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An exciting start to 2020

Miss Danylevych started our new year off beautifully with the arrival of baby Oscar, he's gorgeous. As every new parent soon discovers, a baby may be tiny but causes a lot of change. That is no different within school. Covering Miss D's teaching commitment we now have Mr. Lowther, he's already been having a lot of fun in Year 5. Mrs. Kenny is acting deputy head and Miss Hopkins is acting English co-ordinator. Miss Burrell will now be working in Year 4 every Thursday afternoon to cover Mrs. Kenny's management time and I have the pleasure of teaching Year 5 half a day each week and Year 3 and 2 once a fortnight. All is going well so far, if you have any issues or confusion over the changes please come and have a chat. Janette Allen

Drumba

Drumba are back every Wednesday afternoon until Easter. Each child has a half term block of this very exciting exercise class. DRUMBA is an exercise format combining regular drum sticks with lower body dance steps to create a fast paced, intense cardio workout! It's a very energetic session that really impacts children's fitness.



Dr. Cath Kaylor has been our Chair of Governors for a number of years and has given us a huge amount of her valuable time. She has been a particular support to me and it was with great sadness that I said goodbye to her earlier this month. Whilst being very sad for myself, I was also extremely excited for Cath and her family, who have travelled to Melbourne in Australia to start the next adventure in their lives. Reach for the stars all of you and keep in touch.

At Christmas, Mrs. Louise Butler also left the Governing body. Louise has worked with school over many years and has given up a lot of time to help us develop. Thank you so much for your time and support, Louise. Please keep popping in with your pearls of wisdom.

The new Chair of Governors is Mrs. Jennie Walker. Jennie has been on the governing body for a couple of years and is already very skilled. We also have two new parent governors - Clare Payne and Emma Ault. In the Autumn term, Allan Kerr also joined as a co-opted governor.

You'll find out more about our new Chair later on in this newsletter.

Is your child entitled to Free school meals, trips and additional school funding? Find out if you're entitled

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>



Upcoming Events

WB Monday 27th January **The Arts Enrichment Week**

House Colours can be worn all week

Friday 31st January **The Arts Open Afternoon**

All welcome

Timetable to follow

Monday 10th February **Children teaching their** **Parents**

3.00pm Come and find out about an English activity with your child

Tuesday 11th February **Safer Internet Day** **House Reward Afternoon**

House Colours can be worn today

Monday 17th February – **Friday 21st February** **HALF TERM – ONE WEEK**

Monday 24th February
INSET day
Rushcliffe Schools
Enriching the Curriculum
No School for children today.

Whole Class Reading

As you will know, we are working hard to improve our reading provision within school. From Year 1 to Year 6 children will now be having daily whole class reading sessions. Teaching the whole class instead of small groups means that all pupils can read with the teacher more often, moving faster through more or longer texts and benefiting from the teacher's expert explanations, modelling, questioning and feedback. We use reading vipers throughout school within our whole class reading sessions. Children will still have books to read at home but they will not have been read with the teacher or teaching assistant on the whole. We will still be monitoring what has been read at home and discussing those texts with the children. Please keep reading with your children and writing this in the home school diaries.

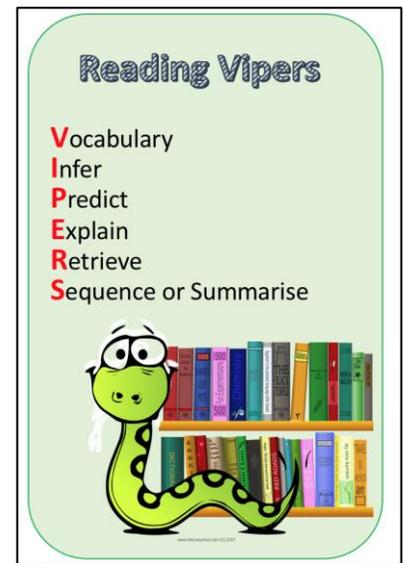
Some children will have extra reading in the form of either 1-1 sessions with a teacher/TA or an additional guided reading session. It is important that children who are not yet at age related expectations receive additional support to accelerate their progress.



Reading books

We have been working hard to reorganise our reading books. If your child is in the early stages of reading, you will soon be receiving two differently labelled books. One will be a phonically decodable book that is matched to your child's reading ability. Encourage your child to read this to you, they should know the sounds within it and become both fluent and confident. The other book will be a read together book; this book will be within the correct coloured band for your child. However, it might have some unknown words that are too hard. Please read these words to your child and support them so that they understand what is happening in the story. Very soon, we will have some new phonically decodable reading books within school. These will have an explanation in the back of how you can support your child, do read these to find some top tips!

If you have any questions about reading, please have a chat with any teacher in school or myself.



Gotham Village Plan Referendum Thursday 30th January

Voting on 'Do you want Rushcliffe Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Gotham to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area?'

Important Announcement



Nottinghamshire County Council are trying to recruit new foster carers for children in our local area. You can find out about fostering on the NCC website, where you can watch a brilliant new fostering film which showcases all the benefits of fostering for Nottinghamshire, click the link to find out more.

<http://bit.ly/GPSfostering>

One of my aims this year is to print out less letters. If you do need a printed letter, please tell the office. I will put newsletters in the display boards outside classrooms. Please help us to save money within school and look after the environment.

Allotment Project Update

The team has cleared off the allotment plot. Next, some wood chipping will be coming to cover the area. Hopefully, shortly after that the frame of the eco-green house will arrive and we will start to construct the 2 litre bottle structure. Please keep bringing in your 2L bottles.



Meet the Chair of Governor

Hi, I'm Jennie Walker, mum of Felix (Chestnut), Verity (Oak) and Clara (playgroup). I joined the governors in October 2017 and I'm pleased to become the new chair, following the Kaylors' exciting emigration to Australia.

I'm really keen that parents' views are heard at school and within governors meetings, and that your important role in supporting your children and the school is acknowledged and supported. We will be allocating a link governor for each class, so please get to know who it is for your child's class. They will get to know that class, and be a means of feeding back and views from that class. Their names will be appearing on the door with the name of the teacher shortly!

I'm around at pick up and drop off on a Wednesday and Friday, so please do take the opportunity if you'd like to chat about anything. I look forward to working with you all to support the school to go from strength to strength.

Thanks

Jennie



As all of you will know, we received the judgement of 'Requires Improvement' in our October 2018 inspection. As I explained in September's newsletter, a lot of this judgment was down to our poor external data (FS2, KS1 and KS2 results). Our FS2, year 1 and 2 phonics screening and KS1 results have all improved. As have the attainment results for KS2. However, as I explained in my OFSTED update meeting and in the previous newsletter, our progress data from KS1 to KS2 has not improved and is significantly below where it should be. This fact was highlighted in the article produced by the Nottingham Evening Post. This showed our rating in the 'Real Schools Guide'. This guide showed us in a very dim light but as with all grey clouds, there is a silver lining. This guide was based on KS2 results only and did not reflect our KS1 improvements. Absolutely, we need to improve our progress scores and our hard work is not yet visible in our KS2 data. But KS1 is far more positive and the dedication of all our staff is starting to shine through.

We are still having support from the Local Authority, Jayne Gibbons is our Educational Improvement Advisor. In addition to this, the Department for Education have also sent us support in the form of Pete Wilkes, a National Leader in Education.