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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

March has begun with so much excitement and the term 'as mad as a March hare' certainly describes the children today. They have loved wearing their pyjamas or book character costumes to school; some children asked if they could wear pyjamas to school every day!

As you know, our focus this week has been 'bedtime stories'. The biggest and the most critical benefit of reading bedtime stories to your children is brain development. When children listen to stories just before they go to sleep, brain areas that support imagination and comprehension get activated. For more information follow this link. <https://www.planetspark.in/blogs/benefits-of-reading-bedtime-stories>.

The book swap was a great success; the children loved swapping the book they brought in for another. Thank you to those of you who sent in additional books for other children to enjoy.

On the subject of reading, we have had to make the unfortunate decision to cancel the subscription to Oxford Reading Buddy, due to lack of engagement. Less than 10% of children's accounts have been accessed and, with the school budget being so tight, we have had to take the decision to cut costs. If you would like additional reading materials for your child, please access the local library which is, of course, free to join.

### **Online Safety**

It has come to my attention that some children have been playing games in the playground linked to Squid Games, the South Korean Netflix series. The content of this game is rated 15 and is highly inappropriate for young children to be accessing. Similarly, Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto and Five Nights at Freddy's are games that are aimed at much older children, but some of our children do talk about playing them. Please do check what your children are accessing via technology. The 2 Johns website has a wealth of information regarding online safety. <https://esafetytraining.org/>

### **King Charles' Coronation**

We will be celebrating this momentous occasion on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May – more information will be given nearer the time.

## Parent Meetings

You have been sent an email from Primary Site, so please make sure you have made your appointment to meet with your child's teacher and to see their progress.

## Spring Concerts

Just to remind you that year group performances will last around 20 minutes and are as follows:

- Nursery – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9.30am
- Reception – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am
- Year One – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am
- Year Two – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am

Each child will be allocated 2 seats for their guests; please give your child's name at the door to gain entry. **Tickets will not be sent out.** If you have any access requirements, please let me know beforehand and I will do all I can to accommodate you. Younger siblings are welcome to attend but please do ensure they are quiet, so the performers are not distracted.

## School Trips

Teachers are busy planning school trips for the Summer Term – more information will follow as soon as we receive confirmation.

Please also note that we have booked tickets for the whole school to go to the pantomime at the Towngate Theatre in December. This will be at a highly discounted rate and the PTFA have kindly offered to help towards the cost of transport. More information about this exciting trip will be sent out in September.

## Attendance

I am still receiving leave of absence requests for term time holidays. Just to remind you that all requests will be unauthorised and should parents knowingly take their child out of school for an unauthorised reason, legal action may be taken.

## ... and finally

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." (Malcolm X)

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sandra Dorrington  
Headteacher

*Learning is a journey, not a destination*



We're working  
towards Artsmark  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

