

# End of Term!

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022



Happy April Fool's Day from the Key Stage 1 Team!

Well - here we are at the end of the Spring term! It has certainly been a busy one with a January nativity, a fantastic residential at Beaumanor Hall, World Book Day and an Easter service in front of a live audience - something we have all missed these last two years. We hope you enjoyed the service in church (despite the snow!) and it was lovely to see so many of you there. Your children have made and decorated an Easter basket this week with a chocolate nest and some mini eggs inside - I hope the contents manage to make it home before being consumed today! To finish off our Easter celebrations, I was amazed at the wonderful ideas, creativity and thought that so many children put into the Easter egg competition today - we were able to enjoy looking at all the entries on display across the school - a big well done to everyone who took the time to take part!

I hope you all enjoyed Mother's Day last Sunday - I certainly enjoyed listening to all of the different ideas your children came up with to make your day a special one. It seems that lots of you were treated to breakfast in bed and a day of your child not arguing with you or their siblings!!

I have now fully recovered from the dreaded Covid – I was beginning to wonder if I was ever going to catch it with so many children and staff testing positive over the past months. I unfortunately suffered from an extremely sore throat and lost my voice completely for a number of days and couldn't speak (Mr Cilbey was clearly delighted by this and welcomed the peace and quiet!!) There were so many members of staff absent at the same time in Key Stage 1, it proved to be quite challenging at times and I am really proud of how well the children in my class coped with the uncertainty of who would teach them each day. By all accounts, they worked really hard on the work I sent for them to complete and so many children were really helpful to the different adults teaching them.

We are now coming to the end of our topic for this half term – 'Movers and Shakers'. The children have really enjoyed the content and during my absence, Miss Brownley (our Year 6 teacher) taught a lesson about some famous activists – focusing mainly on the work and achievements of William Wilberforce, Emmeline Pankhurst and Mahatma Gandhi. She was so impressed with the depth of knowledge that the children had about these and other activists that we have discussed over the half term!

Last week, Florence Nightingale paid us a visit – (it was Miss Evans in disguise!) Through drama, the children were able to learn about Florence as a child and her determination against the odds to become a nurse. We were also able to handle and discuss artefacts to further enhance our knowledge and understanding of how Florence changed nursing forever during the Crimean War.

We were lucky enough to enjoy a visit from Dennis – from the RNLI on Tuesday afternoon. The children listened carefully to the important work undertaken by the Institute and he also shared lots of information with us about how to keep safe around different kinds of water. He showed us a variety of warning signs and flags that can be around water. All the children in Key Stage 1 listened beautifully and there was an opportunity to ask sensible questions at the end. This reinforced the learning that took place as part of our previous topic 'Coastline'.



We enjoyed a little class concert on Thursday afternoon. This is something I like to do at the end of each term as I feel it provides the children with an opportunity to perform in front of a friendly, familiar audience. There are so many benefits and it is lovely to watch the children grow in confidence and self-esteem as the months go by. I am so pleased that everyone contributed and was included in some way – there were even snacks to enjoy as an end of term treat! (Photos can now be viewed on my class page!)

The children have continued to work hard during maths, english and spelling sessions over that last weeks. We have now increased our focus on revision, consolidation and past SAT papers for reading, arithmetic and mathematical reasoning in preparation for the forthcoming SATs in May. We will continue to do this after Easter over the four weeks leading up to May 16<sup>th</sup> (Key Stage 1 SATs start date)

#### Homework:

I am sending a reading comprehension and a mental maths activity for your child to be getting on with over the holiday if you wish them to. The mental maths sheet can be printed as many times as you would like.

The idea is that the children to become quicker at calculating each time they complete one. A rough guide would be to try it on 4 separate occasions over the holiday and it does not need to be printed out in colour. This homework is optional but will be beneficial to your child if they are able to find time to complete the activities.

I am always really pleased to look at completed activities on a Friday when the children bring their homework book into school. The children are very proud of the work they complete and enjoy sharing it with their peers. I will send the new homework grid for next term's topic after Easter.

Thank you for continuing to support your child with their weekly spelling lists (I have attached the list for the first half of the Summer term), reading and maths consolidation activities. House points will continue to be awarded to children if they manage to achieve full marks for every three weeks in a row.

It is really important that children have their diaries in school on Fridays so that this process can run smoothly – thank you for your support with this.

#### Additional Information:

- P.E. days will continue to be Tuesdays (indoor – dance) and Fridays (outdoor multisport activities).
- Your child will bring their P.E. kit home today for a wash. Please be aware that they will need it for P.E. on the first day back!
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Summer Term begins!

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have a relaxing Easter break whatever you are doing. We have some children jetting off to countries with warmer climates – Dubai, Mexico and Tenerife to name a few! For those of us staying in the UK, – fingers crossed for some more sunshine!

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbey ☺

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