



Newsletter

February 2020

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy half term break for our site team. Over the holiday week, we have had the floors of the hall and gym renovated and resealed and it's really brightened up both rooms. Contractors have also begun work on the refurbishment of the Y5/6 toilets. They are trying hard to minimise the disruption to the school, with much of the noisier work (removing the old equipment) being carried out last week. Children have been directed to use alternative toilets around the school whilst the work is being done and we will be keeping the basketball court closed to pupils during the day whilst this area is being used for works vehicles. We are very grateful that the works are being paid for through our service level agreement with Hampshire Property Services, and are looking forward to being able to open them to the children in a few weeks time.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Governor News—New Park and Stroll Scheme with Lidl

Lidl have kindly agreed that parents and careers can park at Whiteley Lidl in the mornings and afternoons when picking up and dropping off their children at school. As you're aware, there is a lot of traffic and congestion around the school at peak times and using the scheme will significantly help relieve this. Less traffic is also much safer for the school children. Why not increase the step count on your smart watch and park and stroll just a short 6 minute walk (or 350 steps) each way, twice a day - that's 1400 steps a day!

You will need to make sure that you spend no more than 2 hours per day at Lidl in total to avoid any fines. Happy strolling!

Kind Regards,

Stuart Henderson—Community Link Governor



INSET Days 2020/21

We have just confirmed our INSET days for the Autumn term 2020. There will be an INSET on the first day of term (Thursday 3rd September). There will also be a 'long weekend' for parents at the end of September with the school closed for INSET on Friday 25th and Monday 28th September. We hope the early warning will help those of you who like to take advantage of the opportunity for a long weekend away.

Risk Assessments after injuries / operations

Please can I remind parents that if your child sustains an injury such as a broken limb (in or out of school), or has undergone a medical procedure which may inhibit their movement or access, we need to carry out a risk assessment before they return to school. These risk assessments are carried out by Mrs Bunyan who can be contacted via the school office. If your child is returning to school under these circumstances, for example after receiving an injury at the weekend or during a holiday, please contact the school in advance to arrange to meet Mrs Bunyan with your child on or before their return to school. If you have not had the opportunity to make an appointment, please come direct to the school office with your child in the morning before they go into class.



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World Book Day—Cardboard Characters

Next week is World Book Day and as usual, the children will be receiving a special £1 voucher to purchase one of the World Book Day books or to put towards another purchase. We are delighted to see that lots of the children have already been busy making some cardboard tube book characters which are on display in the library, and we are looking forward to seeing all their creations by next Thursday. The winning entry will receive a £10 book token, sponsored by AJEmbroidery, our uniform supplier.

Internet Safety Update

As you are probably aware, internet safety is already part of our computing curriculum, with regular reminders to the children about how to keep themselves safe online, but also, as they get older, being able to make informed choices about how they use information they find online, and about the need to 'fact check'. Some of you may have noticed that internet safety is also included in the new statutory guidance for health education which will become compulsory from September, underlying the importance of this issue for us all.

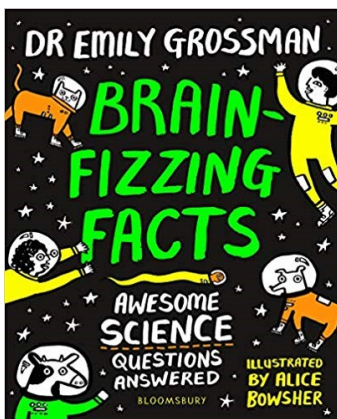
As parents, it can be hard to keep up with new apps and technology, or to know how and when to talk to your child about internet safety. I'm therefore pleased to be able to share with you another really useful resource available which has been signposted by one of our parents through the recent parent consultation on the new health, relationship and sex education guidance (thank you to whoever that was—I don't know as it was anonymous!)

NSPCC Net Aware is a free to use website resource which contains a multitude of useful and accessible information for parents. You can sign up so that you get regular updates, or browse for what you need. A particularly useful resource can be found at <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/online-safety-whole-family/>. This section gives really helpful advice on how to start conversations with your children, whatever their age, and how to make sure that this becomes as natural a part of your parenting as teaching road safety.

National Science Week

The second week of March is National Science Week and we are going to be marking this in school with a special science theme day on Wednesday 11th March. We have a special 'mix up' morning planned so that children in Y1-3 and Y4-6 will work in mixed age groups on a range of science activities. We are looking forward to being able to broaden their experiences and thinking outside the usual science curriculum (YR will also be having a science focus within their base).

On that day, we are also very excited to welcome Dr Emily Grossman into school to deliver her 'Weird and Wonderful Brain Fizzling Facts' show in two performances across the afternoon, which is based on her new book 'Brain Fizzling Facts: Awesome Science Questions Answered'. Dr Emily is best known as the resident science expert on the Alan Titchmarsh Show and 'Duck Quacks Don't Echo' on Sky1, but she is also an honorary STEM ambassador (alongside Tim Peake) and is a great role model as a woman in science.



Dr Emily is able to bring signed copies of her book from the publisher on the day which cost £7. A Parentmail form will come out shortly so that those that wish to order one for their child can do so in advance. However, if your child isn't worried about a signed copy, I've noticed that the book is on offer on Amazon at the moment for £5.10! (Please note, though, that we will not have the time on the day to be able to get books signed by the author so if you want them to have a signed copy, these will need to be pre-ordered via the Parentmail form and money sent on the day.)