



Issue: 13

Date: 12 January 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to Term 3 – the first of our shorter Winter terms. I hope that you all enjoyed precious family time together and that you were able to shake off the terrible virus we all had at the end of last term.

On behalf of all of the staff we would like to thank you for your very generous gifts and kind words in Christmas cards; we felt overwhelmed by your kindness. It is our pleasure to work with you and with your children.

After School Clubs

Just a quick reminder that Class Teacher led clubs do not run in the first or last weeks of term; this means that there will only be three sessions for these. Please liaise with your external provider in order to confirm the dates for these clubs. We still have spaces on all of our Sports based clubs; if you would like to register your child for one of these and they are in the appropriate year group, the Office team would be delighted to help you.

Pyjama Cinema Evening

I would like to extend a big thank you to our newly formed PTA for hosting a very successful event last term. I am delighted to confirm that we raised £572 for the school. This will be a most valuable contribution to the purchase of playground markings.

Parent Assessment Focus Group

Thank you to those of you who have already expressed an interest in supporting us with the development of how we report and celebrate your child's progress. If you would like to be part of this forum that will help to shape how we move forward please let the Office Team know or mail us on enquiriesking.viat.org.uk . In the first instance, the Forum will meet for a meeting in order to review our vision, review current practice, and capture ideas on adapting this to assure it is meaningful for our parental community.

Parent View

On our new website is a Parent View portal which allows parents to upload their feedback on the school against the core twelve Ofsted questions. These are the same questions to which we invited your response after Parent Consultations and last term through Parentmail. I would be very grateful if you were able to use the Parent View portal to complete this this term so that we capture your voice using this platform. When we receive our visitors from Ofsted they will use this in order to help judge the narrative of the school.

Competitions!

I am totally thrilled to announce that 53 children in school have been selected as published authors in our recent writing competition with *Young Writers*. This is an amazing achievement and we are so very proud of the children. We clearly have some budding David Walliams in school! Next week we will be participating in the live lessons for Chris Evan's 500-word competition; your class teachers will keep you fully informed on what is planned for the children and how their story progresses.

We have also enrolled on a Nationwide Memory Championship for children in KS2. Once we have more information, we will let you know!

Safeguarding

As part of our commitment to the safeguarding of your child at school, we will be launching a refreshed Acceptable User Policy; this details how we safeguard your child when they have access to any device in school. This will be presented to the Parent Forum next week, and, once ratified, will be shared with the wider community.

Safeguarding and E Safety Seminar

There will be a Safeguarding and E safety Seminar held on Thursday 18th January at 7pm at our Sister school at Leybourne Chase. The seminar will last for approximately 45 minutes. A Parent mail has been sent today for you to indicate if you will be able to attend.

Reading Challenge

Reading is an integral part of our school and we continue to celebrate this across the broader curriculum. Reading is the vital ingredient for a healthy fulfilling future; thank-you for supporting your child in this respect. I am hopeful that we may see some increased percentage for the next week as competition mounts! Congratulations to this week's winner Year 4 with 90%

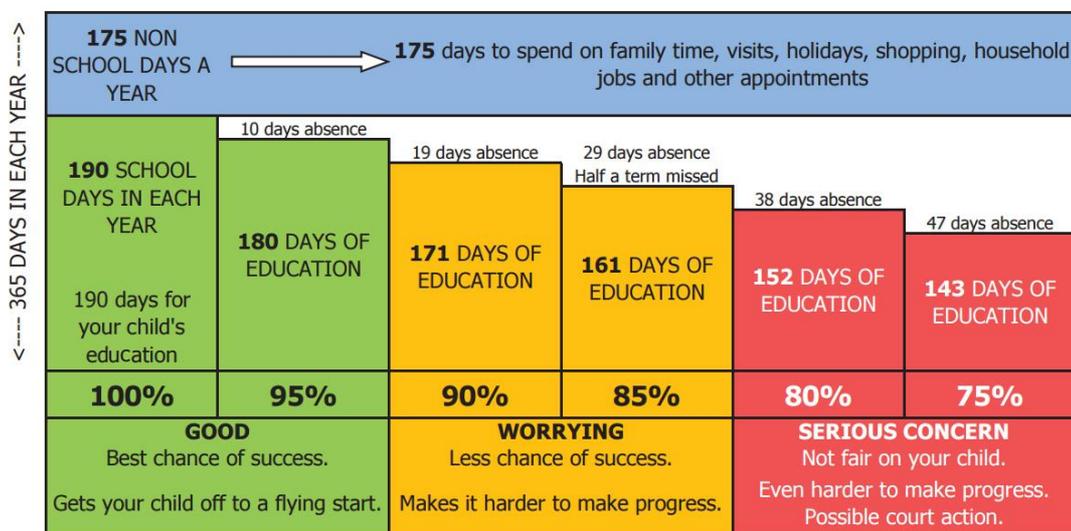
Year 4	90%
Year 6	80%
Panda	67%
Year 2	64%
Year 5	55%
Year 3	42%
Year 1	30%

