

#### **Dear Families**,

It has been wonderful to see you all back in school. The children are settling into the routines very well, albeit some of them are a little tired by the end of the day. It's been great to hear the buzz in the classrooms and to see the children happy and smiling back with their friends once again.

#### Covid-19

The rapid roll out of the vaccinations against Covid-19 has so far been impressive, however we must all remember that we need to ensure we follow all the rules and regulations to help keep everyone as safe as is possible. This includes the latest travel ban. We are not able to authorise any holiday travel during term time. This has always been the case, and it is especially relevant at this time when so many children have not been able to attend school until recently.

Please be aware that you are able to collect lateral flow tests for your family (click on this link to find where to collect them from) <u>https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Testing/Community-Collect.aspx?utm\_medium=govdelivery&utm\_source=email</u>. This simple check helps break the chain of infection by indicating positive cases at an early stage, when people are not showing symptoms.





If you do have symptoms please isolate with your family and get a PCR test. If your child has symptoms, please ensure you book a test immediately. The results come back quickly (often within 24 hours) and if negative your child can then return to school immediately without losing valuable teaching and learning time. It also helps to keep safe the staff and children within the 'bubble'. We do not want to close bubbles but sometimes we must to keep the chain of infection to a minimum. A rapid test result helps everyone to act in the best interests of all.

#### **Activities and Events**

There are lots of activities to look forward to including our World Book Week and Year 5 bike ability training sessions as well as more outdoor learning opportunities, as we hope to enjoy the better weather. Our PTFA will also be organising some fundraising events so look out for those next term!

Finally, We hope you enjoy the Easter break and look forward to everyone returning fit and healthy for the Summer Term on **Monday 19th April.** 

Mrs Anderson and Mr Archer



### A view from my window 2021

Thank you to everyone who entered our Art competition there were lots of fantastic entries from children, parents and staff!

Our Arts Governor, Mrs Saroj Bell, judged the entries.

She was very impressed with the standard of all entries and found it so difficult to judge.

Mrs Bell went on to say "All entries were excellent and it was a hard decision. Please let the students know that ALL art is RIGHT and NO art is wrong. This is, of course because it is subjective but that's the great joy of art."

### Congratulations to all of our winners!









### **Get Reading!**

The latest research has shown that one of the best ways for children to 'catch up' with their learning is to read as much as possible. This will help improve their vocabulary, writing, punctuation, speaking and listening skills as well as broaden their understanding of the world, the benefits are endless!

To encourage this as much as possible we are starting some new reading initiatives at school 'Read the height of your teacher and the 'Reading race track'. Children will be encouraged to read as much and as often as possible whether it is a reading book, library book, an e-book, a comic or magazine each time they read it will not only improve their learning but also help their class become No.1 in the school! Don't forget to use **Reading Eggs** for the younger children and **Reading Eggspress**. Reading Eggspress makes reading real books, improving spelling skills and building reading comprehension highly engaging for children aged 7–13.

### A few tips to help your child with their reading:

- When watching the TV or online videos switch on the subtitles (even if they don't know it they will be taking in the words on the screen!)
- Create a cosy, inviting reading space at home. (bean bags, pillows, fairy lights etc)
- Create quality time to listen to your child read so that it is not rushed and you can give your full attention to your child (use lots of encouragement and praise when they are doing this well and fluently, try not to overly correct mistakes)
- Ask questions about what they have read ( use the pictures if there are any, predict what might happen next and why. Ask them for some facts/information from the part they have read.
- Get them to act out the story they have read or retell the story in their own words to an audience (this could be their cuddly toys!). Try to make it FUN.







### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**, with lots of activities and adventures planned!

Unfortunately this year we are unable to invite parents into school however you will be able to see what your child has been doing throughout the week by accessing their files on our School Learning Platform.

The children are encouraged to come dressed on this day as any book character (if this isn't possible then non-uniform can be worn) there will be prizes for the most creative costumes.

Children will have been given a digital £1.00 book token via parentmail. They can either buy a book and receive a £1 discount, or exchange their voucher for a free book. If you haven't already done this what are you waiting for?

Throughout the week, the children will have the opportunity to celebrate our love of books! All classes will be working on the book 'Orion and the dark' and carry out activities based around this. It should be a fantastic way to end this half term!