Dear Families, 21.03.24

As this spring term draws to a close, we wish everyone a very peaceful and healthy break. Thank you to all our families for your support over the spring term. Next week, our children take part in the Easter Labyrinth, where they will retell the Easter story to Rev. Kate Butler and our Governor colleagues through dance, drama, writing, music and song. Please check Twitter for pictures from each class. We are all so proud of our wonderful children and our school community and we look forward to welcoming families back after the break, with the children on time, rested and in full uniform.

**Let us celebrate the events that have taken place since our last newsletter:**

**Emile – National Spelling Competition**

From 5th - 7th March, WSP's took part in Emile's Viking Spelling Competition. Children in our school competed against other schools, completing online spelling challenges and achieved 2nd place out of all the other schools! Mrs Wallis and Mrs Normington were very proud of all the children that took part and we can't wait to see the positive impact on our spellings in class! Well done Team WSP!

**World Book Day 2024!**

Our whole school enjoyed celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March! We were truly overwhelmed by everyone’s enthusiasm this year. Pupils created their own character spoons and the School Council helped Mrs Sharkey select winners in each key stage across school. It was lovely to see everyone dressed as their favourite book character, in his or her pyjamas or in their favourite outfit, everyone looked amazing!

We had many fun activities going on throughout the week, including our ‘Secret Book Surprise’, where children recommended a book to a friend in their class. Children were very excited to find this in their place on Thursday morning and lots of book talk followed as they explored their new recommendation. One of our highlights of the week was our ‘Book Swap’ where every child was able to choose a preloved book to take home and keep. It was a pleasure to see the excitement and delight on the children’s faces. If you would like to see more of our World Book Day celebrations, please check out our Twitter page or school website.

**Art Exhibition**

It was wonderful to see so many families coming to celebrate the creative artwork the children had produced this term at our first art show! It was lovely to see how excited the children were to show their work off to their families, and to celebrate the artwork produced by the other classes. Thank you to all the families and children who came to visit and purchased the artwork. Over 100 pieces are now proudly hanging in your homes! The profit from the event will go towards new art resources for the children to use to continue their creative journey.

**Leeds Lieder Concert**On Wednesday 13th March, Year 5 were treated to a fantastic operatic workshop. We were able to listen to lots of different classical songs all of which were accompanied by some incredible piano playing. The children were conductors of orchestras and composed their own class piece of music. We practised singing our composition so that we are ready to perform this at the Leeds Lieder Concert in April.

**Red Nose Day**

Thank you to all the children who celebrated Red Nose Day! We had a non-uniform day, activities in class and a bun sale! We raised a total of £156 to help families affected by poverty in the UK and around the world.

**Year 6 SATs**

A big thank you to all the families who were able to make the Year 6 meeting last week. This was an informative meeting for families to understand the expectations around the KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests, which will take place week beginning 13th May. All information regarding the meeting, including the PowerPoint and our hints and tips sheet, are available on the website. If you have any questions or would like further advice in order to support your child, please get in touch with Mrs Wallis or Mrs B.

**Herd Farm**

During the meeting, we were also joined by Donna from Herd Farm. Donna led an informative talk showcasing the amazing residential that our Year 6 children will be going on, on 24th June until the 26th June. Over the course of the three days, our Year 6 pupils will undertake a range of practical activities led by staff at Herd Farm. All information and PowerPoints can be found on our school webpage.

**Classroom Kitchen – Delicious Fruit Salads**

Year 1 had a fantastic session with ‘Classroom Kitchen.’ The children explored healthy eating and the differences between fruit and vegetables. We also developed our bridge and claw method when cutting our foods. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed tucking into their delicious fruit salad too!

**Beauty and the Beast!**

Year 5 were incredibly lucky to be able to visit John Smeaton Academy to watch a highly impressive performance of Beauty and the Beast. We were picked up by a minibus and taken to the Academy where we met members of staff and students who gave us an insight into everyday high-school life. We then enjoyed Act 1 of the show - what fun! There was time for lunch in the auditorium where children were able to speak to the cast and ask all about what life was like in high school. Act 2 was just as impressive! Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their first experience of secondary school!

**Year 3 school trip to Ledston Estate**

Year 3 were very excited to attend their first school trip this week! The children visited Ledston Estate and worked with the outdoor leaders from Countryside Learning to understand new facts about plants and soil which is related to their Science topic. First of all, the children took part in a scavenger hunt to find key words related to nature and these revealed a secret message. Then, they used their incredible teamwork skills to create dens out of logs and equipment in the forest. Mr Cherkowski was incredibly proud of his class!

