

Thursday 9 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Not only do we find ourselves at the end of another very busy half term, but we are now halfway through the school year! As you would expect, lots has been happening with visitors to the school and workshops to enhance the children's learning, as well as a Parent Phonics Workshop for Reception and Year 1. I am also pleased to announce that visits to Bexley Library have finally been able to restart this term, with all classes from Years 1-6 scheduled to visit the Library over the coming months.

Thank you for your generous support of the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal. We are still counting the amount raised but have already reached the £800 mark.

Safer Internet Day took place in school on Tuesday of this week. Classes took part in activities and lessons centred around this year's theme of 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. Safer Internet Day is also a good opportunity to remind parents of the [age restrictions](#) for a child to subscribe to any Social Media platform. This includes WhatsApp which has an age restriction of 16:

13	13+	16	18
Facebook Twitter Instagram Snapchat TikTok Kik Ask.fm Houseparty Periscope	Tumblr Pinterest Reddit 	YouTube WeChat Whisper Yubo  (13+ means with parental consent)	LinkedIn Whatsapp  Tinder Bumble Hinge 

What have each year been up to?

EYFS



This half term our topic has been 'my community'. We have been learning about people who help us and different job roles. We were very excited to be visited by some local police officers, a doctor, a

fireman and Reverend Matt. We have had so much fun dressing up in different uniforms and thinking about what job we might want when we grow up.

Year 1

Year 1 had a very exciting visit from lots of different animals this half term (frog, snake, guinea pig, hamster and snail). The children enjoyed learning more about these animals and also getting to meet them. They were able to hold and touch the animals.



Year 2

For their geography topic this half term, Year 2 have been working on physical and human features in geography. The year group carried out some fieldwork visiting Bexley village and Greenwich. On their trip to Greenwich, pupils took part in a shape workshop in the Royal Naval college chapel and they even got to play on the 200 year old skittle alley!



Year 3

In English this half term, Year 3 have been studying "The Green Ship". To end their learning based around the text, the year group have been busy making Green Ships. To link it to their DT learning, they also made flags with levers as an extra addition to their ships.



Year 4

For Geography, the children collaborated in groups to design and make rainforest models using all of the resources available. They then evaluated the success of their models and compared them to other models.



Working in groups, Year 4 pupils performed a poem called “For Forest” by Grace Nichols. Some children read the poem, whilst others made the sound effects.

Year 5

Year 5 have been celebrating their learning with others. Classes invited Year 6 pupils in to share the great Art and DT projects they have worked on so far this academic year.

The children were also able to achieve another task on their Mountain Climber Passport. By showing faithfulness in their peers, they were able to complete an obstacle course blindfolded!



Year 6

Year 6 were visited by Transport for London this half term for a Safety and Citizenship presentation. To help pupils prepare for secondary school, TFL explained how to travel safely and independently, be it by bus, train, bicycle or on foot, as well as the rules to be followed when using public transport.



New Governor



Following last term's invitation to apply to be a Parent Governor, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Moody. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Mrs Moody to the school's Governing Body and we are very much looking forward to working with her and the knowledge that she will bring.

SIAMS Inspection



The school welcomed the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspection Team to Old Bexley yesterday. All Church of England and Methodist schools are inspected approximately every five years by a SIAMS Inspector from the Church of England, although there has been some delay to inspections due to Covid.

The purpose of the Inspection was to explore the question “How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?” Inspectors met with a range of people from within the school community including parents, Governors, pupils, staff and church representatives.

The result of the Inspection will be shared with you as soon as we receive it in the next few weeks.

PTA News



The PTA would like to thank you for your support this half term. They have raised just over £1800 from the Break the Rules day last month and their Bingo evening last week.

Looking forward to next half term, the PTA will be hosting a book fair to celebrate World Book Day on 1 and 2 March, as well as holding their annual plant sale in school on 17 March. They are also excited to launch a ladies only karaoke evening on 17 March. Further details on all of these events will follow in due course.

Lateness



Please remember that the school gates close at 8.50am every morning so your child should be in school before this time. Any child arriving after this time will receive a late mark and the names of persistent late comers are discussed at the school’s monthly meetings with the Education Welfare Officer.

Likewise, at the end of the day, some children are not being collected on time. Please be aware that staff often have meetings arranged for after school and often need to leave class promptly. We do of course understand that traffic/train delays happen from time to time, but we would ask that you contact the school office to advise of any delays or alternative pick up arrangements. The names of children who are persistently collected late from school are passed on to the Education Welfare Officer and any appropriate action may therefore be taken.

Road Safety



Thank you to those drivers who continue to park with care and consideration for both pedestrians and our neighbours. Please ensure you allow enough time to park safely and do not let your children get out of the car whilst you sit in traffic.

As a reminder, parents should not be using the school car parks to drop off or collect their child from school or for any after school club. This includes parking on the yellow zig zags outside the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Dates for your diary

Friday 10 February	School closed – staff training day
Monday 20 February	Return to school
Wednesday 1 March	St David's Day – wear yellow
1 & 2 March	PTA Book Fair
Thursday 2 March	World Book Day
Friday 17 March	Red Nose Day PTA Plant Sale St Patrick's Day – wear green PTA Ladies-only Karaoke Evening
22 & 23 March	Parents Evening
29 & 30 March	Year 4 Grandparents Tea Party
Thursday 30 March	KS2 Easter Church services @ St Mary's
Friday 31 March	KS1 Easter Hat Parade

Please remember that school will be closed on Friday 10 February for staff training. We wish you all a happy and relaxing half term and look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 20 February**.

Mrs J Ivil
Head Teacher