# Spring 1 Primley Wood Primary School Newsletter



# Good attendance and punctuality equals success!

This week's whole School attendance: 96.6%
Our attendance target for the year is 97%

Year to date is: 95%

Please help your child to achieve success by ensuring that they come to school every day.

Reception Year 1 Year 2 Year 3S 96.43% 96.55% 97.04% 93.6% Year 3F Year 4K Year 4M Year 6 Year 5 98.1% 95.79% 100% 94.07% 94%

# **Upcoming Key Dates**

# Green events - parents are welcome

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19 <sup>th</sup> February	Back to school/ Shrove Tuesday assembly
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Coffee Morning 9:00 -10:00 in the school hall
21 <sup>st</sup> February	Drop Everything and Read Nursery 2:45, Reception, 3 and 4 3:00
21 <sup>st</sup> February	PTA meeting – all welcome to join 2:45
22nd February	Bun sale please bring buns in from 21st Feb
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 SATs update – 3:45 in Year 6 classroom
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Y1 Phonics Workshop – 3.00
29 <sup>th</sup> February	Drop Everything and Read – 1, 2, 5 and 6 3:00
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Enterprise Day
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1 Phonics lesson for parents to see– 9:05
7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book character (optional), bring favourite book to school
12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Dress in Red for Comic relief Day - £1
15 <sup>th</sup> March	School closed for staff training day
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Coffee morning
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Drop Everything and Read Years Nursery, Reception 3 and 4 3:00
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Drop Everything and Read Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 3:00
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Bun sale <i>please bring buns in from 19th March</i>
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Enterprise Fayre 2:45
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for Easter
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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a pleasure to be writing to you in my first newsletter as Headteacher of Primley Wood Primary School. It has been a short but very exciting half term.

We have voted for our School Council, introduced Play Leaders and Lunch time Leaders. Pupil voice is extremely important and we are keen to develop this further. We have had some wonderful Drop Everything and Read sessions and had some fabulous activities for Mental Health Week and Internet Safety Day.

We have a range of clubs starting next half term and we will have a sports coach on Fridays to work with teachers to deliver high quality PE sessions for our children.

## Goodbye and best wishes

We are very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Shaw, our School Business Manager and Mr Clough. We wish them both the very best for the future and thank them for everything that they have done for the school.

#### Welcome to New Staff

After half term, we welcome Miss Sarah Keighley. Miss Keighley will be teaching Year 4 Merlins.

#### **Attendance Matters**

Our attendance target is 97%, although we endeavour to have all pupils attend every day. When a child misses lessons it leaves crucial gaps in their learning. Please let us know if you are finding it challenging to get your child/children to school and we will do everything that we can to support you.

Thank you very much for your understanding and kindness in my first half term at Primley. I understand that changes can be unsettling for parents as well as children and I hope to bring about some stability for all. Please take a few minutes to relax and read all about us. There are so many things for all the staff and pupils to be proud of and we are very excited about the future of Primley Wood.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Seetle Kaur

Headteacher of Primley Wood Primary School

# Read all about us...

#### Nursery

This term the children have loved learning about the weather! We have learnt about how rainbows are made, the temperature of the sun, how ice is made and how it melts. We have also been enjoying our weekly trips into the woods. We have been going on bear hunts (We didn't find any bears though!) and have even made fairy doors for the fairies that live in there. The children in nursery have also been exploring different materials which we can paint on. They have been painting on ice, cardboard and particular enjoyed painting on cornflour!

We can't wait to see what next term brings for the children!







#### Reception

This half term the children have loved learning all about 'houses and homes'. We kick-started the topic by looking at lots of different types of homes — detached, flats, bungalows and even caravans. We went outside to look at the houses in our local area and then had a go at using Google Earth to find our own homes and work out what type of house we live in. Using this information, we made a tally chart and learnt lots about the number 5; discussing composition and practising our subitising & counting skills. The week after saw the introduction of the famous traditional tale — The Three Little Pigs! We used puppets and props to act out the different scenes and then some of us had a go at hot seating. It was really fun getting into character and coming up with questions for the different roles.

In the forest we have been searching for different animal habitats and discussing what makes a good shelter. The children worked in teams to create safe spaces for our mini figures using leaves, twigs, bark and other natural resources from the forest floor.

A big highlight for Reception has been playing in the new outdoor area!! We have been exploring the new resources and making lots of wonderful structures and messy mud pies!! Watch this space for more fun and exciting things happening in our outdoor classroom!









#### Year 1

In Year 1 this half term we have been learning about toys; old and new. The children enjoyed exploring a range of old toys and comparing them to what we have today. We enjoyed sharing our own toys with the class and having time to talk about why they were our favourite and who/where they got them from.







