



March has already been a busy time in school.

With World Book Day and Science week, the curriculum has been enriched and there are lots more things planned.

Children are continuing to develop their **Oracy** skills through our Voice 21 project (I can't believe this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of involvement). Have you asked them about it?

Y2,5 & 6 will take part in the **NSPCC** programme *Speak out Stay safe* shortly, which supports our PSHE curriculum.

Thank you to everyone who managed to come along to the school **food taster** session last month – the new school Cook was really happy to have the chance to engage with you.

The Trust's commitment to sustainability and growing, making a real connection between **plant and plate** – is picking up a pace, with our first 'official' planting plan in place (last year was a trial partial plan). All children will have direct involvement in the growing cycle and have the chance to eat their own produce. To support this work we need some basic consumables such as compost and seeds – to support this we are committing all profits from the **Spring Fayre (26<sup>th</sup> March)** to pay for this – so please support us – look out for the poster to follow. \*We have listened to your feedback from the Christmas fayre about how 'busy' the main hall was, and we will use a range of spaces for the Spring Fayre to make things more accessible for everyone...

The left side polytunnel is the growing tunnel, managed by the Trust horticulturalist, Miss Puttick and the Y6 growing team and the left one is our curriculum tunnel.

We want children to have some choices themselves and are holding a **non-uniform day** (27<sup>th</sup> March – poster to follow) when we ask, instead of a monetary contribution that you send in a packet of seeds (lots of supermarkets have special deals on currently) – the children in each class will explore the range of seeds, classify and compare planting requirements, time frames etc. – great learning for Maths and Science. The seeds will then go to the Y6 planting team who will put a plan together for the school.

A further **whole school project** is around butterflies and life cycles – with every class having the opportunity to see caterpillars go through their changes...

This will be funded from the profits of the Y6 enterprise – New Year Disco. We aim to make our site a butterfly friendly area, we already have fruit trees, which butterflies love, but if you have any plants/cuttings, which you could donate to us that would be great. The Woodland Trust suggest the following:

- Nectar rich flowers.
- Herbs like rosemary, thyme, sage, oregano and mint.
- Ivy is a key source of nectar in autumn, when many other plants have finished flowering.

Once we have the caterpillars in school (in a few weeks' time, we will keep you updated via Butterfly Watch!)

Our Y5 & Y6 pupils, who occupy the oldest part of school have had their classrooms **repainted** – this work (the gloss!) will be completed over the spring

break. The plans are to continue the programme until our allocated budget pot is empty – and we will then make plans for the coming academic year... The mobile unit which used to be Playgroup was condemned shortly after Playgroup closed down. The demolition and removal costs of the unit are very high and we are being supported by the Trust to get this work done this academic year – I will keep you informed of when this work is beginning. Mr Smith (PE Lead) has used the annual Sports premium fund from the DfE to order some new equipment for **Gymnastics** – which will allow us to develop this aspect of our offer. We are excited about this opportunity. We know that some of our children access gymnastics lessons, let us know and we will be able to showcase their skills in school.

I wanted to give you an update around the Afternoon for Henry, that we held last term – as you know your generosity allowed for us to make a donation in his name. The Trust have also purchased a special wooden story telling chair for the library – **Henry's chair** – which his parents are coming into school this month to see. Thank you again for the generosity and care in our school community.

We have had the opportunity to submit an upper school team in **Yarm Fun Run**. Jessica in Y5 is leading on this in school (as a Fun run veteran!) and has been able to put a team of 20 forward (following asking the children and getting confirmation from parents). Well done to this group for taking the risk and challenging themselves and to the staff who will support – fingers crossed for a great event.

I hope you have time to enjoy some Spring sunshine

Yours  
Mrs Wood