Attendance

Year 6	99.33%
Year 4	99.20%
Year 1	98.67%
Year 2	98.67%
Year 3	97.90%
Panda	97.33
Year 5	88.00%

As you are aware, we carefully track and monitor attendance and punctuality as this has a proven impact upon the success and attainment of your children. Our whole school attendance this week is 97.33 % which is a fantastic continuing trend and is creeping closer to our school target of 98%. Year to date, our school attendance is 95.97% which is still below the national average of 96%; this is also the percentage that Ofsted recognise in order to be a "good" school. We still have some work to meet our targets.

I would like to remind all parents that holidays are not permitted during term time and that a penalty notice may be enforced should holiday be taken. Lost learning time has a considerable impact upon your child's ability to meet their end of year targets; I have presented the table below in order to highlight this.



The class with the best attendance this week is Year 6 with 99.33 %. Congratulations to Year 6 who become this week's proud owners of Attendance Ted. What a great lead to follow!

Pupil Successes

- Holly Bannister achieved her Duckling Level 3 Swimming Award.
- Amelia Owen achieved her Stage 1 Swimming Badge.



Penguins

This week

This week we have been settling back into the routine of school. We have successfully achieved this and have been working hard.

In English, we have been revising our sounds in phonics and identifying sounds that can be spelled in different ways.

In Maths, KS2 have been recapping place value and using their knowledge to increase or decrease a given number by 10, 100 or 1000. KS1 have been reading, ordering and comparing numbers.

As part of our sensory timetable, we have been continuing to try different fruit and vegetables and exploring a variety of textures through touch.

How can you help at home?

It would be helpful to encourage your children to talk about different textures, smells or sounds they experience at home.



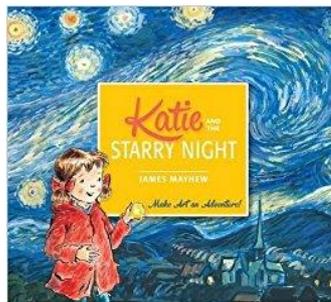
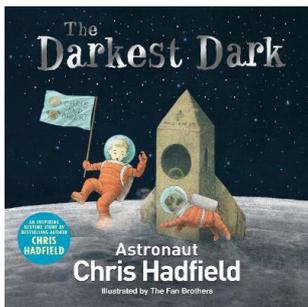
Panda Class

This term Panda Class will be exploring the topic of Space through a range of mediums including art, music, dance, and literature. They will be learning about the earth, sun, moon, stars, planets, spaceships, space travel, rockets and aliens. In maths they will be continuing their work on number recognition and formation. We will be continuing our work on accurate counting and there will be a focus on the language of addition and subtraction. The children will also become more familiar with the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and the concept of time will be further investigated. In English we will be continuing to follow the Read, Write Inc. Program to further develop the children's knowledge, understanding and use of the sounds for reading and writing. We will be working on letter formation and we will be immersing the children in a wealth of amazing books to enhance their learning experience and allow them plenty of opportunities to get excited about reading and writing.

How can you help at home?

Practise number recognition and counting beyond 10.

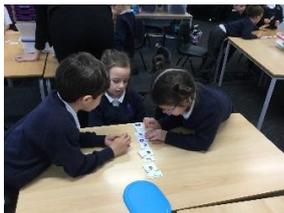
Some of the books we have enjoyed this week.



We would like to say a big thank you for your good wishes and generosity at Christmas, it was much appreciated.

Year 1

This week the children have settled in well after their Christmas break and they have enjoyed meeting their new teacher Mrs Linton. We have started our new English topic of Fairy Tales and are reading our new English topic we have started this term is Fairy Tales Hansel and Gretel we have sequenced the story, described the characters, identified nouns and tried to describe using great adjectives. We have been so busy! In Maths, we have been continuing to learn about place value and have focused on developing the children's reasoning skills. In Science, we have begun to learn about plants.



How can you help at home?

Look for talk about nouns and try to think of lots of adjectives to describe them.

Year 2

This term in English we are looking at non-fiction texts. This week, we are writing a recount of our Christmas Day and learning the skills needed to do this successfully; using time connectives, writing in the past tense and in chronological order.

In Maths we will continue to look at number through our agility sessions, and will be moving onto measurement next week.

In PE we continue to enjoy the expertise of a specialist on alternative Wednesdays to learn Gymnastics. On our Tuesday PE lessons, we will be looking at different ways of moving with a ball, as well as beginning to play some games.

In Topic this term we will be looking at Nelson Mandela; the children have produced an amazing list of questions they would like to be answered about his life.