This half term we have been reading Dogger by Shirley Hughes. We enjoyed learning about what an illustration is and how this can make a story more interesting. We wrote about the sad tale of when Dave, the main character from the book, lost his beloved toy Dogger and how the generous act of kindness from his big sister Bella saved the day. We did our best to help Dave find Dogger creating fabulous lost posters!







We have had an incredible start to our new Little Wandle Phonics scheme. The scheme helped to further develop out phase 5 sounds and also learn lots of alternate sounds too. The sessions have been really focused and each child has engaged fabulously with the new routine. The guided reading sessions that pair with these have been a great way for the children to read with an adult three times a week. Miss Read has been incredibly impressed with our phonics sessions and is feeling positive about the screening test in June. We are looking forward to welcoming parents to learn more about Phonics (see dates above).

#### Year 2

Throughout this half term, we have been bustling with activity, delving into their Science topic – Materials.

In addition to our scientific endeavours, we've immersed ourselves in the enchanting narratives of "The Iron Man" by Ted Hughes and "The Robot and The Bluebird" by David Lucas. These literary adventures have seamlessly woven into our scientific explorations and enhanced our understanding of the subject matter.



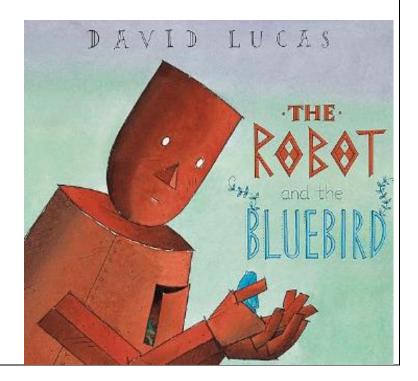
Hands-on learning took centre stage in Design Technology, where students enthusiastically crafted their own robots, tapping into their creativity and



Ted Hughes

technical skills. Meanwhile, in Physical Education, the excitement reached new heights we choreographed electrifying robot dances, showcasing our coordination and teamwork.

Year 2 have made remarkable progress in their writing. Writing about tales of love and friendship with plenty of creativity has left all the adults impressed!



#### Year 3 Falcons

It's been a busy half-term in Falcons Class.

One of the highlights of our term was learning and performing some poems to start off our winter poem writing.



Falcons have been working hard to apply what they have learnt to writing wintry setting descriptions.

In maths, we have enjoyed getting the rulers out and looking at length and perimeter., as well as some work on multiplication and division. Collaboration in maths has been excellent.

In Geography, we have become experts in different climate zones, whereas in RE we've discussed what people know about Jesus. Falcons have really enjoyed our practical science (conducting experiments), food in DT, programming and sequencing sounds in computing, and making our own class composition in music.



It's been a great half-term, and Falcons have been a real credit to you.

# Year 3 Sparrowhawks

This half term has been buzzing with excitement as we dove into the world of biographies, exploring the lives of famous people like Taylor Swift and Ronaldo. We used our knowledge and skills and wrote brilliant biographies all about our new head teacher, Mrs Kaur. (Picture below). It has been a journey of discovery and inspiration! In the realm of literature, our young bookworms have been sharing their favourite reads, recommending captivating tales to one another.

In addition, we have written heartfelt, persuasive letters to the head teacher, advocating for new KS2 playground equipment. Teamwork and creativity were in full swing! Additionally, linking to their letters, the mathematicians of Sparrowhawks have applied their length knowledge and measured the perimeter of our football pitch in metres with precision.



#### Year 4 Kestrels

Year 4 students embarked on an exciting journey into the world of fractions during their Maths lessons this term. They delved into the concept using colourful manipulatives and engaging activities. Meanwhile, in their English classes, inspired by the enchanting tale of "The Lost Happy Endings" by Carol Ann Duffy, children explored themes of imagination and creativity as they crafted newspaper reports, using the story's fantastical elements and reporting in formal language.



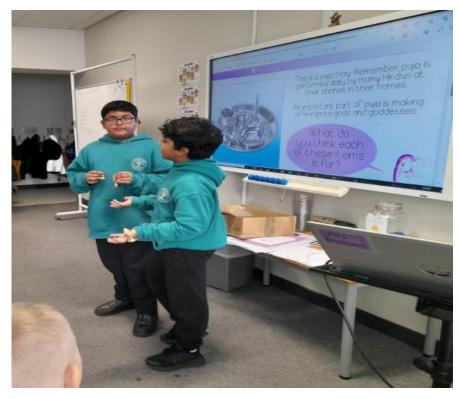
During their History studies, they immersed themselves in the exploration of "Children through the Ages," gaining insights into the lives of youngsters in different historical periods, particularly children workers in the Victorian ages.

