

Welcome back to the fourth term of the year. Let's hope it's less snowy than term three!

As always, we have many exciting things going on this term including visits, visitors, World Book Day, a Friends of Brook Field Craft Day and much, much more!

The children also joined in many new challenges and experiences through their topics last term, so in this newsletter is just a flavour of the activities they underwent. To see more, have a look in your child's classroom, on our website and around the school corridors. There are some fantastic displays of all their hard work.



World Book Day

On **Thursday 4th March** it is World Book Day and there is much debate in the staffroom about which characters the staff will be coming dressed up as!

So don't forget...we want Brook Field filled with as many book characters as possible. I'm really looking forward to seeing your costumes on the big day!



Thank you for leaving your dogs tied up outside school when you drop off your children in the morning and collect them after school. Could I make a small plea, however, that they are not tied up directly next to the gate as this is upsetting some of our younger children and toddlers who are not used to dogs. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Let's get Brook Field cycling!



We are taking part in a virtual bike race around the UK following the National Cycle Network route. Every time your child (or you) cycle to school during March we record it on a website that converts your cycling to kilometres. We can then track our distance on a giant poster to see where we are along the route. Our aim is to travel further and faster than all the other schools in Swindon taking part!

Can we make Brook Field fitter by cycling to school and help our environment at the same time?

A Gentle Uniform Reminder

We have noticed recently that more and more children are coming into school without the correct school uniform on. Whilst we appreciate that in certain circumstances there is an entirely valid reason for this, we would ask that every effort is made to dress your child in the correct uniform to help enhance our community spirit and sense of belonging to Brook Field School.



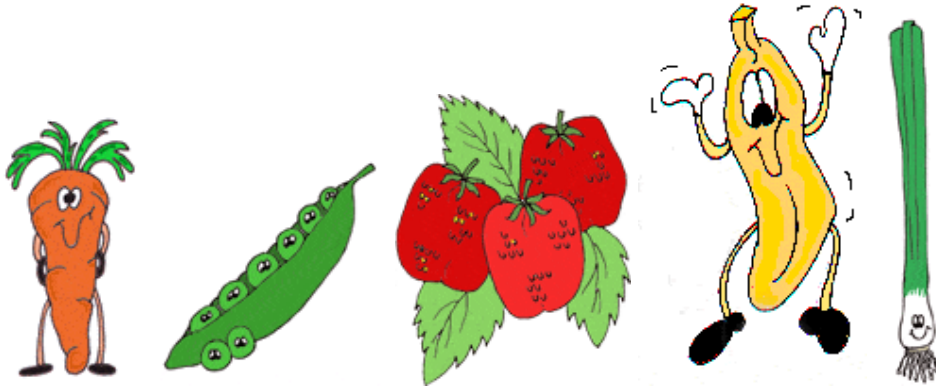
P.E. Kit

Could we ask you to ensure that your child has their P.E kit in school as a lot of children appear to be forgetting at the moment. Despite the poor weather recently, all the teaching staff take every opportunity to ensure that P.E. sessions take place each week. If your child could bring their kit in on a Monday and take it home on a Friday, we would be very grateful!



Healthy Snacks

Please could we remind you that break time snacks are encouraged to be of the healthy variety! Fruit, vegetable sticks and crackers have recently been replaced with chocolate biscuits, nuts and cakes. Whilst a balanced diet is essential in maintaining a healthy lifestyle, we are committed to healthy snacks within school and very much appreciate your support in this area.



Key Dates for your diary

3 rd March	Parents reading workshop
4 th March	World Book Day
12 th March	Training Day- school closed
13 th March	FOBs Craft Day
16 th March	'Big Tidy Up' (details to follow)
22 nd March	Parents evening
24 th March	Parents evening
24 th and 25 th March	Year 6 cycling proficiency
25 th March	Key Stage 2 Music Festival
1 st April	End of term
19 th April	Term 5 begins



Reminder - TD Days to come are Thursday 6th May and Monday 28th June 2010.