**Message from Mrs. Sharkey - Holy Week and Easter**

Over the last few weeks staff and pupils have been celebrating Lent and preparing for Easter. In our collective worship we have been reflecting on the power of Easter and how we can all show kindness and forgiveness in our lives. Holy week begins on Sunday 24th March 2024. This is a very special week for Christians, as it is a time to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. During this Holy Week we will have lots of fun learning and activities going on in school, including our Easter service led by our Worship Committee and our whole school Easter Labyrinth. We hope you all have a fabulous Easter break at home with your families!

**Ramadan Mubarak!**

Ramadan is a special time of year; it is the holiest month of the Islamic calendar and is about caring, sharing, family and getting closer to Allah. During Ramadan, many Muslims will fast in order to become closer to Allah and they will refrain from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset. During Ramadan Muslims also participate in acts of worship such as 5 daily prayers, Dhikr (praise Allah), read the Qur’an, Dua (asking from Allah) and Taraween (special prayers said during Ramadan). Whinmoor St Paul’s wishes all Muslim families – Ramadan Mubarak! We would like to congratulate all Muslims on the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of blessings!

**Message from the NHS re: Raising Awareness of Childhood Vaccinations**

Childhood infections can be serious, even life changing. Is your child protected? Check their Red Book or contact your GP practice if you’re unsure. All routine childhood vaccinations are free, and even if your child misses any doses, you can book a catch-up appointment with your GP practice. Check their Red Book or contact your GP practice to check they’re up to date.

**ParentPay**

If you normally pay for your child/ren's school dinner, there is now a £50 limit for outstanding dinner money fees on your ParentPay account. If you exceed the £50 limit, you will need to provide a packed lunch until you have paid the outstanding debt. If you have any queries or wish to discuss this further, please speak with the school office.

**Leodis Space Agency is coming to Leeds from the 23 March to 14 April!**

Visit Leeds City Centre during the holidays with one giant leap into the unknown with Leodis Space Agency from the 23 March to 14 April! This Easter, Leeds city centre is set to witness an extraordinary **child friendly** and **free** event! The Leodis Space Agency is on a mission to deliver a range of cosmic activities for all the family to enjoy, with exhibits to discover, alien encounters and interactive workshops taking place for all to learn and experience. Some of the experiences include:

* Briggate Illuminated: Journey Through the Solar System
* Trinity Leeds Transforms into Lunar Wonderland: Lunar Module Landing Unveiled
* Witness the Flyby of the International Space Station at Leeds City Station
* Alien Zoo Exhibit: Unearth the Wonders of the Universe at Merrion Centre.

**Speedwell Dance Presents… Thumbelina Friday 5th April, 2pm-3pm at Whinmoor Library**

Visit Whinmoor Library to see an enchanting tale of a miniature girl in the big world brought to life through dance, live music and song. Children are invited to take part in Thumbelina’s journey, build a shelter from sticks and escape with her from a hungry toad. This is a pay-what-you-decide family-friendly event suitable for children aged 3 to 8. All children must be accompanied by adult. Tickets available to book from 1pm, **Friday 22nd March at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/leedslibraryevent**

**Safeguarding - Parking**

Please remember to park with care when bringing or collecting your children from school and never block the main gate. The roads around school have a 20mph speed limit. Please make sure you drive no faster than this. Please show respect for those who live near school and do not block their driveways. The local Police and PCSOs continue to support us with this matter and will continue with their regular patrols. Thank you.

**A message from the Church – Coffee Morning – Friday 22nd March**

St. Paul's Church is hosting a coffee morning on Friday 22nd March at 9.45am in The Hive. Proceeds will be donated to St. Richard's Foodbank. All are welcome to enjoy a wide variety of cakes and conversation.Finally, on **Good Friday, 29th March from 10am until 12pm**, St. Paul's Church will be running an Easter workshop for families. There will be refreshments and a wide variety of crafts and activities, including an Easter Egg hunt. There is no cost and all are welcome.

**Looking ahead – dates for the dairy:**

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| Date: | Event: |
| Friday 25th March 2024 | Coffee Morning in The Hive after the Celebration Assembly. Run by the Church. |
| Tuesday 26th March 2024 | Year 5 & 6 Football Match after school until 4pm |
| Thursday 28th March 2024 | Last day of the Spring term |
| Friday 29th March 2024 | Good Friday Workshop run by the Church in the school hall. |
| Monday 15th April 2024 | School re-opens for the start of the summer term |

Thank you – have a lovely Easter! We look forward to welcoming all families back in school on Monday 15th April 2024.

Mrs Vaughan

Head teacher