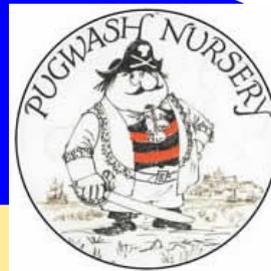




FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

This month we are pleased to be able to share with you some of our engagement activities with parents and the wider community. This is something which we want to continue to develop. We know through research and experience that children learn and develop into well rounded citizens if from the outset, school, home and the wider community, engage regularly. We are very fortunate that our children have access to the Rye Community Garden, we have strong links with the Rotary Club, the PTA, the local Children's Centre, Mallydams and the Rye Nature Reserve to name just a few. All of these organisations and others not specifically mentioned, help to assist us in our offer of a broad and balanced curriculum and we really value their commitment to us.

Our year 2 parents this week, rolled their sleeves up, literally, and joined in some creative art activities and made Marble paintings alongside their children. However, I still think they could have left messier!

Our Year 4 parents helped their children to create dream catchers; we realized in this session that we have some very competitive parents, who wanted to ensure that their dream catcher was the most extravagant! We even had some of our Year 1 parents as weather presenters with their children! Our children loved having their parents in school, learning and having fun alongside them. This is something which we will continue to offer in all areas of the curriculum, to ensure that our children see that a love of learning should be for life!

It is our quest and mission to ensure that whilst at our school, our pupils and parents can really see, feel and believe the value of education for life and the positive impact that will have in their lives and the lives of those around them.

Miss Martin

Head of School

NO SMOKING

We still have a few parents who are standing outside the main gates smoking. The whole school site is a non-smoking area. We would like to protect our children from the harmful effects of second-hand cigarette smoke and ask that you help us to do this.



NO SMOKING

School Uniform—Reminder

May we remind you all that the children should now be wearing the correct school uniform; as the heating has been fixed. Please ensure your children come into school 'Rye Smart' at all times! This includes smart black school shoes, a tie and a school jumper or cardigan, no more hoodies please!



Forest School Update

We are organising a 'Big Clean / Big Dig' of the forest school area and are looking for parents, carers, aunts, uncles or friends who might be able to give us a couple of hours on a Saturday, morning or afternoon, to help with this. The date we have in mind is **Saturday 16th March, with two sessions running from 8am-10am and then 1.30pm—3.30pm**. We will be strict with ourselves and stick to those times, so don't think if you turn up at 8am you will be there all day! Each session will finish promptly at the designated finish time to allow you to still spend time at home, relaxing with your families. Please come with ideas and tools! I think it is safe to say the representatives from the school are not experts in this field (pardon the pun) so we will be happy to take advice and learn from each other. Please note that you will be responsible for your own children for the entirety of the sessions and we are not responsible for any injury or loss you sustain whilst volunteering. You are reminded to take full responsibility for your own health and safety throughout the sessions. We will not be held liable for any injury or loss sustained whether, physical, material or financial. I am hoping it will be lots of fun and a chance for the wider school community to come together and enjoy the great outdoors!



Car Park Safety!

We are again reminding you all to be extra careful in the car park as we are continuously hearing that there have been issues with cars being parked in unsafe places and children being allowed to walk or run around unsupervised. **PLEASE** be vigilant, we really can't say this often enough!



Attendance News



Whole School attendance currently stands at 94.7%

Unfortunately this is lower than last year when attendance stood at 95.2%

Reminder

Please can we remind you that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they need to be kept off from school for 48 hours from their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Thank you

Green Footsteps

Thank you for all your continued support with
Walk to school Wednesday!

So far since taking part there have been 1599 green journeys made to school on a Wednesday, removing an estimated 804 car journeys from our roads!

Well done to everyone taking part and we look forward to seeing more families joining in



Class Percentages

Minnows 95.2%

Sardines 96.2%

Clownfish 94.9%

Seahorses 94.4%

Sea Turtles 94.8%

Lobsters 96.4%

Cuttlefish 95%

Barracudas 95%

Stingrays 93.6%

Killer Whales 95%

Marlin 93.7%

Jellyfish 94.6%

Dolphins 94.1%

Sharks 93.5%



Time to Dance

The Time to Dance Festival which involves over 600 dancers on a three day festival took place this week. Rye Primary were represented by Moovers and Groovers after school club. They were amazing performing 'All Stars' and shone as the stars that they are!