In Science lessons, the class resonated with excitement as they investigated the intriguing world of sound, conducting experiments and unravelling the mysteries of vibrations and pitch.

Religious Education has seen pupils explore the rich tapestry of Hinduism, delving into its beliefs, rituals and cultural significance. Pupils shared their own experiences and knowledge of growing up Hindu which helped us all deepen our appreciation for diversity and spirituality.

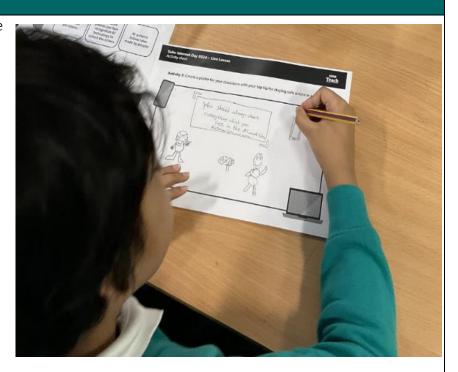
We have continued getting the pupils ready for their times table test at the end of the year through TTRS and singing songs. They have also continued to enjoy their weekly swimming classes and it is wonderful to see their growing confidence.

As the term unfolded, Year 4 students have embraced each learning opportunity that has been introduced to them and as their class teacher, I am very proud of them!



#### Year 4 Merlins

Throughout this half term, our students have been on an extraordinary journey through time, exploring how children's lives have evolved throughout history. From ancient civilisations to modern times, we've delved into the daily routines, challenges, and joys experienced by children across different eras. Alongside our historical adventures, we've unleashed our creativity by crafting a gripping newspaper article detailing the daring escapade of a girl named Jud, who bravely faced a wicked witch to reclaim her stolen bag.



As we bid farewell to this half term, we culminated our learning with a live lesson in honour of Internet Safety Day, empowering our students with essential digital knowledge and skills.



As I prepare to embark on my own journey to a new school, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to this wonderful class and school community. It's been a privilege to be part of your learning journey, and I wish each and every one of you the very best in all your future endeavours. Keep shining bright!

#### Year 5

Year 5 have had an incredible start to the year; we have done some amazing learning on the Ancient Greeks and the impact that they still have on our lives, including democracy, sports and medicine! Our learning of Ancient Greece informed our writing and the children have written some very interesting stories based on Greek Myths

and Gods. We also held our very own Olympic Games - there was an opening ceremony, running, bean bag throwing and an obstacle course.

The children then used this event to interview each other and create their own newspaper reports. We have also done some excellent Maths and the children have worked on their fractions learning with enthusiasm and confidence. In science, we have been learning about the properties of materials, including an experiment to determine what makes a good thermal conductor and also investigating soluble materials. In



P.S.H.E the children have been learning about how to improve their health and wellbeing and we even had some time to do some Minecraft style yoga. The children have started 2024 with a very good learning attitude and have made really good progress in all subjects.

#### Year 6

This half term has kicked off with an abundance of positivity and enthusiasm, thanks in no small part to the dedication of our lunch-time leaders. These remarkable individuals have taken on the responsibility of fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment during lunch breaks, and their efforts have been truly inspiring.

In English, we've embarked on an exciting literary journey with 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty, diving into the captivating story of Jim Jarvis and his quest for freedom from the confines of a workhouse. The children have explored the key features of a letter of complaint and have even crafted their own, honing their persuasive writing skills.

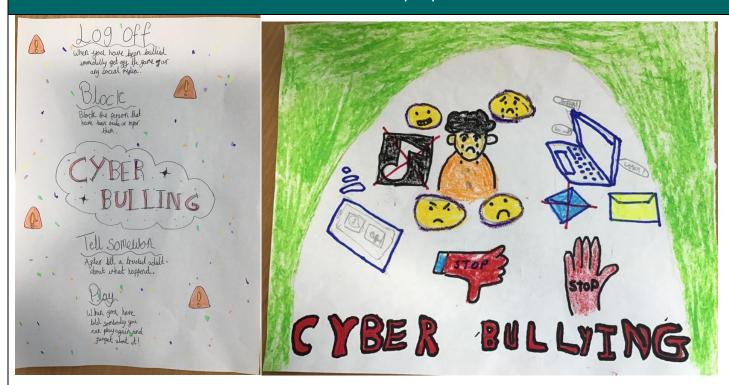
Meanwhile, in Science, our focus has shifted to 'Living things and their habitat'. Students have delved into the fascinating world of survival, learning about the essential components necessary for living organisms to thrive. Ask your child about MRS GREN and see how many aspects of life they can recall!

