

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school term and a New Year! If you are anything like me you had an amazing break continuing to explore this wonderful remote and rugged place where we all live. I have been very impressed with the enthusiastic way the children have returned to school and it is already noticeable that the learning has gone up a gear. It was lovely to welcome so many of you to Launchpad today and to help the children ignite their interest in new areas of learning.

The value of the month is honesty and we will be focusing on being true to ourselves.

In EYFS:



We have had a spidery week in EYFS this week. The children have enjoyed our focus story "Aaaagghh Spider!" which has prompted us to think about what it might be like to be a friendly spider when everyone is scared of you? Our week has included making spiders from black play dough and pipe cleaners, thinking about what features a spider has, weaving and decorating our giant spider's web and acting out Incy Wincy Spider using the props in the water tray. We ended our week by sharing all our learning with our parents and by making glittery spider's web art together.



In Caracara Class:

It's been a great week back for Caracara class. The children have settled back in to routines quickly and are focused on their learning. In science we went out to look at the type of plants that we find around our school. We learnt to take clear, close-up photos so that we could identify the plants on our return to school. In history we are starting to learn about the Great Fire of London. Thank you to all the parents who came and enjoyed the Launchpad with us.



In Falcon Class:

This week has flown by! The Falcons have been working hard to complete maths tasks based on times tables and factors and in English, they have improved their knowledge of 'present perfect tense' and 'past tense'.

We have enjoyed learning about igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock and know how the rocks are formed and where they can be found. We have also researched Roman mosaics and have started creating our own design. Launchpad was a great end to the week, thank you to parents who popped in to support and share our learning.



In Meadowlark Class:

Meadowlark shows true 'Endurance' - 100 years on from one of the most incredible feats of human persever-

ance, courage and bravery in the face of immeasurable hardship!

I want to welcome everyone back and wish all the parents and students from 5 & 6 Meadowlark a happy and prosperous new year.

This term in English, our class will be learning about Ernest Shackleton and his extraordinary journey across the Antarctic. In the words of Zach P, 'Shackleton makes Bear Grylls look like a puppy!'

This week, we have learnt about his courageous crew and the different roles they played during their perilous journey across Antarctica. Students had to apply for a position on Shackleton's crew with a suitable CV, and they had to show a range of unique skills to be chosen. Applications ranged from an able seaman, carpenter, artist, navigator to a medical doctor playing the piano and telling jokes to entertain the crew.

For Art and D&T, we have started to build a model ship of the 'Endurance'. Thank you to all the parents for attending our 'Modroc & chicken wire' Launchpad event today to start this exciting project. Watch this space - we'll send you updates as our shipbuilding progress.



Golden Certificate:

A huge well done to the following children for receiving golden certificates in our assembly today that acknowledged how they follow our values and their hard work.

**Georgia, Arnie, Jacob, Felicity, Zoe,
Millie and Rebecca**



Diary Dates

- Friday 21st January - 1330 Sports Day afternoon - details to follow
- Friday 28th January - 1330 Alternative date for Sports Day afternoon if the weather on the 21st January is against us.
- Friday 11th February - School closes at 1500 for half term.
- Monday 21st February - School starts for children.
- Wednesday 9th March - Parent Evening Consultations 1515-1715
- Thursday 10th March - Parent Evening Consultations 1515-1800
- Friday 25th March - 1400 Event to showcase learning of term, all parents invited
- Thursday 31st March - School finishes For Easter at 1300
- Tuesday 19th April - School starts for children
- Throughout May - Year 2 assessments
- Week 9th May - KS2 SATS
- Friday 27th May - An early school Queens Platinum Jubilee event details to be decided
- Friday 27th May - School finishes at 1500 for half term
- Monday 30th May to 4th June - Half Term
- Monday 6th June - Additional public holiday - No school for children
- Week 7th June - Year 1 phonic screening
- 14th June - Liberation Day - whole school event to be decided
- Friday 24th June - Fixmas Eve event in school - details to follow
- Monday 11th July - reports out to parents
- Thursday 21st July - School finishes at 1300