



18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is quite unbelievable that I am already writing to say happy half term and that we are now half way through the academic year!

This morning, in assembly, we reviewed some of the things we have been focusing on and celebrated our successes as well as what there is still to look forward to, some of which is outlined here for your information.

After the half term, we will be holding our usual parent consultation days in school where you will hear about the progress of your child so far this year and discuss the ways in which you can help them to maximise their potential over the second part of the year. This will be held on Tuesday 9th March and more details will be sent upon our return from the holidays.

World Book Week

You will have seen from the letter sent by the English team that our first week back is World Book Week. We will be celebrating the power of reading and sharing great books, welcoming mystery readers, reciting a poem all about the wonders a good book can bring and, of course, dressing up on **Thursday 3rd March** as our favourite book characters. Your donations for this day – payable through MCAS – will raise money for school to ensure our class libraries are always stocked with a range of wonderful texts for your children to enjoy.

Science Week

The fun doesn't stop in book week: we will be holding our science week in the second week back. Over the last half term, the children have been learning about all the different jobs that a 'scientist' might do and why learning science is therefore so important. They have learnt about a range of scientists and their work and of course you have been set the 'science selfie challenge' for homework, which will be looked at in class during this focus week. If you haven't yet completed this challenge with your children, the half term break is the last and perfect chance to do so, especially if the weather doesn't improve enough to get outdoors too much! It doesn't have to be anything too fancy and there are simple examples for you to try in the children's homework books if you need any ideas.

We look forward to you joining us with our grand finale rocket launch on the Friday which will culminate a great week for the children. Thank you for the donations made so far to ensure this can go ahead – these are also payable through MCAS.

The Queen's Jubilee

Lots of people are beginning to ask whether school will be doing anything to mark the very special occasion of The Queen's Jubilee – 70 years on the throne. The answer is: of course we are! This is a once in a lifetime – and perhaps never again – historical landmark and we definitely don't want it to pass us by without lots of pomp and circumstance. We will write to you closer to the time of the actual event but the week before we break for the Whit holidays will be a celebration week involving lots of learning about the history of the monarchy and all the Queen's achievements during the time of her reign. We will sing the National Anthem, have a dress down day covering the fashion or people from each of the decades of her reign, starting with 50's for Year 6, 60's Year 5 and so on down to current day for Early Years. We hope to hold a great big 'street party' too. It will





be a great memory for your children to share when they are older; they will also each receive a commemorative Jubilee coin as a keepsake, courtesy of school and the PTFA. It's set to be great time!

Vaccination for 5-11 year olds

You may have seen in the news that vaccinations against Covid 19 are now being offered to 5-11 year olds as well as those children 12 and above. The Department for Education has written to schools and asked them to share some information with parents which I am therefore doing here. I want to assure you that school does not have any information about vaccinations happening in schools and I would of course always share this information with parents and carers well in advance – it is also, as with flu vaccinations, always a parental choice and nothing would ever be done in school without parental consent.

The DFE information is here:

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions. Being vaccinated minimises the need for children and young people to have time off from school or college, and helps them to continue to carry out their hobbies, attend social events and live their lives to the full.

We have published some [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Please share these FAQs with parents, particularly those with children who are clinically vulnerable.

Guidance on how to [book appointments](#) for children aged 12 years and over is available on the NHS website. Further information on the vaccination of high risk children aged 5 to 11 years old is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Staffing News

Everyone from our team would like to wish Miss Sankey a wonderful wedding day tomorrow and hope the sun shines through the clouds as she becomes Mrs Ellerton. I know you will all wish her congratulations and a happy ever after as she begins her married life.

Finally, we say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Hodkinson, our Dowson's Den Team Leader, who has served our children with great care and fun at before and after school and holiday clubs for the last 7 years. As she moves on to pastures new, we wish her good luck and success in all her future endeavours. Mrs Hill will take up the role of Team Leader in Dowson's Den as we start the new term; I know she will do a fantastic job and you will congratulate and support her moving into this new chapter too.

I wish you all a happy, healthy holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn
Principal

