

William Morris Primary School
William Morris Way
Tadpole Garden Village
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN25 2PP

Date: 26th January 2024

# Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had chance to read our first OFSTED inspection report which we are incredibly proud of. We were very pleased with the result and that the inspectors recognised what is special about our lovely school. It was also reassuring to know that the target they identified is already on our School Development Plan and therefore something we are already working towards.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey to help inform the inspectors. We also appreciate the kind, congratulatory messages for the staff.

#### **Staffing**

We have been delighted to welcome three Early Years Practitioners into our nursery classes. Miss Ilona Biesiada, Mrs Hayley Rachael and Miss Leah Davis have quickly settled into our early years team.

I hope you have a lovely weekend Mrs Fraser, Headteacher

#### **Snack Policy**

**Nursery Children:** Children who attend the morning nursery sessions will be given a piece of fruit or vegetable. Those attending the afternoon sessions are asked to bring in their own snack, but this must be a fruit or vegetable.

**Reception, Y1 and Y2 Children:** All children will be given a piece of fruit or vegetable from the Government scheme. They do not need to bring in a snack from home.



**Y3 & Y4 Children:** All children are invited to bring in snacks from home, but they must be a fruit or vegetable.



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#### **Smart Watch Reminder**

It is our school policy that children in years below Year 5 and 6 should not be bringing a smart device or mobile phone to school. Pupils are not permitted to use a smart device whilst on the school site and, if a pupil is found taking photographs or video footage of either other pupils or teachers with a mobile phone or other smart device with camera capability, this will be regarded as a serious offence and the pupil will receive a consequence in line with the school's behaviour policy. If images of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil or parent in the



presence of a senior teacher. For further details, please read our Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Policy: 64c1c7 fb4d083a6e9f4511a9bc77a7d95aed34.pdf (williammorrisprimary.co.uk)

#### Parent Support Advisor Sessions

The Lighthouse Team from the BKAT are offering 1-1 drop in sessions for parents on the first Thursday of every month at our school. These will run from 8:45—9:45am. Please contact the school office if you want to attend an upcoming sessions.





#### Carpark

It has been brought to our attention that some adults are blocking the one way road through our carpark by parking opposite the reception and nursey entrance between 2:45 and 3:00. Under no circumstances should cars be left unattended that block the flow of traffic through our carpark. We are very lucky to have the carpark that we do but we

always encourage our families to walk, bike or scoot to school and only drive when the alternative options are not possible.

#### **Project Gambia**

Last year the children raised funds for schools in The Gambia. We are so please to see photos of the bikes. Photos were shared in assembly & are on the next page.

Message from Neil Griffiths:

This is Neil Griffiths from the Gambia. As you can see, we have just unpacked the bicycles that your wonderful fundraising purchased. Thank you, thank you to every single fundraiser at William Morris primary School!



# PROJECT GAMBIA



















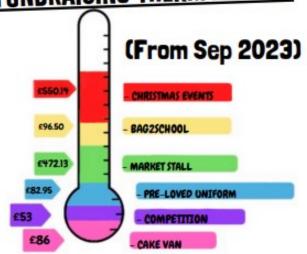


# Parents and Friends of William Morris Newsletter

### This week's news...



## FUNDRAISING THERMOMETER!



TOTAL SO FAR £1,340.72

### **Upcoming Events**

Feb 1st -Glamorose Cake van Mar 3rd - TGV market stall Mar 7th - World book day event Mar 8th - Mother's Day gifts May 5th - TGV market stall Jul 7th - TGV market stall Other dates to be announced....

Preloved uniform
available
email us for stock
PTA.AT.VILLIAMMORRIS@GMAIL.COM

As always, thank you so much for your support. All proceeds from our events go straight back to the school to provide equipment and resources.



Dear parents and carers,

As you know, we are starting an exciting project to improve our playtimes. OPAL will be working closely with the school to help us roll out this programme and we are now beginning the first steps towards creating the most amazing play times for your children!