Our thanks go to Michelle Paine for organising this for us. If your child would like to join Moovers and Groovers, please collect a registration form from the office.



Internet Safety



In school this week it has been "safer internet week and we have been talking with the children about how to stay safe online.

In a bid to support you, as parents, in keeping your children safe online, I am writing to you to raise your awareness of two specific games / apps which appear to have recently increased in popularity with children in the local area, as well as to provide you with more information and resources you can access from home to help protect your children whilst they explore the ever-changing world of the internet

A lot of our children are talking about playing on a game called Fortnite. Here is some information for you below so that you are aware, as parents and carers, what the game is about:

What is the age rating for Fortnite? In the UK the Video Standards council rate Fortnite as PEGI 12 for frequent scenes of mild violence. I-Tunes rates the game only suitable for children 12+ for Frequent/Intense Cartoon or Fantasy Violence and Infrequent/Mild Medical/Treatment Information. As parents, please be aware that these ratings are there for a reason.

What is Fortnite all about? It is a gun battle, but in the form of a cartoon. Parents need to be aware of the amount of screen time, stranger chat, rage at losing and escalating costs of in-app purchases, not forgetting that it has an age recommendation of 12.

Monitoring who they are talking to? Along with suitability, it's worth thinking about the online communication settings on the game and console they play it on to ensure children aren't talking to strangers or people they shouldn't be.

Managing in-app purchase on the game: The game has considerable in-app purchases that you need to be aware of, so setting up passwords on credit cards associated with the system is a wise decision.

Setting time limits on any computer games: Finally, it's important to have some limits in terms of play time for computer games. This is something you can agree with your child once you understand how the game works, however we recommend that children do not spend more than 30 minutes a day on a game, as well as taking regular breaks to prevent damage to their eyes or sleeping patterns.

We have also heard that a number of children are independently accessing the app 'TikTok'.

TikTok is a social media app that gives users the opportunity to share 60 second short videos with friends, family or the entire world. Like Twitter-owned Vine and Musical.ly before it, videos shared, range from funny sketches to lip-sync videos featuring special effects.

What do other parents say about the app 'TikTok'?

Seeing inappropriate content: Parents have expressed concern around the inappropriate language of some of the video posted which will make this unsuitable for younger children.

Contact from strangers: Predators seeking to connect with children is another risk that parents have identified as a concern. For more insight on parent review, visit Common Sense Media.

What should parents be concerned about? When you download the app, users can see all the content without creating an account although they are not able to post, like or share anything until they've set up an account on the app. By default all accounts are public so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other. There is the risk that strangers will be able to directly contact children on the app. Children may be tempted to take risks to get more of a following or likes on a video so it's important to talk about what they share and with who.

We hope that the above information on these two popular internet games/ apps will help you to make reasoned decisions about the games your children are playing and the apps they are accessing independently.

If you require more information of how to stay safe online, the Think U Know websites below are an excellent source of information for parents and carers who are worried about their children or even just for information on how to stay safe online. We recommend that all parents and carers visit this main website and spend some time looking at the resources that are available, so that we can continue to look after the children in our care and stay one step ahead of any possible issues that may arise online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Who-are-we/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

If you are seeking more information and support with regards to parental controls on electronic devices in your home or that your child has access to, particularly in regard to social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat or Instagram, please spend some time exploring the website below, which can be accessed via the hyperlink to the 'parental controls' section of the Think U Know website. Again the age recommendation for these social media sites is 12 years old.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>

Alternatively, please contact the school using our parent mailing system... or speak to Kelly Martin, Lisa Nice or Lewis Croft for more information in regard to internet safety.

Discovering Dinosaurs

At Pugwash we have been following the children's interests and focusing on dinosaurs. They have explored dinosaur eggs that were made of ice. The children were fascinated and spent a long time trying to get the toys out of the ice as it melted.

They also made dinosaur footprint biscuits and the children mixed and weighed the ingredients.



