

World Book Day

We are excited to be celebrating World Book Day in school next week, a wonderful opportunity to promote the joy of reading and the power of stories. To mark the occasion, we invite all pupils to come dressed as their favourite book character; however, we would encourage the creative use of existing items of clothing rather than buying something for the day.

Throughout the event, pupils will take part in a range of engaging activities. Classes will be exploring a dramatisation of a famous text, helping children step into a story and bring key moments to life. We will also be taking part in "Drop Everything and Read"; to support this, please ensure your child brings in their favourite text on the day.

Of course, behind this celebration is our aim to build a daily habit of reading. Research shows that regular reading is one of the strongest predictors of success across *all* GCSE subjects. Children who are not efficient readers often struggle to access exam questions, understand key vocabulary, and use language confidently in their writing. This is why some high schools are now set weekly reading—and why our reading homework remains the most important task we set. To support this, we will look to increase the way we reward regular reading and ensure pupils have time in school to complete reading homework if needed. However, we thank you for your continued support as this really is the most important – and enjoyable way – you can help your child be successful.

Olympic Athlete Fundraiser

We were delighted to welcome Olympian Alice Sharpe to our school last month, and the event far exceeded our expectations in every way. From a school perspective, our aim was to create an opportunity for pupils to meet an inspirational athlete who has achieved so much through values that closely align with our own. Linked to this, seeing the children's enjoyment during a short, fast-paced burst of exercise provided a great platform to discuss the powerful connection between physical activity and positive mental health. The pupils were energised, motivated, and thoroughly engaged throughout her visit.

However, a fantastic and unexpected bonus of the day was the outstanding amount of money raised – an incredible £5,824! We are extremely grateful for your generosity. Over half of this total will be used directly by our school to purchase much-needed sports equipment, allowing us to redirect our existing sports budget towards taking part in more external competitions this year. The remaining amount will support sporting opportunities in more deprived areas. All funds have now been sent to the charity, and the wristbands, posters, and other rewards will arrive shortly. Thank you once again for your hugely generous support.

Parent Teacher Association

Don't forget we have our adults only bingo on the 19th March, tickets are still available and can be purchased on Scopay. We also have our Easter raffle coming up and children should have brought home their tickets to sell, don't forget the class who sells the most tickets gets a class prize. Thanks once again for supporting the PTA.

Annual School Survey

Families have been emailed the annual school survey this week and we would greatly appreciate your time in providing feedback as this helps shape what we do within the school. The form will be open until March 20th.

Snack Reminders

Please can we continue to remind families of our expectations for snacks: crackers, fruit/vegetables, or a dairy-based product. We do this for a number of reasons, but one of the most important is ensuring we can manage the needs of children with allergies to different food types. This is easier to supervise at lunchtime when children are in fixed positions, but much more difficult on the playground.

With this in mind, we would also like to remind everyone to please avoid nut products, as well as kiwi, raspberries, and strawberries in the lower school. As a parent who completes the weekly shop for their children's lunches, I appreciate that choices can sometimes feel limited, but the impact of contact with these items could be severe.

Diary Dates

MARCH			
2nd	Monday	8:10	Y6 Breakfast Booster sessions start
2nd	Monday	15:30 - 16:15	MTC Parent awareness session - Year 4 parents
3rd	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Maple class - Additional PE session
5th	Thursday		World Book Day
10th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Rowan class - Additional PE session
10th	Tuesday	10:00 - 11:45	Dance Festival - Selected children
12th	Thursday		Y5/6 NHS Careers day - Online
12th	Thursday	14:30 - 15:15	Y5/6 Football Event at Fairstead Primary School
16th	Monday		KS2 Homework Project Morning
17th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Acorns class - Additional PE session
19th	Thursday	9:00 - 12:00	Class Group Photos
19th	Thursday	18:30	PTA Bingo
20th	Friday		Comic Relief Day
23rd	Monday	15:30	Online Safety Parent Awareness Session
24th	Tuesday	9:30 - 12:00	Conkers class - Additional PE session
25th	Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00	Last swimming lesson for Y5s
26th	Thursday		PTA Easter Egg Hunt
26th	Thursday	13:00	Y5 Shakespeare Workshop
27th	Friday	9:00	PTA Easter Raffle Assembly
27th	Friday		Last day of term
30th - 10th Apr			Easter Holidays
APRIL			
13th	Monday		Inset Day
14th	Tuesday		Children return to school
15th	Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00	Rowan class start swimming lessons (7 weeks)
20th	Monday	16:00	Activity Clubs Open for booking via Tucasi
27th	Monday	10:00 - 12:00	Y3/4 Tri-Golf Festival - Selected children
27th	Monday	9:30 - 11:30	Y6 Crucial Crew Event - Fire Station
27th	Monday		Activity Clubs start



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