# Weekly Newsletter 26th February 2024

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Right of the Fortnight: Article 28: Your right to an education





#### Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We have really looked forward to seeing you all back after the half-term break where we have so much more planned. The staff are so committed to providing an **excellent education** for each and **every child**, in every classroom, every day.

**Reading Matters (***Please read the 3rd page of the newsletter for information about the 'Readathon'***) Scholastic Book Magazines** were sent home just before the half term break. If you would like to purchase anything then please do so via the following link as using our School Book Club will earn school more rewards to purchase more books:

https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/oakdene-primary/digital-book-club Final Ordering Date - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Delivery - Into school by World Book Day Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

#### World Book Day

Don't forget that **World Book Day** is on Thursday, 7th March. Remember, you do not need to spend money, just use a little imagination by making your own costume or customising something you already own - have fun! It's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the **joy of reading.** Dressing up not only adds fun to the event but also promotes a **deeper connection** with books and encourages a **lifelong love** for **litera**ture. Children will engage in activities centred around a book and characters. We have so much planned to make the day extra special.

We are very thankful to the Hancock family for **donating** so many **high quality texts** to our school. Libby and Nancy are now at secondary school and they wanted to give something back. The librarians sorted the books into two groups, books they'd like to keep in their libraries and those they think children would like as prizes for **Star Reader**.

Keep reading! Reading is knowledge and knowledge is power!

Mrs E Bramley and Mrs S Osborne



#### 'Pantastic' Y1 Open Morning

It was great to see so many parents & carers attend an informative open day based on STEM activities mostly linked to **Shrove Tuesday.** The children used their maths skills to measure and weigh the ingredients to make their **pancake batter** which, in turn, they applied their food technology skills to **create their own pancakes**, with a little help from their parents and carers. The children **surveyed different toppings** on their pancakes. Everyone had great fun with the **pancake race obstacle course** with Mr McConnell and our **Y5 sports leaders**. Mrs Osborne also shared texts linked to 'Pancakes'. Thank you all for coming!



## Dates For Your Diary - Spring Term

Fri 1st March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y3 Pupils
Week Commencing 4th March Careers Week	
Tues 5th March Thurs 7th March	Y3 French Cafe 9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y2 Pupils
	World Book Day & Readathon Celebration
	Dental Survey for some Reception and Y1 Children
Fri 8th March	Reception Visit Newham Grange Farm
Mon 11th March	Launch of British Science Week
Wed 13th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y4 Pupils
Fri 15th March	Red Nose Comic Relief Charity Day
Mon 18th March	Y2 Visit Washington Wetlands
Tues 19th March Fri 22nd March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Y5 Pupils World Maths Day
	Y5 Visit to Whitby
W/c 25th March Wed 27th March	Consultation Evenings for Parent/Carers Y5/Y6 Hockey Event
Thurs 28th March	9.10am Open Morning for Parents/Carers of Nursery Pupils
	Children break up for Easter

### EASTER HOLIDAYS Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April

Mon 15th April Summer Term commences—children return to school

Mon 6th May BANK HOLIDAY

Mon 13th May - Thurs 16th May Key Stage 2 SATs are Timetabled

Half-term holiday runs from: Monday, 27 May to Friday, 7 June 2024 inclusive (two weeks). <u>The children will break up on Friday, 24 May</u> and <u>will</u> return to school on Monday, 10 June 2024.

2-week period commencing 10th June: Y4 Multiplication Tables Check

Week commencing 10th June: V1 Phonics Screening Check & Y2 Resits



**Chinese New Year** marks the start of a new lunar year and always falls in January/February. (This year it began on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, starting the Year of the **Dragon.)** It is celebrated with **gifts, fireworks, dances** and ended on the 15th day with a **lantern** festival.

Reception, **celebrated** with their very own Chinese New Year party! They explored interesting **artefacts** associated with **China** and Chinese New Year; they dressed up like the Jade Emperor from the story of how the years got their animal names. Finally, they prepared, cooked and enjoyed a 'Chinese **Banquet'**. It was delicious!









In Billingham we are so fortunate to have an ice rink on our doorstep. Ice skating lessons are an excellent way to keep fit and learn new skills. Y2 pupil **Niamh Bellew** has only attended two lessons and has already been awarded with her first certificate.





#### Promoting the Love of Reading

For children in hospital, books and stories are particularly important - they comfort, distract, reassure and entertain. **Read for Good** provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals.

It's been heart-warming to see the librarians organise this event and to hear the children talking about how the **Readathon** has kept them busy during the half term break.

Please complete the Readathon and return the Sponsor Cards to school on <u>World Book Day</u> <u>Thursday, 7th March 2024.</u>

All children who return their completed Sponsor Cards on World Book Day will be given a certificate & sticker for their participation.

These will be presented by Nichola from **Billingham** Library as well as our own **Oakdene librarians**!

If you are able to make a donation please do so via the website: <a href="http://www.readforgood.org.uk">www.readforgood.org.uk</a>

Select-Sponsor a Pupil (Blue Tab) Enter -Oakdene Primary Academy/ Billingham/TS23 3NR Select -Our school from the drop down

- list Donate -Choose amount or click other
- to enter your amount Complete -Your details including name,
- address & postcode Pay -By Direct Debit or Credit Card



Y1 pupils got up close to **legendary locomotives** at the **Shildon Railway Museum** depicting how the railways have shaped our world. The children handled a variety of authentic objects associated with the life and achievements of **George Stephenson**. Items included models, books, tools, medals and miners' lamps.



Recommended Read This week's recommended read is from Mylah Bruce & Trudi Langstaff 'Storytime' comics & 'The Week Junior' Magazines





The librarians have read these marvellous magazines & they would like to share their thoughts about them.

**Storytime** is aimed at children aged 5-10 years old, published monthly and includes a wide range of stories with great illustrations. These will be available in our flogwarts Library.

The Week Junior includes news from around the world presented in an age-appropriate way. There are different sections which include 'Photos of the Week', 'Book Club', 'Puzzle Page' and 'Quiz of the Week.' These will be on display in the Fact Forest.