

Caring for ourselves, in order to be able to care about others, has been the focus of our Values this half term. Maintaining a healthy body and a healthy mind is vital if our children are to enjoy a long and happy life. We have looked at the four main areas of keeping our amazing bodies well: a healthy diet, plenty of exercise each day, getting a good night's sleep and making sure we keep ourselves clean.

Probably the area most underestimated is the importance of high quality sleep. As adults we know how a late or disturbed night can affect us the next morning; the same is obviously true of children. On average, primary school age children need about 10 hours and recommendations are that 'screen time' (television, laptops, phones etc) be stopped a good hour before children try to sleep, as they can affect the brain's ability to switch off.

Mrs Kilcoyne presented an interesting assembly about endorphins – the role they play in making us feel good and how to generate more of them. Miss Rice generated a lot of thought during her assembly encouraging everyone to focus on the good in their lives and appreciate what they have rather than always wanting something more. It has been a really interesting Value to explore and the feedback from the children has been excellent!

So, we wish everyone a happy and caring half term break.

Attendance

We are continuing with our drive to improve attendance and have had some real success, which is wonderful. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this improvement. Any time spent away from school means missed learning, which is obviously not what anyone wants for children, and takes away from the right every child has to the very best education possible.

Regarding Penalty Notices:

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

*Please be aware that **each** parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each** child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice. If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.*

Toys

We have noticed an increasing number of items being brought into school from home. We are asking that in future children do not bring any items in from home, as they can cause issues within school if they are lost or broken. This includes items such as putty, squishies and pencil cases. If children are seen to bring in any of these items, staff will look after them until the end of the day when they will be returned to the parents. The only exception is that children may bring in a small ball (clearly named) to play with on the playground.

PHASE 1

Badger Class (Yr N)

Otter Class (Yr R)

Squirrel Class (Yr 1)

To keep up-to-date with our latest news, follow us on Twitter @BletchingleyVPS.



In Badger class this half term, we have enjoyed finding out about dinosaurs as part of our "Time Travellers" topic. We have also been on a trip to the Polka Theatre, Wimbledon to watch "My Brother, My Sister and Me" and we loved our Stay And Play Session too. In cooking, we have followed lots of recipes including cheese straws, pancakes and dinosaur sandwiches.

Spring Term

1



This half term, Otter class have enjoyed travelling back in time to find out about some of the toys played with by children in the past. So far, we have travelled back as far as 1970! We have planted bulbs and had great fun watching MoonBrella, a story about a brave umbrella and his friend who visit the moon. We are also loving relaxing and reading books in our new book corner (The Tree House) and are thankful to FOBS for buying it for us.



This half term, Squirrel Class have travelled back in time to 1666 and have been learning about the Great Fire of London. We learnt about what happened using Samuel Pepys' diary and pretended to be Samuel Pepys as we wrote our own recounts about the fire.

We know the fire spread quickly because the houses were all made from wood. We used wood and cardboard to make our own houses and have decorated them in the Tudor style. We worked in teams to make sure our houses are strong and stable.



Highlights from Phase 2

Spring 1

In Fox Class this term we have had lots of chances to develop our writing skills. We have written descriptions, instructions and riddles; our riddles have been entered into a competition to be published in a book – fingers crossed that we get selected. Every time we do a new piece of writing, we have a Super Starter - we've been robbed by the Highway Rat, tricked by some very clever instructions, been on the hunt for a Gruffalo and become masterminds with riddles.



Recently in maths, we've been interpreting block graphs. We can make them easily, but trying to answer questions about them can be more challenging! We are very pleased with how our hall art has turned out. Since we have been learning about London in the past we decided to base our work on the Black Plague. We took our pencil for a walk across a rat's outline and tried to fill in each section with a different pencil texture, instead of the traditional shading technique; when we put them altogether, they made a great, diverse swarm.

We've been learning that many things are different about today's London compared with London in 1666 – did you know that the houses back then used to be made out of wood because it was cheaper than stone?



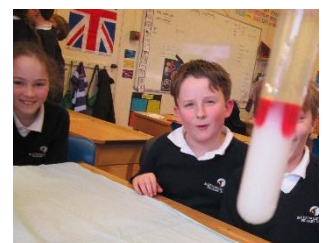
This half term, Ruby Class has explored the Anglo Saxons - why they settled here and how the Battle of Hastings started. We voted on who should be the new King of England and why. While we were learning about the Anglo Saxons we started creating our new hall art. We know now that the Anglo Saxons had round shields so we designed some of our own out of watercolour and recreated the famous tapestry using charcoal and chalk. We have learnt about real life time-travel in geography, exploring where in the world it is already tomorrow and who is only just starting to wake up and enjoy today!

