

Parents' Newsletter

Love, Respect, Honesty, Perseverance



Friday 20th September

Dear Parents/ Carers

We have had a busy few weeks and the children are settling well in to the new academic year. This week, both schools have undertaken assessments for the Global Neighbours Accreditation offered by Christian Aid. We will find out the outcome in the coming weeks; in the meantime, well done to the staff and children for their efforts in making our schools into communities with big hearts and brave voices.

We have booked in Learning Together events, please see the dates. This is in order to support the roll out of our KS2 reading homework scheme. Further details are below, the aim of the interactive sessions is to support you being able to move your child from word recognition to real fluency and beyond. From this fluent reader we want to encourage children to enjoy the connection with books, promote book talk and an affinity with authors and genres. We aim for our children to be lifelong readers and of course creative writers as a result. So please do try to make your slot or send a family member who can relay the ideas to you. As with the maths homework change, we will also aim to get some sample videos online and have support as part of the class fortnightly update shared on Dojo by teachers. We look forward to seeing you for these and our first Share session of the year on Tuesday 1st October straight after school until 3.45pm. For those who are new to our school, this is an opportunity to share the children's books and ask for any advice on supporting your child at home, should you need to. Having the books with the children supports them in remembering what they have been learning and they enjoy sharing their efforts with parents and carers.

Kind regards

Bridgette Gough

Collective Worship themes

This past week we have focused on kind deeds and used both texts and short films as a stimulus for discussion, we have shared one here which demonstrates the ripple effect of acts of compassion and generosity. Below are the links to a couple of them and we also shared the well-loved classic Dogger by Shirley Hughes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHzsvKKB9E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMnEP2DYfml>

Next week we are focusing on the Learning Behaviour 'Work Hard and Concentrate' and the power of positive thinking - having the resilience to not give up and a sense of self-belief. We have the support of a visitor next week to deliver a Worship, Delena from CYO will be focusing upon the light shone by messages from Jesus' parables.

Checking we have your details right - Parent Lite

At the beginning of the new school year, we ask that parents check the information we hold for you, your child and other contacts is up to date and if not, that you update any information as necessary. It is important we hold the correct information for yourself and your family. New families in our Early Years class will be receiving a letter with details of how to sign up to Parent Lite, meanwhile, if anything has changed since enrolment, please do pop in and let us know or email.

Encouraging and Supporting Reading at Home

In Early Years and Key Stage One, all of the children who read at home at least three times (recorded by a parent or carer in the reading diary) in a week earn the ability to be a Reading Superhero!! If awarded, they get a certificate and to wear a cape and mask and strike a superhero pose for the whole school community in our Celebration Worship.

In Key Stage Two, each child reading at least three times at home (recorded by a parent or carer in the reading diary) earn a reading star; the class that gets the highest percentage of children earning reading stars each week, earn a book for their class library. They can read these books in and out of school. A token is given in Celebration Worship. Children vote on the book choice as a class and the token is then exchanged for their choice. Our school PTA (SASHA) are sponsoring this project going forward. We are so grateful to them as the children love being able to select their own books and the wide range of authors and genres they collect, encourage the development of their favourite authors and genres. Thank you!

Miss Williams (our Reading Lead) and myself will host an Early Reading (Phonics) support session this half term to help Early Years children's parents continue their child's journey to being a reader. We are holding these events at drop off time to enable parents to attend. Please do try and make it if you possibly can.

Water Aid Week

As Global Neighbours, we are aiming to raise money for WaterAid to help provide clean water and toilet access to communities across the world without, including a 'WaterAid Week' later this half term.

We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 4th October. We are inviting everyone to wear shades of blue and/or silver for a donation of silver coins or above, which we will be using to create a coin river across the Hall. Start collecting!

In addition, we will be launching a WaterAid poster competition to encourage people to continue to donate to the WaterAid bottle outside the school office.

