



STARS OF THE WEEK

Rosie Gair
Brandon Goodwin
Maisie Spuhler
Frankie Sleightholm
Lillie Spuhler
Imogen Biggs

ATTENDANCE

Now we are all back to school, we will begin our weekly class attendance award again. To make up for the lost learning time during lockdown it is vital that children have excellent attendance at school and only take time off if they are genuinely ill. We had very good attendance in the autumn term so let's hope it's as good again as we move into the summer!

2021 SCHOOL DIARY

Friday 26th March	2pm—School closes for Easter Holiday
Tuesday 13th April	School re-opens for summer term
Monday 3rd May	School closed for May bank holiday
NEW Wednesday 19th May	Rescheduled Y4 residential visit to Robinwood

OUR FIRST WEEK BACK

It's been an absolute pleasure to have all of the children back in school this week. We've focused our efforts on gradually getting them back into good school routines and getting used to being with their friends again. We've been having assemblies throughout the week to reinforce the expectations we have in school around behaviour; Covid routines; demonstrating the 3 Rs of being Respectful, Responsible and Resilient; and being tolerant of differences using our 'It's OK' approach. Despite a few very tired children, they've amazed us with their excellent attitudes and behaviour. We've also been very impressed with how much of their learning at home many of the children have remembered; this is very much appreciated and will make a huge difference to their progress for the remainder of the year. Your hard work and effort has really paid off.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

We've all got a big job to do to get the children back on track with their learning and it was pleasing to see so many comments from the recent parental questionnaires about how parents will be able to support us with this. Ensuring that the children complete their homework tasks each week is a good starting point.

OUR COVID SAFETY ROUTINES

Our Covid safety routines have continued to work well this week and some are likely to continue as we move into the future. Children routinely sanitise as they come in and out of school and regularly through the day. Despite us continually asking we still have a number of parents arriving too early or outside the allocated drop-off/pick-up. To avoid waiting and unnecessary contacts please try to arrive WITHIN timeslots. We're working really hard to keep our routines running as smooth as possible and really appreciate how parents are supporting us.

HOMEWORK

Supporting the children to complete their homework every week is one of the best things that parents can do to support the children in making good progress at school. This also helps them get into good routines. We try to keep homework as fun and simple as possible so children enjoy it and it does not put too much pressure on parents. There is an expectation that children complete their homework as we are limited to how much support we can provide at school for children who do not complete homework. We are able to see which children have completed online homework tasks such as Doodlemaths and Reading Buddy and we can also see which children have read at home with an adult through reading records. We will restart reading awards in KS2 and Reading Critters in KS1 next week—these are awarded to children who read at least 4 times per week regularly. We have already noticed that many children are struggling with neat and extended handwriting following lockdown so practising spellings in lots of different ways in homework books will help with this. We look forward to seeing some great homework!

PTA DONATION

This week our PTA have kindly ordered a set of headphones for every child in KS1 and KS2 costing nearly £200 in total. With the increased access to devices that we now have in classrooms, we thought that having their own set of headphones to use and look after would be a good way forward and will also reduce the amount of cleaning we need to do between uses. A big thank you to our PTA for this very kind donation.



READING BUDDY

We are delighted to tell you that we are now using Oxford Reading Buddy. This is a digital reading service to support children's reading development at home and at school. It contains hundreds of digital books and book-quizzes all matched to each child's reading ability. Please log in to Oxford Reading Buddy when your child brings home their sign-in card and encourage them to use it regularly. If you don't have a tablet or PC at home the service works on smartphone as well. Our school code is **41224**. This will take over from Reading Planet which we know many parents found some difficulties with. Most of the children in school have been able to have a try of Reading Buddy in school and we've been highly impressed with how much the children have enjoyed and been engaged with this program and really don't think you'll have difficulty getting them onto it. More info attached with this newsletter



SCHOOL MEALS

Don't forget that we can provide healthy cooked school meals for children in all year groups from nursery to Y4. Most children in school already have a school dinner and enjoy daily choices that can include a pasta option or a baked potato option as well as the main meal option. Menus can be view through your School Grid account. Should you wish for your child to have a school dinner please order through SchoolGrid.