



STARS OF THE WEEK

Alfie Purvis
Alice Willis
Georgia Crisp
Annabel Paterson
Jack Mather
Alfie Wehr

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Our School Target is 97%

LAST WEEK: 98.9%

Nursery (Seahorses) -100%
 Reception (Turtles) - 99.3%
 Year 1 (Jellyfish) - 98.7%
 Year 2 (Puffins) - 99.0%
 Year 3 (Sharks) - 98.3%
 Year 4 (Penguins) - 98.2%

Well Done Seahorses and Turtles!

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
Wednesday 19th May	Rescheduled Y4 residential visit to Robinwood

2021 CENSUS—LET'S COUNT

Let's Count!



During last week all children took part in Let's Count activities which are designed to help them understand the 2021 Census which is due to take place this weekend. The children collected and presented a range of data and talked about what the census is and how it is beneficial to the future of the country. [THIS VIDEO](#) helps explain a little more. We must complete the census by law so don't forget to get it done!

WORD OF THE WEEK IS BACK

As we are now back into the full swing of things we have brought back our 'Word of the Week' Challenge. By doing this we have found that the children have been able to learn a much wider range of vocabulary, are more interested in finding out about different words—for many children this improved their reading comprehension as well as their writing where they have a wider range of vocabulary to choose from. As part of their homework each week we ask children to choose a word that is new to them that they have read or heard, and briefly talk about that word and its meaning with a parent. Teachers choose 3 of these as class words of the week which all of the children will learn during the following week and then we choose one overall Word of the Week from each class which the child explains to the rest of the school. This task should only take 5 minutes to complete each week but has a huge impact on the children's literacy skills.

This week's words of the week are:

Y1 -fragile (Frankie R) Y2 - strive (Amelia K)
Y3-sophisticated (AJ) Y4—curious (Faith E)

EASTER RAFFLE—LAST CHANCE

We're very grateful to Louise Smith for organising the Easter Raffle from home this year to raise funds for our PTA. Louise has gathered a huge number of prizes and bundled these into 20 Easter Hampers which look fantastic. The Raffle is due to be drawn on Wednesday next week. If you would like tickets please send money into school with your child in a named envelope and we'll get tickets arranged for you. Tickets are £1 per

strip and parents are welcome to buy as many as they wish.



EASTER HOLIDAYS

School closes early next Friday as we reach the end of the Spring term and are ready for the Easter Break. Children in Group A should be collected between 2pm and 2.10pm and Group B between 2.10pm and 2.20pm. Please do not arrive early as your child's group may not have sanitised and be ready to leave which causes queues to build.

HELPING CHILDREN TO STAY HEALTHY SCREENTIME AND DEVICE ISSUES

During lockdowns we have all benefited from the use of electronic devices to keep us in touch with friends and relatives, keep us entertained and support learning. As we have returned to school a number of parents have raised concerns with us about issues that are arising regarding children's use of electronic devices. We have also noticed some worrying trends that we wanted to highlight; these include

- Children being reluctant to do other activities other than playing on devices.
- Tiredness - some children appear extremely tired and are finding it hard to concentrate. They often tell us that they have been playing on games consoles quite late into the night.
- Anxiousness linked to not being able to use devices or due to inappropriate/unkind messages between friends.
- Children whose play, writing, drawings and chat are focused strongly around video games and little else.

We know that too much screen time can lead to a sedentary lifestyle lacking in physical exercise. We hope that as the weather improves and restrictions lift that the children will be able to get out and about more to play with friends—we'll continue to encourage active playtimes and have resumed our Golden Mile time to increase exercise further. We are happy to discuss issues with parents and offer some strategies to support if you are finding this to be an issue.

As a school, we continue to encourage some use of devices to support homework through Doodlemaths and Oxford Reading Buddy which are both very popular with the children, and are customised to support each child's individual needs. Doodlemaths is most effective when used for a few minutes each day whilst Reading Buddy can be used to support the children with their independent reading (we ask that they complete one book per week using this). After many children have been learning at home for so long we have been very mindful to keep homework tasks short, simple and not all on devices.

We really appreciate the support and encouragement that many children are getting at home to help regain lost learning