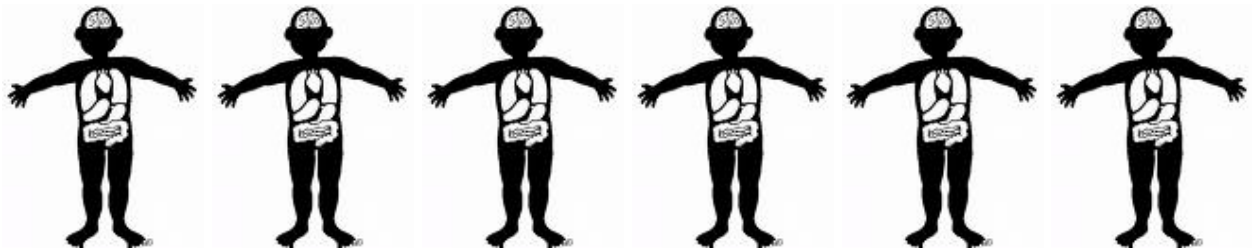
Last term, Foundation Stage transformed into Superheroes. We learned about what superheroes wear, what they eat, their special powers and how they help people. Spiderman came to visit us and we were all dressed in our own superhero costumes. We composed a theme tune for Captain Wonder and did some superhero dancing. This term, our topic is 'Come Dine With Me'. We will be learning about food and restaurants. We are going to be visiting Pizza Hut to look around the kitchens and make our own pizzas.



Year One's topic last term was 'The Jolly Postman'. We looked at a variety of fairy tales, including The Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood & Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We were able to explore our favourite fairy tale stories in our Fairy tale Castle role play area. We also used play scripts and had masks. We learnt to sing fairy tale songs like Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Sleeping Beauty, which we performed in the Singup assembly to the rest of the School. Mrs Turner's Class based their class assembly on the Jolly Postman and treated the school to a super retelling of the The Three Little Pigs. Our geography topic last term was the local area. We were able to take a walk to the local shops where we discovered the purpose of all the different buildings and completed a plan of the local area. We also visited the local Church and found out all about the different names and the purpose of different features within the Church.



In Year 2 last term our topic focussed on Science and living things. The children wrote some wonderful explanations about different systems which are in the human body, such as the digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems. They now have a very good understanding of how their bodies work to keep them healthy.



We held a successful SATS meeting to explain the process your child will participate in later on in the year. The week we have planned for the commencement of Key Stage 1 SATS is 10th May. We will be continuing our topic 'Busy Bodies' this term, with a focus on History. The children will be investigating the life of Edward Jenner as a local historical figure within medicine.

Year 3

Last term we started our environment topic and what an exciting term we had! To begin our topic Morris Mouse got us out and about exploring the woodland area looking for his stolen toys. Working in teams scanning the area we soon found Morris's belongings and using our geographical mapping skills we were able to plot their locations on a map of the area (useful for evidence!) But Morris's problems did not end here, not only did he lose his belongings his house had also been taken by a certain squatter, Sidney the Squirrel! In no time at all we set to work designing and constructing a new shelter for Morris. Morris was very impressed to say the least. Having a taste for the outside environment, we decided to join in with the RSPB 'Great British Bird Watch' and we are now using the results in our Numeracy lessons creating graphs to answer questions from. We had a great term and are looking forward to continuing the topic this term where we will focus on 'improving the view from our classroom window'.



Wow – the snow could not have been better planned to bring real life experiences to our Literacy topic of Fantasy writing and using the story of Narnia to support us! Truly inspirational stories were created, so magical that we have made our own water coloured books – come and see them on display in our classrooms.



This term also found us out and about in Swindon, discovering how the ‘new town’ developed thanks to the establishment of the Railway village. We had a super day out at the Steam Museum, exploring allsorts of artefacts, listening and acting out the view points – fantastic actors we have in year four too! Also we enjoyed a photo challenge in the Railway village and continued to develop some super sketching techniques, enviable by Lowry himself. We have enjoyed learning French songs and follow the actions superbly. Looking forward to another fun filled term ahead, we seem to be already discovering quite a poetic talent in our classes!



The start of a new decade saw another action packed and exciting term for us in Year 5. Our topic was “Natural Disasters” and we investigated the causes of flooding and compared recent flooding in Swindon with the floods in Cumbria just before Christmas. Due to the tragic earthquake in Haiti, we completed a project on earthquakes looking at how and where they happen, the Richter Scale, what to do if an earthquake strikes the area where you are living and how to design buildings to withstand earthquakes. An essential part of this (according to the teachers) was eating custard creams to demonstrate the plate movement and how earthquakes happen!