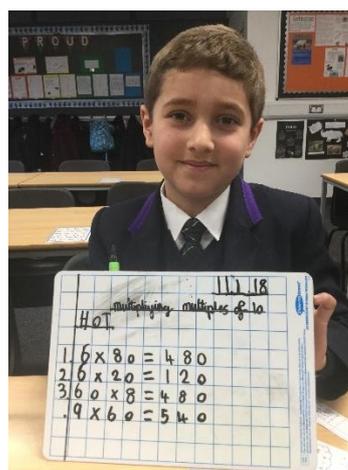
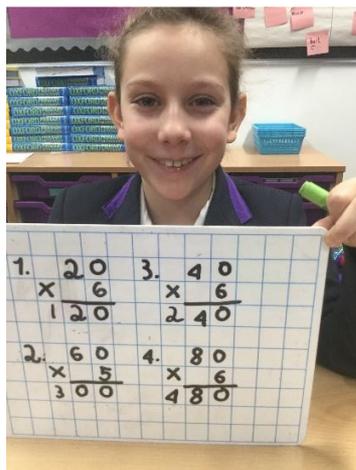
Our recorder sessions with our specialist from Invicta Grammar School will also continue this term.

How can you help at home?

Practise the 2,3,5 and 10 times tables. Try to mix them up as well as asking in different orders.

Year 3/4

This term Years 3 and 4 will be learning about William the Conqueror and the castles built by the Normans. To link in with this, our English will be based around the story 'The Enchanted Castle' and, towards the end of the term, the children will be planning and writing their own story set in a castle. They are already extremely excited by this and are looking forward to sharing their stories with the younger children. In Maths we will begin by practising, using and applying our times table and division facts and the children will be exploring magnets and magnetic forces in Science. In our broader curriculum, the children will be exploring Salvador Dali's artwork, enhancing their coding skills, participating in weekly Gymnastics and Football lessons and continuing to learn the ukulele.



How can I help at home?

Support your child in remembering and recalling their multiplication and division facts by practising daily for a few minutes. Year 3 should focus on their 4x table, and Year 4 should focus on their 6x table



Year 5

This week has been very exciting for Year Five. We commenced the week with an informative visit to the Houses of Parliament. We were lucky enough to be able to look round the House of Parliament and participate in a workshop about how laws are made and passed. We have then followed this up in school by having our own mock election whereby the children wrote their own manifestos and created their own political party. In English, we have started to look at the book 'The Little Ships' and have completed their own research into the battle and evacuation at Dunkirk to create a context for this story. Within maths we have looked at division and division word problems. We have also enjoyed being able to get to know our year one reading buddies.

How can you help at home?

Continue to practise the timetables up to the twelve times tables with the inverse division facts.



Year 6

This week Year 6 kicked off the term with an exciting and inspirational trip to the Houses of Parliament in London learning about how a law is created and passed and had the incredible opportunity to meet Tom Tugendhat; the MP for Tonbridge and Malling.

During Terms 3 and 4, in Human Studies, Year 6 will be looking at China exploring how the legacy of China affects its modern-day citizens. In Maths we will be delving into decimals and measure. For English we have begun our new topic of Figurative Poetry and have started by analysing *The Door* by Miroslav Holub. In Science we will be continuing to explore light before moving on to learning about inheritance and evolution.



How can you help at home?

Ask your child about *The Door*. What could the door symbolise? What features does the poem have?

Term 3

15 January w/c	All Years	All teacher led clubs will commence this week
15 January	All Years	Drop Everything and Write – (Chris Evans Live Lessons)
16 January	By invitation only	Parent Forum @6pm
19 January	All Years	Wellbeing Day
29 January w/c	All Years	National Story telling week
29 January w/c	All Years	Last week of teacher led clubs
29 January	Panda & Y5	Parent Storyshare @ 2.30pm
30 January	Year 2 & 6	Parent Storyshare @ 2.30pm
31 January	Year 5 & 6	Parent Roast Dinner Day
31 January	Year 1,3&4	Parent Storyshare @2.30pm
1 February	All Years	Author Visit; Helen Dennis
5 February	Year 6	Wasted! Year 6 Drugs Workshop
6 February	All Years	Safer Internet Day
6 February	All Years	Second Hand Uniform Sale
7 February	Year 5&6	Visit to Valley Park – Matinee School of Rock @10am
7 February	Invite only	Governors Meeting @ 5.45
8 February	All Years	Celebration Assembly @ 9am – by Invitation
8 February	Key Stage 1	Pupil Led Review Conference @2pm
9 February	Year 1&2	Theatre trip to Orchard Theatre; Awful Auntie
9 February	Key Stage 2	Pupil Led Review Conference
9 February	All Years	Last day of term 3.20pm

Term 4

19 February 2018	All years	Term 4 for pupils begin on Monday 19 February 2018
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