



3rd March 2023

Newsletter No.11

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is that time of year when, as the weather improves, the classes are able to get out more on their school trips. Last week the year 2 classes, Goldfinches and Skylarks went on the coach to London to visit The Tower of London. The children are currently studying 'The Great Fire of London' and this visit enabled them to 'bring to life' elements of this learning and also provided them with the opportunity to adventure further afield. Along the way there were ample opportunities to identify other famous London landmarks, which is always exciting too. Despite the longer day, the children were extremely well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the adventure. We look forward to hearing more about it in their upcoming writing!

As part of their Anglo Saxon topic, the year 4 children, Swifts and Nightingales, had their outing this week to the wonderful West Stow—an Anglo Saxon village. Despite colder temperatures, the sun shone and the children were extremely excited on their return to share all of their findings too—especially to tell us about the wolf and bear skins they had seen. What an incredible thought that all of those years ago there were wolves and bears roaming wildly not so far away. The year 4's learning on this topic will be further enhanced by a visit from the wonderful Dr Sean Lang, who brings history alive for the children through his animated story telling!

Year 3 children are currently studying the rainforest; to support this they will be visiting Colchester Zoo next week to investigate further some of the animals that they are currently learning about.

All of these trips are only possible due to the fantastic support we have from parent volunteers, so, many thanks must go to these parents too, as well as our staff for organising these lovely opportunities for the children.

Much work has been undertaken recently by Dr Wreghitt, our Chair of Governors, in conjunction with The Challis Trust in Sawston to produce some fascinating local History information. Herons and Kingfishers will be benefitting from this work during an upcoming 'in school' workshop, to support their current topic work.

As you may be aware, it is World Book Day this week, and Mrs Hines has been working hard to organise exciting book related activities for the children to celebrate and remind us of the enormous importance of 'Reading for Pleasure'. We are indeed very lucky to have our very own published author as one of our parents, Robyn Wilson-Owen, who visited the school to work with different groups of children this week.

The children have also been bringing in 'favourite books' from home to share in class this week, which has been extremely successful as well as enjoyable.

Staff have enjoyed providing photos for the 'Masked Reader' show too, providing clues for the children to guess who it is behind the book! All was revealed in the Friday assemblies!

Reading is such a vital part of children's (and adult's) lives and whilst we encourage this passion for reading all year round, it is always great to have the opportunity to undertake some special reading related activities at World Book Day time!

Although a relatively short half term, it is a very busy one; reports will be coming out in a few weeks time which will provide you with information about how your children is currently progressing and possible next steps too. The follow up parent consultations will provide you with the opportunity to unpick some of these elements in a bit more details. As previously we will be hosting one parent consultation on zoom and one 'in person' so do look out for the communication around this from the office to book up your slots.

We look forward to meeting with you at these consultations

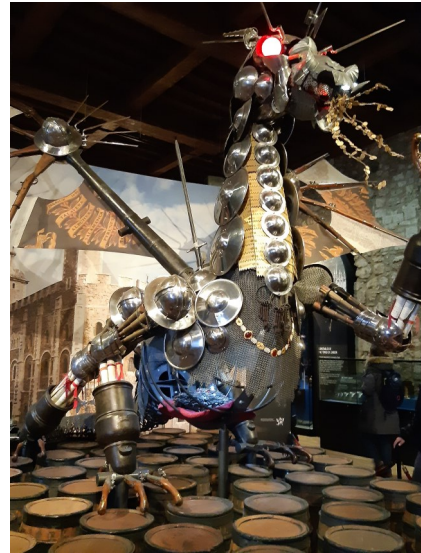
Do keep your eye on all of the dairy dates on the following pages as well as some year 2 trip photographs.

Best wishes

Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney

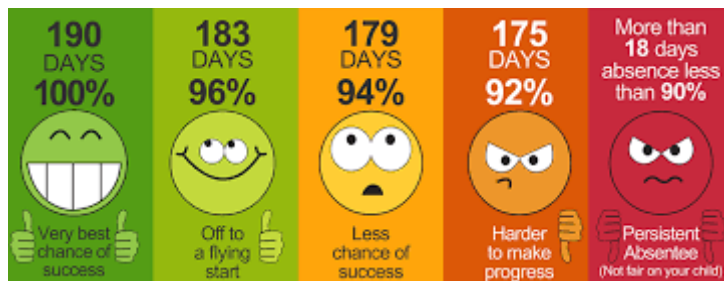
Headteachers

Goldfinches and Skylarks enjoy an outing to the Tower of London



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 - 2.30 pm CONFIRMED TIME |
| 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 am – 11.00 am |
| 30 th March | Parent consultation 3.30 pm – 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 am – 10.00 am |
| 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 |