



Dear Parent/Carer,

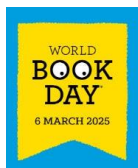
I hope you had a super half term. Not a nice day to come back, but the children seem bright as buttons and have settled straight down to learning. We are lucky to have such well-behaved and hardworking pupils!



This half term is a busy one, so do keep an eye on the

website calendar. On Wednesday this week, we have a large number of KS2 children going to a Cross Country competition at Garon Park and Wednesday is also the Year 4 Parent/Carer Involvement morning, which starts at 9.15am. We look forward to seeing you to do some work with your child.

Next week, on Wednesday 5th March, Year 5 children are excited about seeing the Lion King. Year 5 parents/carers will receive a letter with details for the trip later this week. If anyone knows of any organisations who would like to sponsor this annual event for ROBUS, I'd be delighted to hear from you.



On Thursday 6th March, it is World Book Day. This year, by popular demand, we will be dressing up as book characters. Of course, if children do not like dressing up, they can come in school uniform.

If your child has Special Education Needs, you will have been sent an email detailing how to make an appointment for their termly structured conversation. Please do try to make the allocated date, but if that is impossible, please let us know.

As always, please do make sure that your child is reading. In EYFS and KS1, children will bring their book band books home, which they need to read a number of times so that they are reading

fluently. In KS2, most children are working on the Accelerated Reader programme, which involves taking a quiz after they have completed their book. They can do this at home or at school. Children should be reading on average around 10,000 words per week by the time they reach Years 5 and 6. With phones and online gaming, TikTok etc as alternatives, we know that this can be a challenge, but making sure that your child is in a routine of reading each day is vital. Those who do not read regularly are at a huge disadvantage in all areas of the curriculum and this will only get worse as they move onto Senior School. If your child finds reading tricky or are not reading regularly, please read to them. There is nothing more lovely than cuddling up with a book at bedtime and research shows that this also will help your child to read. For Accelerated Reader quizzes, a book read with a parent still counts. We will be having a huge push on children reading this term.

Have a super week.

Miss E. Dawson
Headteacher

Attendance

For the week ended 14th February 2025 there were two classes who achieved 97% attendance or above.

We have a number of children who have medical conditions which mean that they have to have time off school for appointments and therefore their data is not included in these figures.

Aspirational attendance target set for the school for
2024 - 2025 is:
97%

Attendance figures:-

Class	Week
Chipmunks	89.4%
Dragonflies	93.1%
Butterflies	97.5%
Rabbits	93.1%
Ladybirds	94.4%
Robins	90.4%
Fireflies	95.6%
Owls	94.3%
Bears	97.1%
Sparrows	93.8%
Ants	95.4%
Kestrels	96.7%
Badgers	90.2%
Otters	96.0%
Squirrels	92.1%
Whole School	94.0%
Target	97.0%

Year 1 visit to USP College

On Monday, 10th February 2025, the Year 1 children were invited to the USP College as part of their students' T Level Year 1 Early Years program. The students hosted a special day designed to create an engaging learning experience for our Year 1 children. During the day, the T Level Early Years students from USP planned and delivered fun, educational activities and Olivia Lopes (Rabbits) gives her account of her session below:-

"We did some painting. I painted a picture of the seasons. I made some biscuits and ate them. I put icing on the top and sprinkled some hearts on it. I made some flowers for mummy out of paper. I had to paint my hand red and put it on the paper. Then I cut it out and stuck it on a pipe

Congratulations to this week's winners
BUTTERFLIES





cleaner. We did a puzzle. Then we played bingo. I had to choose six numbers and write them on a board. I won! We then walked back and it was cold."

Bikeability - Group 3

During the last week of half term, the final group of Year 5 children participated in their Bikeability course. Lucy Sutherland (Kestrels) tells of her experience below:-

"The first day my hands got very cold but the next day I wore gloves. We had to practice turning in and out around cones. We had to check if the tyres were pumped up enough by trying to squish them. We also had to check the brakes and had to stand in front of the bike, put the wheel in between our knees and check that the handle bars were straight. The next day we practiced riding on the roads. I was nervous at first but then I really enjoyed it. Also we went around a parked car and had to look over our shoulder to check that there wasn't any cars coming and put our hand out to show that we were turning. On the last day we did a little bike ride and we practiced going in and out of a T-junction. Then we did a little bike ride back to the school along the main road! I thought the course was fun and I learnt lots of new things whilst exercising. I feel better going out on my bike now and going on the roads."



EYFS Learn to Ride

Just before half term, a second group of EYFS children took part in the 'Learn to ride' session. Luci Gardiner (Dragonflies) describes her session below:-

"The man told us to go forwards. The man told us to pedal forwards. After I did that I rode my bike all the way home myself! I liked riding my bike."

Roots to Food

ROOTS TO FOOD On Wednesday, 12th February 2025, the Year 4 and Year 5

children took part in cookery lessons with Roots to Food. The children cooked a delicious chilli (recipe attached) and Toby Sutherland (Ants) gives his account of his lesson below:-

"We had to get into groups. Then I cut a yellow pepper up into slices. There were also red peppers but I didn't cut those up. We also had to crush garlic with the palms of our hands to remove the skin and then put it into the pot. Then I stirred all the ingredients. It smelt nice. Then we tasted it but I didn't like it. I thought it was fun cooking and I will definitely cook at home now."

