleepover with their friends! We are keeping our fingers crossed for dry and mild weather but it is best to be prepared for all eventualities – we live in hope!

Please send any medication that you have mentioned on the EV4 form into school on the day. This needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name and handed to an adult. Travel sickness tablets need to be taken at home ready for a 9.15am departure. We will make sure your child takes one before we depart for home on the Thursday.

There were some wonderful costumes and pyjama outfits on show yesterday to celebrate World Book Day! I have taken some photos which should appear on my class page of the school website shortly. The children enjoyed singing a song about books in assembly and we also marked the occasion by completing some book related activities across the day.

As it is Mothering Sunday this weekend, you should be receiving a handmade card from your child. I have also set a little homework challenge for the children – to complete an act of kindness for their mum/special lady in their life on the day itself! This could be helping with cooking, tidying their bedroom, not arguing with siblings etc etc The possibilities are endless so I hope you all have a lovely day!

On Monday afternoon of this week, we welcomed Dennis from the RNLI into school to talk to the children about the very important work of the Lifeboat institute. This was the perfect day for him to visit as March 4<sup>th</sup> marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RNLI. He spoke to us about the many different types of lifeboats (I never knew there were so many!) and their locations around the coastline of the UK as well as how to keep safe in and around water. As always, the children listened intently and asked and answered lots of questions.

In R.E. the children have talked about the things they like to do to relax and rest just as God did on the seventh day of the Creation. From this, we have talked about how the Shabbat is a special day for Jewish families, beginning on a Friday night and lasting for 25 hours. The children found this very interesting and could make comparisons to their own lives.

In Science, we have enjoyed categorising a variety of different materials from around the classroom and have talked at length about their different properties. We then spent time looking more closely at specific materials and decided if they could stretch and bend, were transparent or opaque, waterproof or absorbent or if they were hard or soft.

Our work in design and technology is progressing well. We have now built a prototype frame of a beach hut using art straws and masking tape. We had to work in pairs as it was a very fiddly job as you can imagine. The next steps will be to design our actual beach hut that will be created using junior hacksaws and square dowling!!

In music, we are continuing to enjoy music that evokes different moods by listening to different tempos and reacting to this by moving our bodies in time to the pulse and rhythm.

#### Maths:

We have been working very hard with our mental recall in arithmetic and the children are becoming so much quicker at working out addition and multiplication questions at speed against a timer. Lots have children have mentioned that they are using and enjoying the 'Hit the Button' activities from the 'Top Marks' free App and I can certainly tell! We are continuing to work through our unit on multiplication and division – lots of activities using the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, repeated addition and recently we have used practical apparatus to understand basic division and how this is linked to multiplication.

#### English:

I was so pleased with how well the children wrote their own sets of instructions to complete our most recent talk for writing unit. After spending time highlighting all of the features required to write a full set of instructions, the children were challenged to write their own set for 'How to Trap a Wolf', taking care to remember all of the different features and language required. We have now started a new fiction unit using 'Jack and the Beanstalk' as the model text. So far, the children have drawn story maps and written a range of descriptive sentences to describe the appearance and personality of the giant.

#### Spelling and Reading:

I have been pleased with how well the children have continued to learn their weekly spelling lists – thank for your support at home with this. It is also very important that they revisit past lists of words (which we do at school) to retain spelling rules and patterns that can then be applied to their everyday writing.

In reading sessions, we are continuing to work on a range of comprehension skills, expression and fluency several times a week.

#### Home Reading:

Please aim to read with your child at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner. I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I will continue to be checking diaries every Friday and will award stickers as a reward for regular reading. If books need changing in between your child's nominated book change day, they will need to let me know and I can organise an extra book.

#### Class Page:

Please keep checking our class page on the main school website. Here, you can find the fortnightly newsletters, updated spelling lists for each half term and photos of your children in action from time to time.

#### Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and an outdoor kit for Fridays.
- Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – Wed. 13<sup>th</sup>/Thurs. 14<sup>th</sup> March
- Parents' evenings – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey