



10th February 2023

Newsletter No.10

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to continue to see the first signs of Spring. With more daylight, birdsong and snowdrops and daffodils popping up it has begun to feel like winter is leaving us again. Spring is such an optimistic time of year with new beginnings and the promise of warmer weather. We hope you and your family have been able to notice these things, perhaps you were able to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch as we mentioned in our last newsletter.

Just like the cycle of the seasons, school has its own cycle of activities. The leadership team have undertaken our review mornings this half term. A great way to get into classes and have a look at learning across our school. This is a collaborative process with staff filling in learning surveys prior to our visits. We look at lessons, books and the learning environment, talk to the children and look at progress and attainment data. This culminates in a feedback discussion with the class teacher where we work together to discuss next steps. Our focus is always on 'soaring to success' for all pupils. In particular it has been great to see purposeful learning environments where the children are using the resources to make progress and lessons that are engaging and interesting resulting in pupils working hard to do their best. Pupils have told us that they like their learning because it is interesting but also because it is hard but they get there. All the children were able to tell us about strategies they use when they are stuck. These were varied and included talking to a friend, looking at a model in the class, checking previous work and asking an adult. It is positive to know that the children can independently use strategies to develop their learning, this is an area we are currently looking at as a staff to help children develop these skills.

In school the internal making good from the building work has continued with staff and children adapting well to this minor disruption. We are pleased to say that this phase of work is almost at an end. Thank you to parents for responding to different drop off and collection points as the work has progressed through classrooms. The finished classes are looking great!

Year 4 had their Bikeability training this term. It was great to see the children arriving with their bikes and accessing this important training which combines fitness with safety. Well done Year 4! Year 2 have been working hard on their London's Burning topic; finding out about the past whilst looking forward to their visit to London after half term. Year 5 have begun their unit of work on the Victorians and the children have shared their love of the fascinating elements of this topic, they have used this knowledge to write some fabulous newspaper articles with some rip roaring headlines! In Year 1 maths has been standing out for all the right reasons. Having spent a lot of time building up their confidence using objects to add and subtract, the children have been developing their mental and written methods for addition and subtraction, great work. Year 3 have been building up their knowledge of the rainforest with some fascinating facts. Year 6 have been working on their computing skills developing 'Choose your own adventure stories', a great way to combine English and computing learning with a fun outcome. Finally Reception have been continuing to settle in to school life. Reception have also begun joining us in Celebration assemblies on Fridays. It has been lovely to have them with us and watch them enjoying celebrating their peers achievements. It is hard to believe they are already half way through their first year at school! Well done Reception.

We hope that you and your children have a good break over half term. There are further communications coming out today relating to DT and English which will give you some ideas of things to do with your children if you are looking for activities. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 20th February.

Best wishes

Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney

Attendance:

We continue to monitor attendance. We are hopeful that as the weather gets warmer, and we can all be outside more, the number of illnesses will decrease. We always welcome discussions about improving attendance whether it be with ongoing health issues or persistent lateness. Please note that in line with our absence policy and government guidance on attendance we cannot authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any decisions made would also take into account attendance up until that point within an academic year.



School Term Dates for the remainder of this year:

Remainder for Spring term 2023

Half term: 13th – 17th February 2023

Last day of term: Friday 31st March 2023

Summer term 2023

Term Starts: Monday 17th April 2023

May Day: Monday 1st May 2023

Extra coronation day bank holiday: Monday 8th May 2023

(YEAR 6 PLEASE NOTE SATS WEEK STARTS: TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2023)

Half term: 29th May – 2nd June 2023

Last day of term: Wednesday 19th July 2023

Term dates for 2023–2024 are as follows and are now published on the website:

Autumn term 2023

Professional Day: Friday 1st September 2023

Term Starts: Monday 4th September 2023

Half Term: 23rd October – 27th October 2023

Professional Day: Friday 17th November 2023

Professional Day: Monday 20th November 2023

Autumn term closes: Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring term 2024

Term Starts: Thursday 4th January 2024

Half term: 19th – 23rd February 2024

Spring term closes: Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 15th April 2024

May Day: Monday 1st May 2024

Half term: 27th – 31st May 2024

Summer term closes: Thursday 18th July

Professional Day: Friday 19th July

Professional Day: Monday 22nd July

Diary dates: see table overleaf

Diary dates:

Further dates will be shared over the year. Please see the previous page for **term dates** and **inset days**.

Spring term dates	Event
22nd February	Year 2 Tower of London trip
1st March	Year 4 Trip to West Stow
1st March	Teacher strike day: information released nearer the date on impact and plans
14th March	Year 3 Colchester Zoo trip
17 th March	Mothers Day event in school am (details to follow)
21 st March	Year 3 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
24 th March	Reports out to parents
28 th March	Parent consultations 8.00 – 11.00
30 th March	Parent consultation 3.30 – 7.00pm

Summer term dates	Event
Week beginning 8 th May	Year 6 SATS week: SATs start on the Tuesday due to the Cornonation bank holiday, please ensure your child is in school promptly each day. Further details will follow.
17th May	Reception: Vision screening
25 th May	Year 1 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
9 th June	Sports day times tbc
28 th June	Year 6 pupils Induction day at Sawston Village College: all day
29 th June	Year 6 Induction evening at Sawston Village College: pupils and parents 4 – 7.30pm
11 th July	Year 2 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am