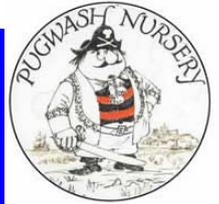




HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

I have been thinking a lot about the word "absence" as we have been holding lots of attendance meetings in school. I couldn't think of any positive connotations for the word absence. Absence always means "lack", something or someone is missing. I don't like being absent from the school gate duty, but if I am absent there, it is because I am present in the nursery and it is impossible to be in both places at once. I also know that if it was the other way around and I was absent from the nursery, I wouldn't like that either, even though I would then be on the gate! I came to the conclusion that, it really is impossible to physically be in two places at once, sorry to disappoint! However, what I have learned, is that we can be fully present in one place. It is not always easy, but it is not impossible!

I don't know if I can agree with the well-known quote- "absence makes the heart grow fonder." I think in most cases it can make the heart sadder or harder. When we think of absence we tend to think of physical absence, but actually if we are "there" physically, but not "there" with our heart and soul, are we really "there" at all?

Children know best when we are really "there". I am sure all of us as parents, at one time or another, have had a small child say to us, "play properly", when you are driving toy cars around a track or playing Barbies going shopping (again)! Children know if we are just "going through the motions" and thinking about something else and not "playing properly!" We are "there" physically, but we are not right "there" in the game, where our children want us to be. We can do the same with other adults, we meet a friend for a coffee, but we have so much on our minds, that we are "there", we have turned up, we have done our part, but are we truly "there" or is our mind 'absent' from the conversation and instead, lost in our own world of maybe worry about bills, or jobs or equally caught up in our own excitement about something completely different! Even when we are on our own, we can fall into the trap of not being fully present in the 'here and now', we forget to notice the special things around us.

Children are very good at living in the moment and being fully 'present', particularly if it is something they enjoy! They notice the world around them and want to stop and absorb everything. Children are like little sponges when they are young, truly being "there", being 'present' in every moment and soaking it all in.

This is why being 'physically present' at school is also so important. If children are not in school, they can't absorb the learning. They are not present in the moment when all of their friends are learning something and then that moment may be lost to them forever! If children are absent from school, they miss out on being present from that new game all their friends are playing or they have not been present for the start of a new class story book and so they spend the rest of the time feeling as though they don't quite understand it as well as everyone else, as they were not present for all of it.

Help your child to be present and enjoy every moment at school by ensuring, if they are well, they are physically there! Absence from school doesn't make the heart grow fonder for school, usually it has the opposite effect! Children who miss lots of Primary school, usually disengage with school as they become older, as they get used to not being present, not being there!

This month take time to ensure that whatever you are doing, whoever you are with, you reflect on whether you are really 'there and fully present'. Unfortunately, children soon stop asking for people to join their games if they know you are not "really playing"! Enjoy the games when your children are still young enough to want to play and let them know that they are the most important thing in your world and for that reason you are going to forget everything else and just be 'present' with your children, even if you work full time, try and find ten minutes a day to be fully present and share a story! Those ten minutes of being fully present will be so appreciated!

Try "Phone Free Friday" or "No Screen Saturday" as a great way of showing your families that you belong to just them on that day and you are present for them as if they were the only people in the world!

Watch your child grow in self-love and self-worth - watch your friends and family grow. Don't forget to love yourself too and make time for that book you wanted to read. You will surely grow too!

Kelly Martin

Headteacher

CLOWNFISH

Clownfish are thoroughly enjoying their Term 3 topic, 'Toy Story'. We have been looking at toys from the past and present. The children have identified what materials different toys are made from and how toys have changed over time.

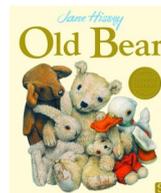
In science we have been using a range of materials for different science investigations.

In English the children have created some fantastic poems based on the poem, 'My Magic Box', written by poet Kit Wright.



SEAHORSES

In KS1 we are learning all about old and new toys. As part of our topic we are reading the book 'Old Bear' by Jane Hissey. We have enjoyed finding out about Old Bear and his other friends who live in the toy room. One of the characters made their way in to school and we went on a hunt to find him! Eventually we found him in the Willow Garden but the mystery remains; how did he get down?



SEA TURTLES

We were really excited to welcome Adam and the Nationwide team to school last week. As well as learning about money in class, year 1 and year 2 took part in workshops learning about money recognition and how to add money to different values. Not only that, but all the children learnt about keeping money safe by putting it into a purse or wallet or giving it to a trusted-adult to take care of it. By keeping money safe so we can save-up for something like a toy, we were gently introduced to the benefits of saving. The sessions were completed by painting a piggy-bank each. This was great fun and I believe that the tooth-fairy has already started helping children save some pennies!



