

ad sciurus

THE SQUIRREL

Issue 17 Thursday 12th January 2023

HAPPINESS is
seeing the
SMILE on a
child's **FACE** as
they **LEARN**



It has been lovely seeing lots of our families joining us for events this week in school from maths workshops, and Year 2 Performances to International families coming in for an afternoon tea to explore activities and events, especially around our bread curriculum focus.

I was so impressed with the Year 2 performances this morning as they explored stories from the Bible. We had the creation story, Noah's Ark and The Good Samaritan. The children also linked these stories to looking after our amazing world and showing kindness to others. Talking about kindness, and I do say often, that kindness really does change the world it saddens me when I hear that our neighbours and some of our team have experienced not so kind moments. I do understand that the stresses of life and time in particular can make all of us not always think of others and show the kindness that we all deserve. May I ask that we show this kindness at all times to our neighbours, to the community and to each other and to strangers. Life needs kindness.

The learning around our Hovis curriculum focus has been lovely this week from making butter in jam jars, making bread rolls, exploring Romeo and Juliet, playing the drums and so much more. I am loving the inspiration and creativity in school. We have finalised our learning jigsaws for this term and these have been coming home once completed. I do hope you find these useful about the knowledge and skills the children will be developing over the next ten weeks. Newsletters for year groups have also started to go home too. As always, please do contact your child's class teacher both for lovely things and things that are causing any worries. I really like the strap line of Hovis, 'As Good Today as it Has Always Been' and asking the question if this is true for different aspects of our lives. The music assembly that Mr. Andre shared was a great example of this and created good debate both in school and at home. Over the coming weeks, we will explore other aspects of life and ask the same question, is it as good today as it has always been?

This week, Miss McQueen sent out a survey regarding Makaton training. Thank you for the responses, we will now work to put a training session together. We are also looking to run a Baby and Toddler Makaton singing group and Makaton introduction to our new families joining us in September. If you have not applied for your child's place for September please do. The deadline is Sunday 15th January. We are always so touched when families choose us!

Mr Andre has also booked in a family session on Tuesday 7th February on Safer Internet use. This is in connection with Safer Internet Day. As a school we talk and discuss many ways to keep safe online but also to become responsible digital users. So many incidents we support are often around comments made when gaming or through WhatsApp groups, (even though the official age for this app is 12 years old) or messaging. Sometimes the children really do not understand the impact of their behaviours online and how this transfers into school. We have also updated national statistics and I was most upset and disturbed by the increase in reported sexual abuse online. It is not appropriate to go into the details of this information, but it was so upsetting that I have not shared it with the team in school through email and will only share it at a time when the team can be supported. It just really highlights the importance of keeping our children close and safe at all times.

Next week in school, Monday is now known as 'Blue Monday'. The third Monday in January has been awarded this gloomy title due to the combination of Christmas blues, dark, cold nights which are particularly wet and windy and the arrival of post-Christmas credit card bills. It was originally a 'PR' stunt by a travel company to entice families to book their holidays away in the sunshine but it is now recognised as the gloomiest day of the year. So, let's see how we can turn a Blue Monday into a fabulous Monday! Maybe plan a special tea, a walk out, laugh lots by watching a funny family film, be together and hug. In school, we will plan lots of lovely learning activities and participate in some laughing therapy!

Year 6 families are invited in for lunch with their children next week. We have a special Census Day lunch on Thursday, with an 'All American' menu. Please do book your lunches for your children online on your school money and through the office for families.

I wanted to alert you to some things in the dairy so they do not creep up as a surprise. We have got our annual Vocabulary Dress Up Day booked for Tuesday 21st February which is just after half term and this year we are asking children to dress up in a word but also find out what that word is in different languages. For example, Daisy's 'go to' word is dog and last year she had lots of synonyms for the word dog. This year, she would be le chien, el perro, der Hund, il cane and cachorro to give you an idea of our idea! I always love vocabulary dress up day as the ideas that come in are always so good and creative and I am sure this year will be just as good. This date is also Shrove Tuesday and we will be looking to make our own pancakes and run a race or two!



