



Dear Parents,

There is definitely spring in the air as we have returned to school. The children appear to have had a wonderful break and are re-energised and ready for the half-term ahead. It is great to see signs of spring appearing; the lighter mornings and nights are definitely making a difference to everyone.

Before settling back into routine on Tuesday, we spent Monday launching our latest History topic by immersing ourselves in historical vocabulary; each class also had the opportunity to investigate their latest 'No Outsiders' texts – it is wonderful to see how inclusive our pupils are and how there 'are no outsiders in our school'. It has been a pleasure to pop into classes this week and see how the children's learning in all subjects is developing, and I know Partridge Class had a super visit to Druid's Temple. I know teachers are looking forward to sharing this with you in a few weeks.

We pride ourselves on open communication and responding to queries and questions quickly. Mr Cope and myself are available at the beginning and end of the day and are more than happy to help. Alternatively, class teachers can be contacted via the school office. I hope you all enjoy a great weekend.

### SEND Drop-In

If your child has additional support due to SEND, Mrs. Cromeey-Hawke (our SENDCO) will be holding in a drop-in event on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February between 9.30-10.00. If you'd like to make an appointment to chat to her, please do call the school office to arrange a time in advance. Equally, if you feel your child has additional needs you may also wish to make an appointment.

### Hello & Welcome

We say a big 'hello' to three new members of our school family – welcome to Henry in Year 1, Holly in Year 2 and Fiona in Year 4.

### Governors' Corner

As the link Governor for geography teaching at the school over the half term holiday I had the opportunity to look at a sample of geography books from each of the year groups. I really enjoyed looking at their work and seeing how the curriculum progresses through the year groups. The front sheets detailing key vocabulary and "sticky knowledge" alongside the sequence of lessons make it so clear how the teaching of geography is implemented at our school. I was impressed with the children's obvious enthusiasm and interest for learning not only about their immediate environment; the village, Bedale and the Yorkshire Dales National Park but also exploring global issues including climate change and food production.

*Dee Lynn – Co-opted Governor*

### Let's Celebrate!

Find out who is celebrating this week!

	Woodpecker Class	Partridge Class	Kingfisher Class	Robin Class – Y1	Robin Class-Rec
<b>Above &amp; Beyond</b> <i>(Care – Aspire – Excel)</i>	George	Ronnie	Holly	Kirsty	Tilly
	Woodpecker Class (Y5/6)	Partridge Class (Y3/4)	Kingfisher Class (Y2)	Robin Class (R/Y1)	
<b>Curriculum Award</b>	<i>Jude - Maths</i>	<i>Izzy- All round</i>	<i>Faye- Computing</i>	<i>Erin- Phonics</i>	
<b>Aims Award</b>	<i>Phoebe</i>	<i>Sophie</i>	<i>Abi</i>	Isobel	
<b>Team Points</b>	Bolton				
<b>Tidy Classroom</b>	Robin				
<b>Golden Spoon</b>	TBC				

### Diary Dates

When?	What?	Who?	How?
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	SEND Drop-In	All	See newsletter
W/C Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Book Week	All	Letter sent
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Castle Hill Book Sale	All	Letter sent
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	British Values Day	All	Information to follow
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Concert	All	Information to follow
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day	All	Information to follow
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> / Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Parents Evenings	All	Information to follow
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Class Photographs	All	See newsletter
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School Visit to Baltic Centre, Newcastle	All	Information to follow
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Labyrinth	All	Information to follow
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Break Up for Easter Holidays	All	See newsletter
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Egg Competition	All	Information to follow
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Staff Training Day	All	See newsletter
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Summer Term	All	See newsletter
W/C Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SAT's Assessments	Y6	Information to follow

### Around the Classes...

**Robin Class - Reception:** It's lovely to see all the children settling back into class, after what we hope was a restful half term! This week we have started our new theme 'Astonishing Animals'. We found an egg high up in the tree in our outdoor provision, which has sparked lots of discussions. We have enjoyed exploring the new role-play Pet shop, small world animal trays, and some animal-inspired painting this week. 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' has prompted some invitation writing and delicious tea parties with the tiger and his friends! Our new outdoor reading for pleasure tepee has been a big hit. We have loved seeing the children snuggling up with a good book! The children are enjoying sharing and recommending their favourites - what fantastic lifelong readers we have!

**Robin Class - Year 1:** It has been great to welcome back the Robin Class after the half term break and we have had a very exciting first week back. We started off our History topic about Toys and introduced a timeline; I was incredibly impressed with their knowledge which they loved to share. We began a new text in English – 'Dear Dinosaur' The children have really impressed me with their amazing adjectives to describe a T-Rex. Number bonds to 20 has been a learning focus this week in Maths. A great week back and I am sure these positive attitudes will continue throughout the term!

**Kingfisher Class:** It has been super to be back in the rhythm of our learning this week. We have really enjoyed our new maths topic which has involved investigating lots of statistics – we are becoming experts at pictograms and tally charts! In English, we have launched our new writing journey which focuses on letters. To launch this, we have enjoyed reading 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and building on our letter writing skills.

**Partridge Class:** Partridge Class have been super stars this week, immersing themselves into our new topics. On Monday we started the week with our 'No Outsiders' text, 'The Way Back Home', where we considered how difficult it can be to communicate with someone who speaks a different language. We then launched our new history topic, which is all about the Stone Age. As part of our new history topic, we took a trip to Druids Temple. All the children were intrigued about where it had come from and wanted to know more about its history. Finally, a big well done to the members of Partridge Class who took part in the dodgeball competition this week, showing how happy and healthy we are in school!

**Woodpecker Class:** This week, Woodpecker Class have continued their work with decimals in maths, developing their skills in comparing, ordering and rounding numbers with up to three decimal places. As always, they have taken it in their stride and have worked incredibly hard. In English, we have been exploring the structure of a formal letter of complaint which will feed into next week where the children will start to plan and write their own - hopefully the complaining won't go beyond their work! In history we have been exploring the difference between primary and secondary sources as well as learning more about our key concepts such as democracy and conflict. A brilliant first week back after half-term and a great sign of things to come for the rest of term!

### Safeguarding Reminders

Mr. Sam Donaldson is the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mr. Gavin Cope is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mrs. Louise Wyatt is the Safeguarding Link Governor.

If you have worries or concerns about a pupil, please don't hesitate to speak to one of the people named above, in confidence.