

Friday 18 March 2022

Co-Headteachers:

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We would like to thank our incredible Parents' Association who not only commissioned Anna Schofield, a local artist, to paint a countryside-themed mural for pupils and staff to enjoy but also rolled up their sleeves and cleared up, swept, painted, weeded and more to make an inviting area for our pupils and staff. It will be a place for mindfulness and an area for our pupils to reflect and relax and for our staff to use at lunchtime. We are so grateful.

February Attendance

Sparrows have won the attendance for the second time this year! Well done Sparrows! Research shows that children achieve better if they are on time and have good attendance. In order to provide children with the best education, we aim for every child to achieve at least 98% attendance, with a goal of achieving 100%.

Rec R	Rec W	Y1GF	Y1SP	Y2KF	Y2O		
93.10	88.33	90.12	94.95	86.95	92.24		
Y3A	Y3B	Y4H	Y4M	Y5O	Y5SB	Y6H	Y6SY
94.52	88.42	87.74	90.24	93.10	92.27	91.19	87.26

Safeguarding Matters

As you are aware safeguarding the children in school is top priority and supporting you to do this too, is part of how we work together to ensure that our children are safe at all times. In the past year, sexualised behaviours have been talked about in the media following reports by OFSTED that this kind of behaviour is very prevalent between young people. At South Hill we have responded to this by providing additional training to staff and we would like to invite you to look at the information on the following link, about how to talk to your children about these behaviours. This is a response to what young people aged 16 - 21 wished their parents had known and had done, before things went wrong. It is a tricky topic, but this should help you: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/>. Please also see the attached poster.

Reading Records

We have been focusing on reading this term as this is such an important part of a child's development. Whilst looking at reading records, it was quite concerning at the lack of parent/carer comments in their reading records. This is such an important exercise as reading unlocks the rest of the curriculum for children. By spending 5-10 minutes reading with your child and recording that in their reading record, you are supporting their progress at home and allowing us to track how they are doing. Please record what you read, every time you read with your child. Thank you.

KNEX

Year 5 and Year 6 both completed the Primary K'NEX Challenge this week. The children were challenged to make a moving bridge that would allow transportation across the top and then



move to enable tall ships through. They had to design their bridge and work in teams with only an hour to build their bridge. We learnt about the importance of team work, flexibility, planning and time management.



Y2 trip

Year 2 had a Shrektacular time this week at Shrek's Adventure! They worked as a team to escape Rumpelstiltskin successfully and even had the opportunity to meet Shrek. This trip will definitely help them with their creative writing and spark their imaginations! Thank you to all the helpers who made this trip a success! They really did have a wonderful time.



Tag Rugby Festival

It was so unfortunate that the day of the festival, held at Hemel Hempstead Rugby Club, was so wet. Year 3 managed to play their matches in the morning. The Year 4 tournament was cut short as the rain got heavier and heavier. But, as these photos show, the weather didn't dampen anyone's spirits. Well done to the children and staff for braving the elements and to the parents who helped.



News from Beech Class

This week Beech class have been learning about comic books ready to create their own based on 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'. Here is the class enjoying taking some time to read existing comics and graphic novels to familiarise themselves with the structure.



Science Week

This week has been Science Week and each year group had an exciting Science Afternoon! Here are a few highlights of the week: Year 6 combined Science and orienteering, Year 5 explored forces and measuring using Newton meters, Year 1 learned about birds, bird spotting and making bird feeders and Year 3 learnt about food, nutrition and food miles to design their own planet friendly burger!



Wednesday's Wisdom from Dr Kathy Weston

This week it's about 'Celebrating Neurodiversity' - please take a look via this link:

<https://www.tooledupeducation.com/wisdom/celebrating-neurodiversity/>

Have a good weekend!

Yours sincerely

J Wellbelove L Wren

Miss Wellbelove and Miss Wren
Co-Headteachers



Star of the Week	
Wrens	Abigail
Robins	Whole class
Goldfinches	Ava
Sparrows	Akshaj
Owls	Charlie
Kingfishers	Dylan
Ash	Demir
Beech	Frankie
Holly	Whole class
Maple	Whole class
Oak	Tommy
Silver Birch	Beau W
Sycamore	Eliza
Hazel	Ollie

Advice from School Health

Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Did you know that there are some simple steps you can take to promote your child's emotional health and wellbeing so that your child develops a healthy brain?

- **Cuddle** your child, and if you cannot, then find other ways to provide reassuring contact. Children need a minimum of 8 touches during a day to feel connected to a parent.
- **Relax** with your child and maybe practice some breathing exercises together.
- **Play** with your child and give them lots of opportunity to experience different types of play. Maybe go for a walk together.
- **Respond** to your child and give them your full attention. Put all phones and computers away.
- **Talk** to your child. Ask them about their school day and talk through any concerns they may have.

There are 9 minutes during the day that have the greatest impact on a child:

- The first 3 minutes right after they wake up
- The 3 minutes after they finish school/come home from school
- The last 3 minutes before they go to bed

Attachments

- Safeguarding Matters attachment **On Website**
- Free Taster Days - Hemel Rugby Club

Dates for your Diaries

March

21 March - 1 April	• Big Walk and Wheel
Monday 21	• Y5 Maths Challenge (Abbot's Hill School)
Tuesday 22	• Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00pm
Wednesday 23	• Wrens Class Assembly 8.55am • Y6 trip to Tate Gallery
Thursday 24	• Secret Mothers' Day Shop (PTA) • Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00pm
Monday 28	• EY & KS1 Movie Night 3.15-5.00pm
Wednesday 30	• Y1 trip to Whipsnade • Robins Class Assembly
Thursday 31	• KS2 Movie Night 3.20-5.15pm

April

Friday 1	• Easter Non-uniform Day (£1 donation per child) • SEN Coffee Morning 9.00-10.00am • Early finish 1.15pm (last day of term)
Tuesday 19	• INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 20	• Start of SUMMER term 8.40am

Parent Voice Questionnaire

A link for our online questionnaire was emailed yesterday. We always value your feedback so please take the time to complete it. It only takes a few minutes. The link is:

<https://forms.office.com/r/6m0VGa16V5>

Year 6 Reminder PGL 2022 Caythorpe Court

A reminder that full payment for this year's Year 6 Residential week at PGL is due on 29 April. If you wish to know your balance, please contact the school office.

PTA Mothers Day Secret Shop Thursday 24 March

If your child would like to purchase a gift (or more!) you can either pay online via the School Gateway from today, cash payment on the day or pop the money into a named envelope and drop off at the school office.

PTA Easter Movie Nights

Our wonderful Parents' Association are holding Movie nights for our children - information went out earlier this week. You can book your child's place through the School Gateway.

EY/KS1 - Monday 28 March - Springtime with Roo

KS2 - Thursday 31 March - Peter Rabbit 2