We also have World Book Day, Comic Relief, Lanesend Bake Off and of course, Dance Live, which is 5 school weeks away. We are just in the process of finishing off the final details and we will also be sending a form home for permissions for face paints, lunch options, collection details and much more! The dance is coming on well but is now about what they call in the trade, 'polishing'. So any practice you can do at home and working on refining lines, feet, heads etc would be great. Think Strictly judges! We will get Mary to send home some videos to support this.

The weather continues to be wet and windy and our school site is very soggy. I would highly recommend wellington boots and waterproofs so that when the children go out to play they have some defence against the mud!

Hope you have a lovely weekend and we look forward to another great week in school. On Sunday, it is World Religion Day that celebrates common factors between faiths.

Caroline Sice, Headteacher



FOR YOU

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**Thursday 19th January is our 'All American' Menu for Census Day.
Yummy!**

This week

A close week this week with Gryffindor House taking the lead by 95 points.
Well done Team Gryffindor.



Can you learn how to manage under pressure?

This week's debate...



EUROPEAN AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

EUROPEAN

Lanesend Conversation Starters...

Use these prompts with your children at home to start a conversation about their week in school...

Reception— Talk to me about... one more and one less, number frames to ten, the sounds that v,w,x,y in phonics and common exception words put, pull, his, and high frequency word 'and', multi-skills in P.E .

Words to use... more, less, fewer altogether, equipment, movement, faster slower.

Tips for the week... Remember to blend each word when reading and re-read stories to develop fluency.

We have been reading... The Way Back Home.

Year 1—Talk to me about...rhythm and drumming. What is rhythm?

Words to use....rhythm, beat, pattern, pace, slow, fast.

Tips for the week...we've been writing stories in literacy. Ask me to share my story.

We have been reading....Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Year 2— Talk to me about ... The Little Red Hen and kindness

Words to use... First, next, after that, then, finally.

Tips for the week ... keep counting in tens and ones from different starting numbers.

We have been reading... The Creation story, Noah's Ark and The Good Samaritan

Year 3 – TALK TO ME ABOUT... musical appreciation

WORDS TO USE... pulse, tempo, rhythm, percussion, feeling

TIPS FOR THE WEEK... colons before a list

WE ARE READING... lots of recipes and other instructions!

Year 4— Talk to me about:

How to make butter from cream, the importance of budgeting and instruction sentence starters.

Tip of the week:

When adding decimals, always line up the decimal points.

We have been reading:

The Legend of Podkin One Ear.

Year 5— Talk to me about... how we multiply by two digit numbers.

Words to use... stigma, style, anther, filament, pollinator, ovary, ovules, pollination, fertilisation.

Tips for the week... Use a relative clause (which can be marked with commas, dashes or brackets) to add information to a sentence.

We have been reading... 'Secrets of A Sun King' by Emma Carroll.

Year 6— Year 6 have immersed themselves in Shakespeare this week.

Ask them about the story of Romeo and Juliet. Can they remember the key elements?

In maths we have been working on fractions. Can you show how to multiply fractions?

We have explored the food and farming techniques of the Ancient Maya. Ask me what might be on a Mayan menu.





THE ALL AMERICAN

MAINS

Burger in a bun OR Quorn Hot Dog

SIDES

Chips, Peas and Baked Beans

DESSERTS

**Strawberry Jelly, Honey Cookie
and Vanilla Ice Cream**

Thursday 19th January 2023





I never buy bottled water unless I have to but this is crazy! I do not know how companies get away with it.

DID YOU KNOW?

These brands sell tap water in plastic bottles



PEPSICO



COCA-COLA



NESTLÉ



COCA-COLA

We mostly pay for the plastic and the marketing



internet
matters.org

Five top tips to manage children's screen time

Help your child make the most of their time on and offline

1 Set a good example with your own device use

Children will tend to model their behaviours on you, so if you start reading a book, they may follow your lead.



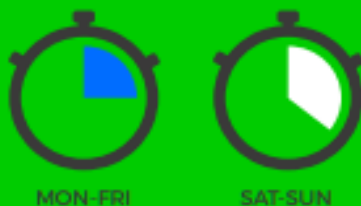
2 Talk together about the time they spend online

Understand what they're doing, and explain your concerns.