In our topic sessions, we've been pondering the question of who should be commemorated on a banknote, considering the criteria and significance of a person's contribution to society. The children have even unleashed their creativity by designing their own banknotes featuring themselves!

And let's not forget the energetic sessions in PE, where we've been exploring the art of dance. Starting with rhythmic clapping and stomping, we've progressed to the vibrant moves of bhangra, immersing ourselves in different cultures and styles.

Here's to another half term filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences!

# **Internet Safety Day**



As part of our commitment to promoting online safety, we organized engaging assemblies, empowering presentations, and even designed posters highlighting what to do if anyone encounters concerns online. Additionally, we launched the #WakeUpWednesday initiative to provide valuable insights into digital safety. Adding a creative twist, our students in year 6 crafted lyrics to a catchy backing track, spreading awareness in a fun and memorable way!

# Children's Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health week. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'. My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

As Primley Wood, we will be focusing on two things to promote Children's Mental Health week and mental health moving forward:

- 1. Pupil voice
- 2. Being kind

Research has shown that when we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Each class will be having a class council meeting to suggest ideas to our School Council.

Research has also shown that when we're kind, when someone is kind to us or even if we just witness kindness, our bodies release feel-good hormones which lift our mood, giving us what's known as a 'Helper's High'. It's also been shown that people who are kind have much lower stress levels, age more slowly and have healthier hearts. Kindness isn't just a nice thing to do, but can help us improve our own well-being, while helping others at the same time.

# Drop Everything and Read



Thank you to all of the parents who joined us for our DEAR sessions. It was so wonderful to see so many parents reading with their child/ groups of children. We look forward to seeing you at the next ones.



#### **Our School Council**

This week, we are celebrating the success of our student council's first meeting, where they passionately initiated the 'drop everything and read' program. As parents/carers, we hope you can appreciate the positive impact this initiative will have on the children's academic and personal development. Additionally, we are thrilled to inform you that the student council will meet frequently to discuss relevant issues and brainstorm innovative ideas to enhance our school community. By fostering this regular forum for discussion, we ensure that the children's voices are heard, creating a collaborative environment where they actively contribute to shaping their educational experience.

## Lunchtime Leaders

This half-term twelve Year 6, students have taken on the pivotal role of Lunchtime Leaders with utmost dedication and enthusiasm, contributing significantly to the positive lunchtime environment at our school. These young leaders embody essential values, demonstrating respect, responsibility, maturity, and helpfulness at all times. They actively promote an inclusive atmosphere, ensuring that every child feels valued and supported during lunch breaks. From encouraging healthy eating habits to preventing food dropping and maintaining clean surfaces, our Lunchtime Leaders diligently execute their responsibilities with a keen sense of responsibility. We applaud their efforts in creating a positive and enjoyable atmosphere!

# **Playtime Leaders**

Our dedicated Year 4, 5, and 6 students have wholeheartedly embraced their role as Playtime Leaders. These young leaders prioritise friendliness and approachability, ensuring that every student feels welcomed during lunchtime. Their commitment to an unbiased approach ensures that every interaction and activity is conducted with fairness and inclusivity. Through effective communication, they simplify instructions, break down complex rules, and model games to enhance understanding. Actively promoting an inclusive atmosphere, our Playtime Leaders encourage the participation of all students in various activities. We commend our Playtime Leaders for their unique contributions to fostering positive and inclusive play experiences.

# World Book Day at Primley Wood

# World Book Day is on 7th March.

The aim for World Book Day 2024 is to bring the fun of reading to more children, to celebrate their choices and encourage everyone to...

### Read Their Way!

To celebrate World Book Day, children can chose to dress up as their favourite book character and bring a book of their choice in to share with their peers/class.

We are also asking for photos of children reading at home, this could be in an exciting place. This will be used for a celebrating reading display.

World Book Day have developed six evidence-based principles that can be implemented easily by families to support children in adopting a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure:

- 1. Being read to regularly
- 2. Having books at home and at school
- 3. Having a choice in what to read
- 4. Finding time to read
- 5. Having trusted help to find a book
- 6. Making reading fun!

# Spreading the magic called kindness...

As part of mental health awareness week, we introduced a new motto to school – spreading the magic called kindness. Please help to spread kindness at Primley by sending in kind messages and 'liking' school and class posts. After all... in a world where we can be anything, it is important be kind!

Thank you to all of the staff, parents and pupils at Primley Wood who have made myself and all of the other new staff feel very welcome.

Have a wondeful holiday everyone!