

January 19th 2023

Headteacher's News

We are aware with changes in patterns of working that parents are looking for more options with nursery provision. Therefore, next year as well as the 15 hours options of every morning, every afternoon, and two and a half days a week; we will also be offering 30 hours. If you know anyone who may be interested, we are currently completing nursery tours. Please see the website for more details.

Thank you for all your generous donations at the Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service at St Michael's church. I am delighted to tell you that we raised in total £170.00 for the Isabel Hospice in memory of Debbie Baldock, an ex-member of staff and parent, as well as supporting St Michael's church, which is a magnificent venue for our service.

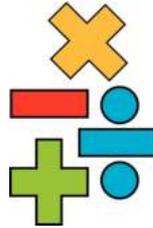
We have a large number of pupils missing learning by being taken out of school. Please try to book dental appointments etc. after school or in the school holidays. If your child is in year 1, 4 or 6, please remember that they will be participating in **national assessments** during the summer term. Please ensure that holidays are not booked at these times. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum

Developing your child's mathematical fluency

The development of mental fluency unpins much of the mathematics curriculum. Instant recall of facts including number bonds, doubles/halves and times tables helps enormously with mental agility. When children move onto written calculations and abstract methods, knowing these key facts is crucial. Recently, we have introduced 'KIRFS', 'Key Instant Recall Facts', to help our children learn the key facts they need for future learning. Please see our website or ask your class teacher for more information about this. For children to become more efficient in recalling facts easily, they need to be practised frequently and in short bursts. The secret to success is practising little and often. Use time wisely: Can you practise whilst walking to school or during a car journey? Can you play games with playing cards or dice to practise addition, subtraction and multiplication facts? Board games such as Snakes and Ladders are also great ways of practising number recognition. There are lots of games online which practise these skills. Websites such as [Topmarks](#), [Mathsisfun](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#) are useful and don't forget we also have subscriptions to [Mathletics](#) and [Timestable Rockstars](#).



In Class Learning

In computing, Year 2 have been learning about robot algorithms. This week they made their own algorithms and programmed robots to follow a set of instructions. Also in DT, they have been learning about vehicles. This week they were looking at different types of axles and wheels and explored the best materials to use to make these vehicles.



Important Dates

Fri 26th Jan	Y5 Visit from Wonder Dome
Mon 29th Jan	9.00am Dog's Trust- whole school assembly/ workshops
Tues 30th Jan	Dog's Trust workshops
Tue 30 th Jan	Y2 walk to Northgate Old School
Wed 31st Jan	Y5 Re-tune Wellbeing Workshop
Wed 31st Jan	Young Voices Choir—O2
Fri 26th Jan	KS2 Charity bake sale (details overleaf)
Mon 5th Feb	Y6 Victorian Day
Tues 6th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Tues 6th Feb	Y4 Trip to Southend Sea Life Centre
12th– 16th Feb	Festival of Literature
Wed 14th Feb	PTA Valentine's Day Tuck Shop (TBC)
Thurs 15th Feb	Northgate Bake Off—(details to follow)
Thurs 15th Feb	PTA Quiz Night at The Belgian Brewer (TBC)
Fri 16th Feb	10.30am Cake Sale
Wb 12th Feb	House netball tournament
Wed 14th Feb	Y1 visit from Gargs Animals Workshop
Half Term	19th - 23rd Feb
Fri 1st Mar	Stepping Stones coffee morning
W/C 4th Mar	PTA Mother's Day Shop
Mon 4th Mar	7.30pm PTA committee meeting
5th & 6th Mar	Parent consultations
Thurs 7th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Thurs 7th Mar	2.40pm Y6 spring music concert
Mon 11th Mar	9am Y5 & 6 maths games/work sharing with parents
Tues 12th Mar	9am Nursery & Reception maths games/work sharing with parents
Wed 13th Mar	9am Y1 & 2 maths games/work sharing with parents
Thurs 14th Mar	9am Y3 & 4 maths games/work sharing with parents
Wed 20th Mar	PTA Book Fair
Thurs 21st March	Y3 & 4 production
Friday 22nd March	School Disco
Wk beg 25th Mar	House cross country final
Wk beg 25th Mar	Science week and house science quiz
Fri 22nd Mar	Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Thurs 28th Mar	2pm Last day of term
29th Mar—15th April	Easter break
Thurs 25th April	2.30pm Y5 Music concert
Thurs 9th May	2.30pm Y4 Music concert
Fri 10th May	2pm PTA committee meeting
13th—16th May	Y6 SATS
Fri 17th May	PTA Outdoor Cinema
Mon 20th May	Y6 Trip to Crucial Crew
Thurs 23rd May	2.30pm Y3 Music concert
27th—31st May	Half Term
Mon 3rd June	Inset Day
Mon 3rd June	Y4 National multiplication assessments
3rd—7th June	Y6 School Journey, Kingswood
Sat 8th June	PTA Summer Fayre
	=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

Please find the link below for NHS guidelines on childhood ailments. This is a good guide for parents when deliberating if your child is well enough to come to school. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