Finally, at the end of last year, School Council worked with a local company to design our own St. Andrew's water bottle with the aim of reducing single-use plastic within our school community. We will also be launching these during the week - watch this space!

Isla H, Chloe, Stan N, Stan W-D and Isla W
Y6 Collective Worship Committee and School Council

Pupil of the week

Tiger Cub Class:	W1- Lewin W2- Jackson
Reindeer Class:	W1- Ariella W2- Sidney
Fennec Fox Class:	W1- Eliza W2- Benjamin
Panda Class:	W1- Thea W2- Georgie
Snow Leopard Class:	W1- Eleanor W2- Miles
Turtle Class:	W1- Malachy W2- Lilly-Rose
Seal Class:	W1- (PGL) W2- Samuel



Birthdays in September

Niya	Delilah
Daice	Bella S
Harrison	James
Wilfred	Evie P
Jacob C	Georgia
Eva H	
Leon	
Henry B	
Isla T	
Archie C	
Sadie	
Joseph C	
George K	



Going For Green

Erin & Rosie T

Sports Cup

Connor & Flinn

PGL

Last week, Year 6 had the most thrilling experience at PGL Caythorpe Court (which is in Lincolnshire). As we arrived, we had a tour of PGL - it was huge! Every day was jam-packed with activities; amongst others, our favourites were the giant swing, trapeze with everyone cheering us on as we climbed to the top and tunnelling. We had to squeeze through tiny holes! Over the week, we were helped by all our Learning for Life Behaviours, particularly Respect Yourself and Others - we all cheered each other on to achieve new things!

Aimee, Isla H and Mason



Chelmsford Cathedral

On Wednesday 2nd October, 12 children from our St. Andrew's choir will be singing at a special evening prayer service at Chelmsford Cathedral. The theme for the event is 'Hope in a Time of Climate Crisis'. Climate justice is one of our areas of focus as part of our work as Global Neighbours and we are delighted to be one of only three schools from the Diocese of Chelmsford taking part.

The children will be singing 'I Am the Earth' with children from two other local primary schools, which we have been learning and enjoying singing as a whole school over the past couple of weeks. In addition, a couple of children will be sharing some of the work we have been doing around climate justice with the congregation. We are looking forward to it!

Reading Homework and Learning Together

Following the roll out of the Key Instant Recall Facts mathematics homework, we have redeveloped our reading homework to follow a similar format. This will be for children in KS2 from this half term and children in Year 2 after Christmas. At the beginning of each half term, your child will be given a crib sheet to support you when you are listening to them read at home, which will target a different reading or comprehension skill. The reasons for this change are many but primarily it will allow them to complete homework tasks based on books they have chosen themselves. The focus for support at home is improving reading fluency.

The half termly skills for each year group have been shared on Class Dojo, along with the crib sheet for your child's year group for the coming half term. The crib sheet has been designed to give you a range of strategies that you can use to help improve your child's fluency each time you hear them read.

Reading fluency will also be the focus for Learning Together this half term. This will include your child's teacher modelling some of the strategies suggested to support you at home.

Tuesday 24th September Y6 Seals Learning Together 1.30pm

Thursday 26th September Y4 Snow Leopards Learning Together 1.30pm

Thursday 5th December Y2 Fennec Foxes Learning Together 1.45pm

Maths at ASAT Parent Information and Coffee Morning

St Andrew's - Wednesday 20th November 9-10

The way we deliver the maths curriculum has seen some changes in the last few years. Parents of our KS2 pupils with younger siblings in KS1 have likely noticed a difference. This morning event is for EY and KS1 parents to explain how and why our children are learning mastery maths. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions about homework and ways our children can be supported at home. There will be a presentation of information at the start, then a Q&A session so there is no need to stay for the full hour.

I hope to see you there,

Miss Middleton

NCETM Primary Mastery Specialist

Secondary School Applications

The Ramsey Academy – Thursday 26th September – 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Hedingham School and Sixth Form – Thursday 10th October – 5.00pm – 8.00pm