

Dear Families,

This week we have been thinking about our school Golden Rules, how we can demonstrate them, help others uphold them and the impact they have on us in and out of school. Each class is rewarded with some Golden Time on a Friday afternoon where they have the opportunity to have some choosing time as a reward for keeping our Golden Rules across the week. Everyone has the opportunity to earn more Golden Time for their class through their class rewards and very occasionally Golden Time minutes can be lost due to incidents across the week. Lost Golden Time can be earned back if there has been significant improvements in behaviour or attitude to learning.

Our Golden Rules

Be kind
Always think about other people's feelings, be a good friend to everyone and be loving.
(Love, Community)

Be respectful
Always be polite, listen to others and take care of property.
(Respect, Community)

Be resilient
Always try your best and don't give up!
(Courage)

Be the best you can be
Persevere and always do your best in everything you do!
(Perseverance)

Do to others what you want them to do to you
Matthew 7:12

During Family Time this afternoon the whole school found out about Candlemas (which is Sunday 2nd February) and why this is an important date in the Christian calendar. We found out that Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas – Epiphany season and is 40 days after Christmas. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. As part of our learning we looked at Christingles and found out what each part of a Christingle symbolised, we enjoyed making our own Christingles. During Worship, Reverend Mark asked us to help him build his Christingle, we had some time of reflection as we lit the Christingles and thought about our week, the impact of our actions on others and how we were wonderfully unique and special.



Weekly Round Up

Pebbles

We started the week meeting Katie the veterinary nurse, she showed us how she listens to Zog's heart and some of us enjoyed using her stethoscope to listen to his heart too! We told Katie about our own pets and listened to how she cares for poorly animals. We also had a visit from our local police officers who told us about what they do and showed us the equipment they carry with them.

We found out about Chinese New Year and made a Chinese Dragon, we enjoyed dancing to the dragon music and we have enjoyed playing in the Chinese restaurant. We have been using chopsticks and tongs to help develop our fine motor control!



Ladybirds

We have had a very busy week in Ladybirds; Katie the veterinary nurse came in on Monday to talk to all the children about her job. Zog was a very willing patient and allowed the children to listen to his heart with a stethoscope. We also had a visit from the police, they enjoyed chatting to the children sharing ways in which they help us. We also had a look at all that a police officer carries in their vest; including handcuffs, a note book and walkie talkies.



Alongside this we have been finding out about Chinese New Year. The children listened to the story about how the animals for the zodiac were decided, they thought about which animal they would be in the race and why. We have found out that it is the Year of the Snake and how to say Happy New Year; Kung Hei Fat Choi. We have read stories to find out about the traditions linked to the Chinese New Year and the preparations involved; including cleaning the house and wearing new clothes. We have enjoyed trying our hand at some Chinese writing, making Chinese dragons and lanterns. We have also had lots of fun with our dragon dancing. Our favourite activity was trying different Chinese food!



In mathematics we have been working on numbers 6,7 and 8, sorting different ways these are represented, building these on a 10 frame and finding 1, more and 1 less.

In phonics our sounds of the week are air and er plus looking at double letters. Our tricky words are pure, sure and are.

Love – Courage – Respect – Community – Perseverance
'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am'
Philippians 4:13

Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have been innovating their focus text 'Monstersaurus'. This week, the children have been busy planning their portal stories by changing characters, settings and portals. The children have also started writing the opening of their stories using their action toolkit. I look forward to reading their finished stories next week.

In mathematics, Year 1 have finished their unit on place value. This week, the children have been comparing numbers and finding one more and one less than a given number. Year 2 have been learning about money. This week they have been counting pounds and pence and have been selecting coins and notes to make an amount.

In science, the children have been learning about natural and man-made materials. The children first researched different materials such as wood, paper, rubber and polyester before sorting objects into a Venn diagram.

In history, Woodland Class have been learning about historical sources and how they help us to learn about the past. The children identified a selection of sources from the Great Fire of London such as a leather bucket, diary entries and newspapers. We then thought about how reliable they were and what they could us about the fire.

As part of our learning in RE we looked at a Jewish Seder plate, we had the opportunity to try parsley dipped in salt water, hard boiled egg, horseradish, romaine lettuce and matzo crackers.



Kestrel Class

In English, we have continued our focus on inverted commas to prepare us for writing our own versions of the text next week. We did lots of drama activities, including freeze frames and miming, to embed our understanding of the text further.

In mathematics, Nemos have continued learning about length and perimeter. We have been looking at equivalent lengths in metres, centimetres and millimetres. We also have been comparing and adding lengths. Frogs have started the new unit on length and perimeter. We have been measuring in kilometres and metres, and learning about equivalent lengths.