ORCAS

Orcas class are learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. In English, we have written a story. Mrs Smout has taken a sentence from each of us and 'stacked' them together creating our class story. Here it is:

A wondrous thing happened to me a year ago, or a billion years ago. Hiking in the dark forest for fresh air, I suddenly turned. I felt strange. All of a sudden, I slipped over some mud and went sliding further, further and further.

When I opened my eyes, I saw a damp chilly cave. In the middle a fire was burning in the air. Later that day, I knew I was completely lost. My eyes were stinging. I felt down right scared. Suddenly, a girl jumped down from a tree. I had never in my life seen a girl like this: bright orange fur, crazy hair and a bony necklace. I think her name is Om, but I couldn't really understand her.

Om took me to her family. They looked scruffy, however they were friendly and talented. We sat cross legged around the fire. Spit, crackly, pop. I was hungry and licked my lips. All I wanted was fish. My favourite food.

Next morning, when the sun peeped its head over the horizon, Om showed me around the camp. People were piercing holes, sharpening tools and smoking food to make it last longer.

Om and I sneaked to the river. The fisherman was standing so still, he was as still as a rock, scanning for some fish. Plop, splash, swoosh! Driving, stabbing, spearing, splashing the clear water.

As the moon rose, I saw deer swimming and leaping in the freezing cold lake. A group of bison waded in the light blue water. I love it here! What an experience I am having!

One day, Om took me to a misty cave. There were inky drawings that were fresh. While Om was teaching me to draw, I noticed a big, heavy, colossal bear coming closer and closer. I shouted at Om. I tripped and fell continuously, further and further. I found myself at home with a fossil in my pocket.

MARLIN

It has been lovely to be back with my Marlins this term, and their learning has made us so proud. We have started our topic looking at Ancient Egypt, focusing on writing diary entries using 'The Secrets of the Sun King' as inspiration. As well as this, we've started our journey towards producing Egyptian masks! We've used sketching techniques to begin our self-portraits; they are fantastic!



DOLPHINS

This month, Dolphins have been excitedly learning about the Ancient Egyptians. We have been storming through our book, Secrets of a Sun King, with great anticipation as to what is going to happen! We've been working towards writing a diary entry, based on the point of view of a girl who lived during the time that Tutankhamun was a young boy. We are looking forward to creating our Ancient Egyptian masks, based on Tutankhamun, with mod roc.



Attendance News

Whole School Attendance

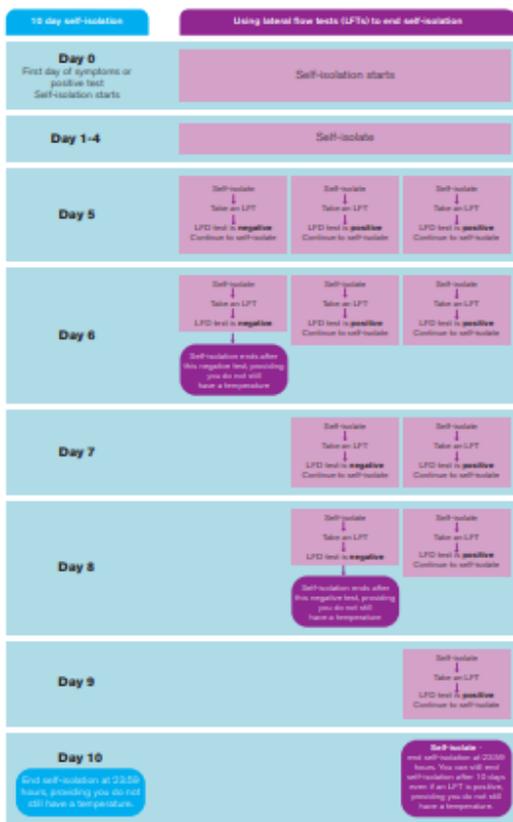
Whole school attendance currently stands at **91.8%**
 If your child is well and not displaying COVID symptoms please ensure they are attending school, on time, every day.
 We can't authorise any term time absence for holidays.

Using lateral flow testing to end self-isolation early

If you test positive for COVID-19, you must self-isolate for 10 days. You may be able to end self-isolation early if you test negative using a lateral flow test (LFT) for two days in a row, provided you do not have a high temperature.