The whole year group completed a homework project on our adopted country of China. Mrs Trelease and Mr Stowe were very pleased with the quality of work produced. We all learnt some amazing facts about China that covered a whole range of subjects and topics such as the Great Wall of China, Chinese currency, political life, rivers and wildlife. They will soon be on display in the classroom although the children are currently busy reading each other’s projects in Guided Reading time.



Since Christmas, Year 6 has travelled back in time to experience life as a Victorian child. Even though the snow cancelled the original date for our planned trip to Sevington School, we thankfully managed to rearrange for the week before half term. The children dressed as Victorian children and took part in authentic lessons. They learnt how to write with an ink pen, found out about old pennies and played with Victorian toys. The girls and boys were kept separate for most of the day – especially during recreation! The girls learnt how to sew on a button and how to carry out household chores so that they could work at the ‘big house’ when they finished school. The boys polished brass, pulled leeks and made a candle. They had a very busy day! The teachers at Sevington School complimented the classes on their fantastic behaviour and role play. Keeping with the Victorian theme, we researched and made fairground rides in DT, which are now on display in the classroom and all work brilliantly. Mr Codling from Bradon Forest helped the children with their planning and the construction of the rides. The children’s artwork has also had a Victorian influence with watercolours ‘Lowry style’ and a focus on line and tone when sketching Victorian artefacts. One of the highlights of the term was watching the children taste ‘gruel’ so as to experience life for poor Victorian children in the workhouse!



Sports News

Congratulations to the Tag Rugby Team (consisting of nine members of Year 6) and Mr Clarke who won the West Swindon Tag Rugby Tournament held at Greendown School on 10th February. They are through to the Swindon Final on 3rd March at Isambard School. If they win this, they will compete in the County Final in April.

It was a busy afternoon for several members of the Tag Rugby team as they went straight from the rugby to play in a West Swindon Football League match against St Mary’s, Purton. They remembered not to pick up the ball but kick it (!) and won 2 – 0. The B team managed a well-deserved 1 – 1 draw. Thanks to all the parents for their support on a freezing cold afternoon. Some excellent goals were scored in both matches. The netball team are improving all the time but unfortunately lost 12 – 0 to St Mary’s on the same afternoon. Matches will continue in term 4.

Thanks to one of our parents, Mr Higgs and the Swindon Spitfires football team for providing us with a new football kit. The blue and white striped shirts make us look like Argentina and hopefully we will play like them too!



CLUBS

DAY	CLUB	TIME	YEAR GROUP	RUN BY:
Monday	ICT homework	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Whole school	Mrs Puffett
Tuesday	Mario's Football	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Yr 2 - Yr 6	Mr Walsh
Wednesday	Girl's Football	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Yr5 / Yr6	Emma Woodward
Wednesday	Boy's Football	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Yr 5 / Yr 6	Mr Stowe
Wednesday	Netball	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Yr 4/ Yr 5 / Yr 6	Mrs Foulser Mrs Higginson
Thursday	Cricket	3.30 - 4.30 pm	Yr 3/4/5/6	Darren Talbot Cricket Club
Thursday	Singing Club	3.20 - 4.20 pm	Yr1 to Yr 6	Mrs Batcup
Friday	Chess Club	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Whole school	Mr Williams
Friday	Dance	3.20 - 4.30 pm	Yr 3 / Yr 4	Miss Telling Starts 22/1/10
Friday	STFC	3.30 - 4.30 pm	Open to all	STFC

All clubs held outside run by school staff will be cancelled if the weather is wet. Paid clubs will continue.

The netball club is now open to Year 4 children as well as those in Years 5 and 6. If you would like to join the netball club, please see Mrs Higginson or Mrs Foulser for a letter.

Chess Club has had a surge in popularity after Christmas and is now fully subscribed. We started the year by taking part in the UK Land Chess Challenge with several of our pupils qualifying for the regional Mega Final to be held in May. This term we will be starting our second year in Swindon Primary School Chess League. The League is hotly contested with many players from the Wiltshire County Team representing their respective schools. If anyone is interested in joining Chess Club then please add your name to the waiting list in the school office.

Green Team is starting again on alternate Wednesdays for KS2... see your class teacher for a letter if you are interested.