In history, we have been learning about the longships that the Vikings used to invade the UK. We learnt about the different parts of the boat and discussed how they would have been made. We also made some longship models and created some oil pastel paintings of the boats.

We have continue to work as a team in our Whole Class Practical Musicianship and have been concentrating on keeping in time with our drumming beats whilst learning a new chant.



Osprey Class

Our topic this week introduced us to some new terms such as democracy and philosophy, as we have been finding out the legacies that the Ancient Greeks left behind. This week in English we have started innovating our Greek Myth. We are using the text map to help innovate our stories, to make them our own.

In mathematics we have been looking at decimals and fractions. We have been using the decimal counters and place value charts to find equivalents. We have been using tenths, hundredths and the Year 6s have been using thousandths as well.

We have started a new topic in computing. This term we will be creating our own stop motion, animation film. We started off by looking at different types of animations, that people have used in the past.



Barn Owls

In English this week, we have become authors and have written our own warning stories. Each one is unique and full of our own ideas.

In mathematics, we have been learning about measuring. We have looked at different units of measurements including millimetres, centimetres and metres. We have compared and considered the appropriateness of different units of measurement.

In other news

Kites Bookings

Afterschool club bookings are now available for after half term up until Easter. Tennis and Gymnastics will be our sports clubs until Easter.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week 3rd-9th February is Children's Mental Health Week. We will be taking some time across the week to think about, recognise and express emotions, reflect on emotions and take part in some activities linked to this year's theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. We would like to invite the whole school community to wear their own clothes or an outfit that expresses who they are on Friday 7th February. This could be their favourite outfit, a traditional costume, an outfit that celebrates their culture or clothes that showcase a hobby, their favourite sport or their favourite dressing up costume. This may mean that some children go to town on their outfit and for others they may turn up in their uniform or comfy home clothes, that is the beauty of us all being unique!

If you feel you or your child needs some more help and support, please visit: <https://here4you.co.uk/for-parents/>

Information Signposting

Behaviour Support

We have had an increasing number of parents contacting us about children's behaviour at home. As a school we will support you as much as we can but in case you need more help than we can offer, I thought I would signpost you to free support that can be accessed outside of school. Buckinghamshire Council have a Family Information Service that offer lots of advice, support and courses that may help: <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/parenting/>

Staying Safe Online

We have been talking about how to stay safe online and what to do if you see something that has worried you. As a school we use The National College for some of our staff training, we are delighted to be able to offer all our families, free access to The National College:

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/ibstone-ce-infant-school>

Please use the link above to visit the National College, you can sign up for free to access a wealth of resources including information on supporting mental health, staying safe online. Once you have clicked on the link, fill out the form and in the Job role section, select Parent/Carer before submitting.

I have included two parent guides to the newsletter email, you may find these helpful.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Louise Long
Headteacher

Diary Dates
New or amended dates will be shown in **BOLD**

Date	Occasion	Who?
February 2025		
3 rd	Children's Mental Health Week – see main newsletter	Everyone
4 th	Open Classrooms – end of school day – 5.15pm	Everyone
11 th	Safer Internet Day	Everyone
11 th	Parents' Evening – email link sent 24/1 – reminder sent 30/1	Everyone
12 th	Parents' Evening – email link sent 24/1– reminder sent 30/1	Everyone
14 th	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
24 th	Back to School	Everyone
25 th	Year 4 Bikeability – letter sent 8/1, emails sent 16/1, 23/1	Year 4 only
March 2025		
6 th	World Book Day – more details to follow	Everyone
April 2025		
4 th	End of Term – 1.30pm	Everyone
22 nd	Back to school	Everyone
May 2025		
6 th – 9 th	Year 5 Adventure Week – letter will be sent 13/01/2025	Year 5 only
12 th – 15 th	Year 6 SATs Week	Year 6 only
23 rd	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
June 2025		
2 nd	INSET Day	Staff Only
3 rd	Back to school	Everyone
July 2025		
1 st	Transition Day	Everyone
3 rd	KS2 Sports Morning 9-11am – more information to follow	KS2 families
4 th – 6 th	Year 6 Adventure Weekend – information sent via email 10/01/25	Year 6 only
11 th	EYFS & KS1 Sports Morning 9-11am – more information to follow PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	Ladybirds & Woodland Class families
11 th	Pebbles' Sports Morning 11.30-12pm – more information to follow PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE	Pebbles families
14 th	Ibfest Week – more information to follow	Everyone
21 st	Leavers' Service 9.15am, St Nicholas Church	Year 6 Families
22 nd	Garden Celebration – 12.45pm	Everyone
23 rd	INSET Day	Staff Only