In gym and games, we have looked at what makes a good team-player in netball, working hard not to move when we have the ball and continuing to work on our balancing and flexibility as well. One of the most exciting things for Ruby Class has been meeting our new teacher. We will be really sorry to say goodbye to Miss Rice, but have loved working with Miss Briers and are looking forward to seeing what the rest of the term has to offer us!



In Sapphire Class, we have been busy inventing magical potions which will enable us to travel through time, amongst other things. We've explored our imaginations and the outside area for ingredients! In science, we've done some real-life wondrous mixing including the spectacular reactions of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, but who knew oil would float on top of milk!!

We've also looked at different events in British history and used the invasion of the Spanish Armada to inspire our hall art. Through all this travelling, we found time to brush up on our European geography and even stepped into the future to design new inventions like spray on wrapping paper and machines that change the weather.



Highlights from Phase 3

In Phase 3, we have enjoyed starting this term's topic 'Time Travellers'. Diamond Class have had a focus on the World Wars. We started by creating some fantastic art for our hall board (which you can find in the main hall). The children were asked to create a piece with a sense of movement and they look fantastic! Our writing has been based around a film which looks back at a grandfather talking to his grandchildren about his time in the war; they have written and edited some brilliant pieces which they look forward to sharing with you.

Our SATs booster will be starting the first week back after half term (Tuesday 20th). This is the timetable we will be following. Please note, this timetable is subject to change and staff availability. We will let you know as soon as we can if a session cannot go ahead or if we need to change anything for any reason. Due to the lack of response over recent years, there will be no drop in sessions over the Easter holiday period but we will be sending homework which they can complete at home.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8am-8.50am	Reading Comprehension	Maths	SPAG
3.15pm - 4.15pm	Maths	SPAG	Reading comprehension

This term, **Emeralds** have time travelled back to the 19th century and learnt about Darwin's theory of evolution. We have discovered basic ideas behind the theory of evolution and looked at how different species have evolved from simple life forms. We have explored natural selection and how animals evolve as a result of their natural surroundings. To understand this, we used different tools to pick up different items such as seeds and pasta; predicting what would work best and discussing how animals (such as birds) have to adapt to do the same. We have also studied some fossils, comparing the difference between ancient and modern.

We have begun to travel back to the 4th century and discover the history of how the Anglo-Saxons invaded and settled in Britain. We have been researching lots of different aspects of the Anglo-Saxons and created PowerPoint presentations to present and teach each other what we have learnt. In English we have really enjoyed writing explanation texts. We have looked at lots of different examples, learnt how to use a time machine and then wrote our own explanation on a range of different things. We have done lots of outdoor learning this term, creating thinking paths like Darwin used to; using 4 and 6 digit grid references to navigate around the school grounds and making fire in Forest Skills. Over the week, make sure you carry on with reading, spelling, timetables, Lexia, RM maths and SPAG.com.

We wish you all a lovely half term!

Miss Jowitt, Miss Parsons and Mrs Nuttall



I would like to draw attention to the 21st February, when we are hoping to have our second meeting of our Parent Council. This will be run by Mrs Jess Baber, our Parent Governor, and I am hoping will develop into a real voice for parents to work alongside staff. There will be more about this in the next newsletter.



19th February Year 1 visit from the Fire Service

21st February Parent Council Meeting

1st March World Book Day

2nd March Night Emerald Class Assembly

9th March Mother's Day afternoon (no swimming)

15th March Reports Home

16th March Sapphire Class Assembly

22nd March Report Consultations (Please make an appointment if necessary)

23rd Fox Class Assembly

26th March Open Classroom 3.15pm (Please pick children up from the classroom)

26th March Open Classroom 3.15pm

28th Easter Celebration in church 2pm (All welcome)

29th March Final Assembly 1.30pm (All welcome)

Summer Term Headline Dates

Inset Days: 4th May 2018 and 4th June 2018

14th – 17th May KS2 SATS week

28th – 1st June Half Term

12th – 15th June Year 5 Residential

18th – 21st June Year 6 Residential

2nd – 4th July Year 4 Residential

20th July Last day of term (All welcome)