The first step will be to create a 'Small world' area for the children to use as well as opening up the tangle frame, which we had installed last term. We will be creating sand pits and areas for the children to pay with 'small world' loose parts on our playground. In order to do this, and do this successfully, we will need to ask for donations from parents and other members of the community.

What we really need to begin with is small world characters and toys. These could be old toys and figures which children have lost interest in, or no longer play with for example cars, trains, figurines, action figures, animals etc. As well as these we would like to include small pots and pans, mixers or wooden spoons, small buckets and spades, or sand moulds. It is important to stress that any donations do not need to be in full working order, please however ensure that there are no sharp or pointy edges or ends. All donations will be carefully checked before going on to the playground to ensure the children's safety.

Another key item we are looking for is, storage boxes. These could be any size, with or without lids, anything you have stuck in the garage or shed which is no longer needed or used will be greatly appreciated. We would ask that the sides and bottom of the containers or boxes are intact as these will be used to store the 'small world' loose parts.

We believe this will make an exciting addition to our playtimes, which already involve various pieces of equipment such as wooden blocks, balance bikes, music, team games, quiet colouring and reading areas.

Please can you bring any donations in from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a large box to place donated items in the reception area next to the office.

Thank you in advance for your continued generous support in making our playtimes the best that they can possibly be.

Mr O'Brien

PE Coordinator & Curricular Lead for Play









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## Gold Book

Well done to all of the children who were in the Gold Book this week and last week — we are very proud of you and your achievements!













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# School Diary

### **February**

1st Glamorose cake van 3:00pm

1st Basketball player visit

2nd Nursery fire engine visit

6th Neil Griffiths to visit Y3

5th Children's mental health week

9th TD INSET DAY—closed to children

22nd Year 3 Explorer Dome

23rd YR heigh & weight

26th Y2 Living rainforest trip

26th—27th Y4 residential trip to Ufton Court

### March

3rd TGV PTA Market stall

4th PTA secret Mother's day making

7th World book day

8th Sleep drop in at RLT school for parents

14th Governors meeting

14th Year 4 Junior Voice @ Wyvern

15th Class Reps

Week of 18th Parents Evening Consultations

28th Break up for Easter holidays

#### **TD INSET Days 2023-24**

- Friday 9th February 2024
- Monday 1st July 2024

Please see 2023—2024 term dates on the school website. Please note that these are different to the SBC term dates.

[New dates in red]



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#### **Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Nursery?

Last week the children learnt all about the role of a Dentist and how we can keep our teeth and mouths healthy! The children enjoyed



brushing the dolly's teeth, painting with toothbrushes, sorting foods and learning a tooth brushing song. We enjoyed sharing lots of stories about tooth troubles too!

This week we have been finding out about the different ways fire fighters can help us in preparation for a visit from a fire engine next week! We have enjoyed lots of water play, painting fire engines, small world play and learning about the special uniform the fire fighters wear. In maths this week we have been exploring long and short.

Next week we will be learning about the Ambulance service, doctors, and nurses!

#### Reminders:

- Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name including hats, gloves and shoes!
- Please ensure that if your child is bringing a packed lunch that it does not contain items with nuts e.g. cereal bars or spreads.
- If your child attends 30hours they need to bring a small fruit or vegetable snack every day and it needs to be taken out of lunch boxes and put in the snack box each morning.
- Please ensure all round foods are cut lengthways such as, tomatoes and grapes.
- Please ensure all children have spare clothes including pants/ knickers, trousers, socks and tshirt. Our nursery supplies are running very low!

The Nursery Team:)















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#### **Nursery—Daisy and Poppy Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Nursery?







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What have we been learning in Nursery?







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#### **Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Reception?

Term 3 is flying by and we have been extremely busy with our learning!



In Literacy we have been beginning to develop our Talk for Writing skills with the story of The Little Red Hen, we're learning the story by heart using the actions and will go on to innovate our own story maps changing the main characters. We have been working hard on daily sentence writing and using our phonic knowledge to write independently.