Chinese New Year

To mark the Chinese New Year the children have been developing their fine motor skills by practicing using chopsticks with rice and noodles. They have also tried different Chinese food, made masks and developed their maths skills by measuring Chinese dragons.



Farewell

The children and staff will be saying a sad farewell to Miss Satchell on Friday as she will have completed her training and is going to work abroad for a while.

We wish her well and thank her for everything she has done during her time with us.



Forest School Plea

As you are aware we have now started Forest School sessions and we are on the hunt for materials that we can use. If anyone would be able to donate any wood of any shape or size, a burny bin lid and bird boxes. We would really appreciate any donations given.



Let's Sing!

We are delighted to share the news of a brand new after school club starting in Term 4: A SINGING CLUB, open to all children in Years 2 – 6. This will take place on Mondays, in the Art Room, and will be led by Mrs. Marian Ham, a local semi-retired teacher who loves music; she is very excited to be working with us.

The children will learn a wide range of songs, singing in unison and harmony and also incorporating some percussion. What fun! There will be 4 x free taster sessions first of all, kindly funded by the local Music Well – on Mondays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March – all children are invited.



Please encourage your child to take part and sign up! Please register your child at the school office. We hope our new Singing Club will continue after Easter with many committed children and grow to be a huge success! (There will be a fee after Easter, further details to follow).



Communication

As you know we currently e-mail most of you with letters, memos etc, however there are a few parents who still require a paper copy.

We are trying very hard to cut down on the number of letters we send out via book bags, therefore, if you are one of the parents who receives a hard copy and are able to switch to just an e-mail please let the office know so that we can adjust our system.

Thank you

Minnows and Sardines Parents

We would like to remind you all that you should be collecting your child via the KS1 steps, not through the EYFS area which is often set up ready for the children's learning.

Many thanks.

Family Liaison Officer

As mentioned previously, Sharon Manktelow has been appointed as our Family Liaison Officer, otherwise known as FLO! Sharon will be developing her role further and has contacts with a number of outside agencies, so if you feel you need help please contact her confidentially via the school office.



Inclusion Leader

We hope that the majority of you have managed to say hello to Mrs Nice, who joined us full time at the beginning of this term. Mrs Nice is the Inclusion Leader and is on the hall door most mornings.

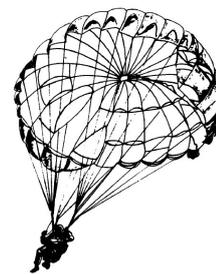


Plea from Rob Whitehouse (Parent of a Clownfish pupil):

“On February 20th I’m doing a 20,000ft skydive in aid of an amazing children’s cancer charity. neuroblastoma uk helps children and their families cope with this rare and terminal illness. Please spare whatever you can, to fund research and support those families . Do Something amazing for those who really need it.

Thanks

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rob-whitehouse5>



Dates for your Diary...

25th Term 4 Begins

25th Made of Money Parents Course 9.00—11.00a.m.

26th Y5 & YR Swimming

March

4th Made of Money Parents Course 9.00—11.00a.m.

5th Y5 & YR Swimming

7th World Book Day

11th Made of Money Parents Course 9.00—11.00a.m.

12th Y5 & YR Swimming

15th Red Nose Day

18th Made of Money Parents Course 9.00—11.00a.m.

18th Y4 visiting Jerwood Gallery

19th Y5 & YR Swimming

21st 3 x Y3/4 Pupils to Able Writers Day at St Thomas', Winchelsea

25th Made of Money Parents Course 9.00—11.00a.m.

26th Purple Day - in aid of Epilepsy Awareness—Children may wear purple - for 50p donation

26th Y5 & YR Swimming

29th Wear a Hat Day—in aid of Brain Tumour Research (in exchange for 50p donation)

29th Y6—Safety in Action Visit

April

1st Made of Money Parents Course 9.00—11.00a.m.

2nd Y5 & YR Swimming

3rd Parents Forums 9.00a.m. / 2.00p.m. / 6.00p.m.

4th Spring Fair

5th Last Day of Term 4



We hope you all have a lovely half term break