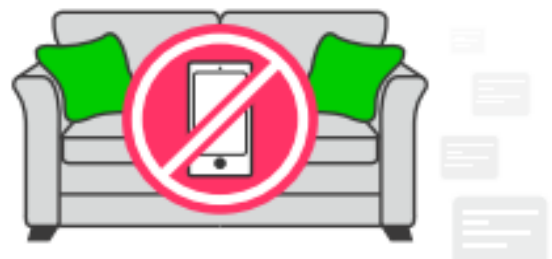


3 Agree an appropriate length of time that they can use their device

Put in place a family agreement to set some boundaries and don't break them.

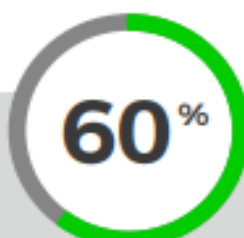


4 Get the whole family to unplug and create 'screen free' zones at home



5 Use technology and apps to help manage screen time

For example, the **Forest app** enables them to grow a beautiful forest each day they don't use their phone for a set amount of time. The iPad's '**Guided Access**' limits the time you can access any given app, which can be great for younger children.



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SKILL OF THE MONTH



Our Skill of the Month is Staying Positive: Staying Positive - Getting started - Skills Builder Homezone

Saturday 7th January 2023

Think of an activity, task or situation that you find challenging.

What would success look like for you in this situation?

Draw how your success would look (or write it down).

What steps could you take to make this success real?

Reflection Questions

Getting Started: How does this activity make you feel?

Intermediate: How could you use this activity to feel more positive when something goes wrong?

Advanced: How could this help you to look on the bright side of something?

Mastery: How can you manage your emotional response to best support others?

Staying Positive

[See all Skills Challenges](#)

Happier January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Find three things to look forward to this year	2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself	3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day	4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why	5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	7 Learn something new and share it with others
8 Say positive things to the people you meet today	9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)	10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why	11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime	12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat	13 Take a different route today and see what you notice	14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today
15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	16 Contribute positively to your local community	17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	18 Get back in contact with an old friend	19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough	20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge	21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone
22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you	23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment	24 Take a small step towards an important goal	25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down	26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today	27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside	28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently
29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better	30 See how many people you can smile at today	31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS Happier · Kinder · Together



DON'T MISS THIS FUN FAMILY FESTIVAL DURING FEBRUARY HALF TERM! Friday 17th & Saturday 18th February

Plus, new for this year, Thursday 16th for the over-12s

DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Have you got
your tickets
yet?

FAQs

Q: Do I need to get my tickets in advance?

A: It's a good idea. Tickets are selling fast! Get them from www.quayarts.org

Q: How much are tickets?

A: Some sessions are free, others cost between £3 and £6

Q: Is it just for people who like reading?

NO! The IW Story Festival isn't just about books! We've got lots of hands-on activities for you to get involved with – from making puppets to making rockets, illustrating comics to sewing a story. There will be storytellers and theatre performances too!

Tickets are now on sale for the IW Story Festival at **Quay Arts** in Newport during February half term from www.quayarts.org

It's a chance to meet well-known performers and writers like **Simon Farnaby** (from Paddington 2, Horrible Histories and Ghosts) who will be talking about his **Wizard in My Shed** series of books.

Former CBeebies star, **Cerrie Burnell**, will also be there with her exciting adventure story about being different, **Wilder than Midnight**.



CERRIE BURNELL

For younger children we have a world-exclusive. Author and illustrator Nicholas Allan will be revealing for the first time **The King's Pants** (some of you may already know and love one of his most famous books, **The Queen's Knickers**.)

There will be lots of other authors and illustrators for you to meet, some of them you may have heard of, some of them you may not. But all of them are worth seeing. Why not check some of them out before you come along: **Laura Ellen Anderson, Neal Layton, Jamie Littler, Gareth Peter, Kieran Larwood, Jules Harriner, Felicity Fair Thompson and Peta Rainford**

More information from: www.iwstoryfestival.com