In Maths we have been continuing working on numbers to 15, we are so impressed by how well the children understand the concept of tens and ones. We are seeing them begin to use their maths skills in their independent play

and games.

Thank you for all your support with home reading, we are so proud of how many children have earned their special bookmarks! Please continue to ensure books are returned into school every Wednesday so we can change them promptly.

#### A couple of reminders:

- \* Please do not stay and play in the outdoor area when school finishes we need to lock the gates promptly for safeguarding.
- \*Please ensure children do not bring in any toys or items from home, they may get lost or broken and they can distract from learning.

Thanks for your continued support

The EYFS team





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#### **Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes**

What have we been learning in Reception?

















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#### **Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Year 1?

In Year one we have been very busy continuing to learn our story 'Traction Man'. We have innovated our story giving their own unique twist onto the story by



changing the superhero, the animal, and the setting. This week we have rewritten own innovated story using adjectives, suffixes, and exclamation marks.

Last week we designed and made our own superhero smoothies. The children designed the bottles and then chose three pieces of fruit to blend a healthy smoothie.

In Maths we have been busy mathematicians mastering the art of addition

and subtraction exploring numbers 1-10.

Brace yourselves for a spectacular finish on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February as our little superheroes showcase their amazing creations from this term in our Fab Finish. Please bring in a superhero cape on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.





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#### **Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Year 1?















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#### **Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Year 1?









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#### Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?



Year 2 have been thoroughly enjoying their topic this term and have been trying incredibly hard in all of their lessons.

#### We have been learning about:

English – Over the last few weeks, we have been writing innovated reports about Kings and Queens, adapting the model text about King Morris of Tadpole. This week, we have been writing our own invented reports about ourselves as Kings or Queens. We have been including the range of skills that we have been practising this term such as co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions, expanded noun phrases and commas in a list.

Maths – We have been looking at using arrays to complete multiplication problems using 2's, 5's and 10's. we have also been looking at division and using counting in groups of a number to help us divide numbers efficiently. Continuing to practice counting in 2's, 5's and 10's at home will really help the children and increase their confidence with multiplication and division. We also used the Indi robots and Beebots to learn about position and direction!

Science – We have continued our topic – 'Human survival'. We have been busy exercising and understanding how it helps to keep us healthy. Each day, we have been doing our sit ups and press ups to get our bodies moving. We have also set ourselves a target of improving the length of time it takes us to hold a plank position. This week we have set up an experiment to help us understand the importance of good hygiene and how germs spread.

Topic - We have learned about several different monarchs who have had significant impact on England and its history. The children were fascinated when finding out about the eventful lives of Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria.

Forest School – Our Forest school lessons have continued with Mr O'Brien. The children have enjoyed exploring the school field and the new equipment that has been installed.

DT – We have started to build the castles that the children have designed. Once they are complete, we will evaluate their strengths and consider how well they would stand up against an enemy invasion! Please continue to bring into school any spare cardboard that you have at home.

Music – Our ukelele lessons are continuing every Friday. We have now learned several chords and are starting to put them together whilst playing along to music.

We have our first school trip planned for **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**. We are very excited to be visiting The Living Rainforest in Newbury. It is a trip that we have been on for the last few years, and it is always a fantastic experience. We will need some parent volunteers to come along with us on this trip. If you are able to join us, please do let us know as soon as possible.

We would like to thank you, as always, for your continued support.

The Year 2 Team



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#### Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?

























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#### Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes—What have we been learning in Year 2?



Building our castles!















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#### **Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Year 3?

We had a fantastic afternoon last week where we went to visit the new outdoor equipment on the field. Everyone was super excited and it was



lovely to see everyone explore. Some of us were a little nervous of the climbing equipment at first however we were all super resilient and had a go at challenging ourselves on the frame. We were super happy of the support and encouragement people were showing their class mates throughout our sessions.

In our computing unit this term we are learning how to touch type. The children are all trying really hard! It has been really tricky as we are all so used to a touchscreen so if the children have access to a laptop or computer at home it would be great if they can show you what they are learning on purple mash! We have set them some great games so why not have a competition of the fastest typer in your house.