You can take LFTs daily starting from day 5 until you get two consecutive negative ones 24 hours apart. The latest this would be in practice is days 9 and 10, meaning you could stop self-isolating on day 10 immediately after the negative test, rather than having to wait until midnight.

The diagram below shows how this can work.

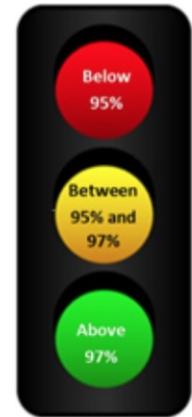


You only need to extend self-isolation beyond 10 days if you continue to have a high temperature. In this case, you can end self-isolation 48 hours after your temperature returns to normal - you do not need to continue testing.

Class Percentages

2nd September- 26th January 2022

Minnows	92.3%
Clown Fish	90.2%
Seahorses	90.4%
Sea Turtle	92.5%
Barracudas	91.9%
Cuttlefish	92.8%
Orcas	93.4%
Sharks	90.9%
Dolphins	91%
Marlin	92.3%



Attendance Meetings

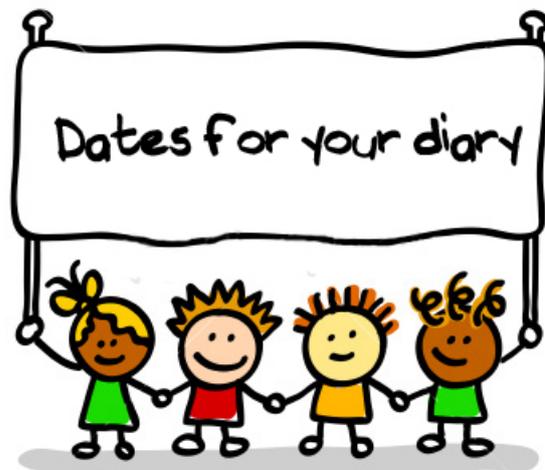
Thank you to all our parents that have taken part in an attendance meeting. The meetings have been proving to be helpful for both parents, children and our attendance team.

We want to be able to do whatever we can to help improve attendance for all of our children, across the school. If you feel that you and your child would benefit from an attendance meeting then please contact the school office, alternatively you could speak to Miss Martin or Mrs Homewood on the gate, in the morning.

HM Government **We must keep on protecting each other.** NHS

HANDS
 FACE
 SPACE

STAY ALERT · CONTROL THE VIRUS · SAVE LIVES



January 2022

28th Forest School– Orcas

February 2022

4th Forest School– Orcas

9th Learning Celebration

10th **Last Day of Term**

11th **Inset Day**

21st **First Day of Term**

21st– 27th St Michael's Hospice, Yellow week

22nd Parent Consultations 4.00– 6.20pm

24th Parent Consultations 3.20- 5.30pm

25th Forest School– Marlin

March 2022

3rd World Book Day (dressing up day)

4th Forest School– Marlin

7th– 11th Club event– Week of Assemblies

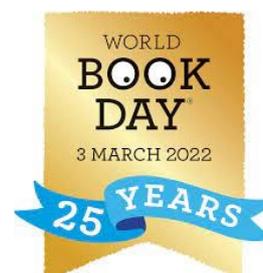
11th Forest School– Marlin

18th Comic Relief– Red Nose Day– Non-Uniform Day

Forest School– Marlin

23rd Maths Day

25th Forest School– Marlin



April 2022

- 1st Forest School– Marlin
Last Day of Term
 19th **Inset Day**
 20th **First Day of Term**
 22nd Forest School– Sharks
 29th Forest School– Sharks

**May 2022**

- 2nd-27th KS1 SATs
 6th Forest School– Sharks
 9th– 12th KS2 SATs
 13th Forest School– Sharks
 20th Forest School– Sharks
 26th Learning Celebration
 27th Forest School– Sharks
Last Day of Te

**June 2022**

- 6th **First Day of Term**
 Phonics Screening Week
 6th-24th Multiplication Tables Check for year 4
 10th Forest School– Dolphins
 13th-17th Photos– Sarah Prescott,: Class and Individual photos
 17th Forest School– Dolphins
 20th– 24th Aspirations week
 24th Forest School– Dolphins

**July 2022**

- 1st Forest School– Dolphins
 7th Sports Day KS2
 8th Forest School– Dolphins
 13th EYFS Sports Day
 14th Learning Celebration
 15th Forest School– Dolphins
 KS1 Sports Day
 21st **Last Day of Term**
 22nd **Inset Day**