Year 5 Ancient Greek Day

On Thursday, 13th February 2025, the Year 5 children enjoyed an Ancient Greek Day where the children took part in making clay pots, mosaics, wax tablets and fresco paintings. The children also dressed up for the day if they wished to and in the afternoon enjoyed a festival of plays and a feast! Joshua Sandford (Kestrels) and Emily Harvey (Ants) give their respective accounts of the day below:-



"When we went into the hall, we were greeted by an ancient Greek person and there were different tables to do things on. The most popular one was soap carving. I really enjoyed doing it as I got to make my own special design for myself. There was a pendant making one. I did one with water to show love to Poseidon. There was also a wax tablet where we could write something on. I did the date and it took



about 30 minutes to dry the wax. Then about 15 minutes to write on it because it was hard. There was a stone designing table. We could make our own design and I did a trident with dots around it. Then there was another one where we could snap a piece of brick. We could draw the design onto the paper and then we drew it onto the brick and painted it. Then there was an olive stand where we had to mush up the olives and then squirt the juice into a bowl. Then we put a cloth on top of it and we lit it and then saw how long it would last for. Then there was a pottery table where we had to make something for the gods and something they would appreciate. I did a cup/trophy for the gods if they won the battle. Then there was a clay stall and I got to make something that the gods could use or something that would represent the gods. After we did all the stalls we did a little play and I did about Pandora's Box. I dressed up as a Greek person. I really enjoyed it because when I was there I saw lots of stalls and they all looked really great. My favourite one was the pendant making." (Joshua Sandford)

"We dressed up in a fancy costume and I dressed up in ancient Greek clothes. It was fun dressing up. When we got to the hall there was an ancient Greek lady and she told us that there was a war going on. The King was called Darius. We sat on the floor and she explained all the different stations. There was an offering where we could make a clay offering which was my mum's stall. Next to it, was a medicine/perfume stall. Another one was where we had to paint on a broken tile. We had to snap the tile and then put it back together like a jigsaw puzzle. We had to draw our design on a piece of paper and then do that on the actual tile and go over





Newsletter No. 20

24th February 2025

it with paint. We also had to make oil out of olives. We had to squeeze all the juice out and then the lady who did the stall put all the oil into a little hole and when everyone had done theirs she lit the oil and we had to see how long it lasted for. Ours lasted for around 27 seconds. Next to it we had to make an oil lamp. We had to do designs on it and then the lady there said we could do the designs which were on my dress so I did and it turned out great. We had a block of soap and we had to draw a design on it and it smelt really nice. We could carve it using different tools and I did an angel and a little house. I thought the whole day was amazing because we learned about the wars and there was lots of history in it." (Emily Harvey)



Honesty is the best policy!

We would like to congratulate the following for handing in money they found recently.

Alfie Seymour (Sparrows)
Jeremy D'Aleo (Sparrows)
Joshua Arram (Owls)
Evie Barber (Kestrels)
Edward Payne (Ants)
George Oswald (Ants)
Maison Alsela (Ants)
Zachariah Sanders-Mackey Couch (Ants)

Well done - you should be very proud of yourselves!

eSchools App

We kindly ask that you to download the eSchools and eSchools Lite apps (free of charge), in order that any messages we



send you are not charged to the school and you will be able to access the calendar, newsletter and website easily.

Twitter

Please keep checking our Twitter feed for various updates/messages:-

@Thundersley_P_S

Breakfast Club & Treetops After School Club

We offer a Breakfast Club (7.45am to the start of school) and an After School Club called Treetops (3.15pm to 6.00pm) each day. If you are interested in a place for your child and would like more information, please speak to Mrs. Hayward in the main School Office.

Uniform Shops

We would like to advise that we now have two uniform shops as follows:-

Penn UK,
15-17 Kents Hill Road,
South Benfleet,
Essex, SS7 5PN.

Telephone:- 01268 751724

www.pennuk.com

Danielle's Uniform,
Claydons Lane,
Rayleigh,
Essex, SS6 7UP.

Telephone 01268 967542

www.danielllesshop.co.uk

PTA News

Next Meeting

The PTA's next meeting is being held at 7pm on Wednesday, 26th February 2025 at The White Hart. All are welcome!

Community News

ACL Learning - ASD Children Online

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

ACL Learning - Zones of Regulation

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

YMCA

Please find attached a flyer in respect of the above.

Horses - Dark Lane Footpath

We have been asked to share with parents/carers the following in respect of the above:-

Thank you for the concerns for the horses on Dark Lane footpath. They are well looked after and we seek medical support when needed. Please can we ask that the public stop feeding the horses. This is what caused the injury to the Bay as horses will fight over treats. As much as none of our horses bite, feeding by hand is something we never do as it can cause nipping behaviour. Also, please can we ask dogs are kept on leads as we have had dogs loose in our fields which has caused problems and could result in serious injury to dogs or horses.

School Calendar - Dates

<https://www.thundersleyprimary.co.uk/web/home/86964>

or eSchools app Lite

Future Term Dates

07/04/25 to 21/04/25 - Easter Break
22/04/25 - Start of the Summer Term
05/05/25 - Bank Holiday
26/05/25 to 30/05/25 - Half Term
18/07/25 - Last day of Term



Newsletter No. 20

24th February 2025

******NON PUPIL DAYS******

21/07/25
22/07/25