In maths we have moved on to looking at fractions, the children have all surprised us with their fantastic prior knowledge. We have learnt many new rules to help us decipher the smallest or biggest fraction and next week we will look further at comparing and ordering the proper fractions.

This week we have started our unit on diary writing. This has involved after examining the key features of a diary, us having lessons on  $1^{st}/2^{nd}/3^{rd}$  person and also writing in the past tense. We are all looking forward to linking diary writing with our current class novel and think about how we would feel spending a day in the Amazon rainforest!

Please can we remind everyone that on a Thursday we have PE outside, if your child wants to they can bring in joggers to wear for the colder weather. Many Thanks



















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#### **Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes**

#### What have we been learning in Year 4?





Term 3 feels like it has flown by and we are already close to the end! It's been a packed two weeks of learning with plenty going on. In English, children learned the story of Beowulf before making little changes to parts of the story. Now, the children have begun writing their own Epic Saga in the same style as Beowulf. The monster that they create for their story will then be used by them to write some heroic poetry as well.

In Maths, we have had more times table practice, this time learning the 11 and 12 times tables. The children smashed it and they have now learned all the times tables they are expected to know at primary school. All that is left to do now is practise, practise, practise! We are now moving on to looking at formal written methods of addition and subtraction.

In Topic, the children have been learning all things Vikings! They have looked at where the Vikings came from when they were trading and raiding as well as researching the daily lives of Vikings and how these were different to our own.

Our computing lessons have centred around learning core fundamental skills such as touch typing, which will allow them to log in and access work quicker. The children have been completing tasks which challenge them to use certain fingers for certain keys, encouraging them to use all of their fingers to type as opposed to just their index fingers.

Thank you for your continued support,

Year 4 Team.













## Top Tips for

# NG UP PAREN

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle - technologically and psychologically - to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

> INCORRECT PARENT CODE

#### **IPHONE**

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

#### android

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With Android devices, Google's
Family Link app is your friend.
You'll need a Google account – and a
separate one for your child, which you
should use when first setting up the
device. Then, in Family Link on your own
device, select 'Add Child' and enter their
account details. This lets you specify
limits on daily usage, restrict certain
apps, block particular content and more

#### **PLAYSTATION**

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped.

At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating. you think are accep high age rating.

#### **IPAD**

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure a shared tamily iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature colled Guided Access (under Settings Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

#### **XBOX**

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

#### Meet Our Expert

#### NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo
Switch Parental Controls app on
your phone, and you'll be shown
how to link it to the console. Once that's
done, you can limit how long your child
can play each day, decide what age
ratings are permitted and more. You'll
also get weekly updates on how often
they've used the device. These controls
are accessible through the console itself,
but the app is usually easier.

#### WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

#### **CHROMEBOOKS**

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

#### MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then — while on their profile — use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

#### SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

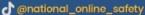
The National College











### **Neurodiversity Schools 101:**



### Unstructured times of the day

Some children who are neurodiverse can find unstructured times stressful.

This may be because:

- not knowing the rules of the games;
- not sure who to play with;
- when to join in or talk to others;
- what to talk about;
- feeling lonely,
- finding the noise a bit too much!
- not picking up on social cues;
- being more vulnerable to being bullied by others.

#### **Break times**

- Provide an alternative agreed place for your child to go if it's too noisy and feels safe.
- Find out what happens at less structured times and if your child is alone.
- Rehearse social scenarios with use of visual images such as photos to practice different responses.



#### Lunchtimes

- Queuing may be harder for some children.
- Discuss with your child what they want to eat and drink before school. Ask if the canteen menus are on the school internet, so your child can see beforehand what's on offer.
- Check your child can work out change if they need to pay at lunch.
- Discuss with your child if they are not sure where to sit down and when someone talks to them how to join in a conversation. If the other person says "the seat is taken", what to say.
- Encourage your child to go to the toilet during break and lunch time.
- For some children a quiet place to eat with less noise can be helpful.







