

23 February 2024



Our School Vision is to offer inspiration to young lives 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed'

Providing enriching experiences to foster aspiration 'To inspire ... To aspire'

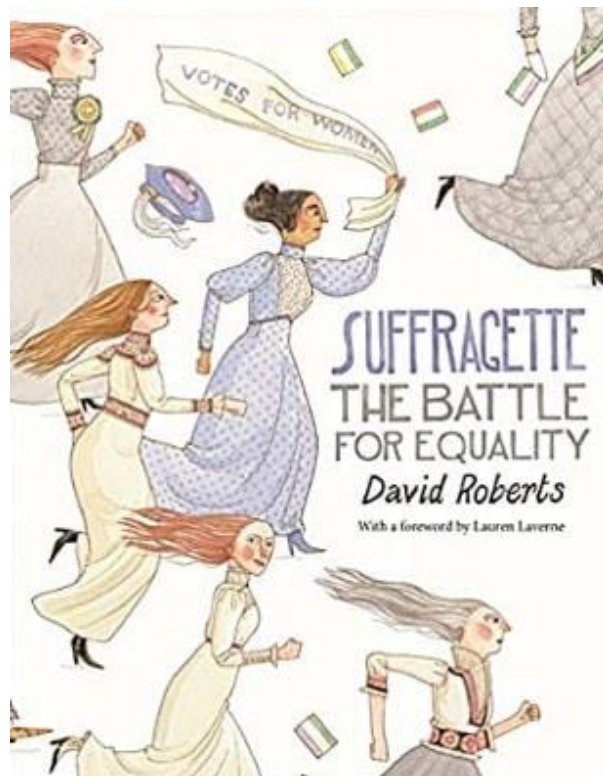
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)

BIBLE QUOTE

Psalm 13:5

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Trust



As we start the second half of the half term we can see many signs of Spring around us and the evenings are becoming lighter. The children arrived back in school on Monday refreshed after their half term break. The half term theme is trust and we will be exploring what this means to us over the half term. Our children trust us to provide them with exciting and vibrant learning opportunities and this week it has been enjoyable to see all the work within each classroom. Here are a few highlights from a couple of classes.

In year 6 the term has started really well with the introduction of a great new book: *Suffragettes, The battle for equality*. This is proving to be a real eye opener for the children as they learn that things were very different for women at the turn of the 20th century. Through this book and *The little Match Girl Strikes Back*, we are learning to be activist and to value living in a democratic society. In geography we are leaning all about the water of the world. This topic will include learning about the environmental impact of plastic in our oceans and how we can help prevent it. Year 5 have had a different week as they have been on their residential and have their own section this week. Year 3 will be studying the fascinating and sometimes gory world of the ancient Egyptians. The children will learn about the process of mummification as well as everyday life, pharaohs and pyramid building. Our science work will be based about forces, focusing on magnetic forces with some lovely experiments for the children to enjoy and learn from.

Year 5 prove Anything is Possible at Boundless Outdoor Centre

Year 5 have returned from spending three wonderful days at Boundless Outdoor Centre. The sun has shone and the children have all excelled at the challenges they faced.

At the start of their residential, the class were asked what their aim would be – the class all agreed on 'Anything is Possible, we can all succeed'. Throughout their time away this was demonstrated in so many different ways, from sandwich making to sorting and organising their own clothing for the weather, climbing the highest of towers, trying new activities, sleeping away from home; the list is endless. The centre staff commented on the class's impeccable manners and resilience to challenge, two qualities they don't always see from other visiting schools

As the year 5 class teacher I would like to say what an absolute pleasure it was to be part of the Year 5 residential, the children were an absolute credit to themselves with their determination to succeed and demonstrate the value of Anything Is Possible. I am one very proud teacher. Mrs Malpass. When the children returned to school they were all very excited and it is wonderful they have had such a superb opportunity to learn and develop through facing the new challenges.

We look forward to sharing all about our adventures and all year 5 parents are invited into school on Wednesday February 28th at 9:00 for our sharing assembly where year 5 will explain all about their adventure.







Wear it Red for the Midlands Air Ambulance

On Friday 9th February we all came together and shared our 'Wear It Red' day. This was an exciting day where we all came together to raise money for the vital charity, the air ambulance. This fundraising started with our children who suggested that we raise money for the charity following a number of call outs where the helicopter helped us at school. In 2014 we held our first fundraiser and each year the children have come up with different ideas to increase the money raised. This year the charity took an idea from our school and shared it with the 6 other authorities the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC) covers. It operates and funds three air ambulances covering **Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire** and the **West Midlands**. This year a total of 70 schools took part. Our fundraising at school raised a total of £633.45 and we thank you for all your support with this. We will let you know the total raised with all these other schools that have taken part as soon as we know.



Saying goodbye to Miss Gillmore

Year 3 have said goodbye to their postgraduate student teacher, Miss Gillmore, this afternoon. She has worked in Year 3 since September and before that, with our now Year 6 class as a volunteer helper. Mrs Wills taught her when she was a pupil at Longdon school in Year 6 student many years ago and she has been delighted that Sophie has decided to become a teacher. She has worked hard, built great relationships with the children and Year 3 and Mrs Moroni will miss her very much. We wish her well as she moves to her next placement school to continue her teacher-training development. Thank you Miss Gillmore.



Reading for pleasure 'Reading for Pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's future success'. (OECD, 2002)

The Open university have conducted significant research into reading and findings from this has shaped a Reading for Pleasure (RfP) movement which seeks to enable practitioners to enrich their knowledge and practice, and for schools to create cultures of reading and stronger links with parents and young readers who benefit from being members of vibrant reading communities.

As a result of some recent training, we have decided to increase the reading for pleasure as a focus through school. We will be re-vamping our reading areas, buying new books, purchasing a reading trolley for use on the playground, encouraging visits to the library in school time, sharing informal chats about books and coming up with fun ways to engage our children in reading. We will also be looking at further ways for you to support your childrens reading and also to support you with reading for pleasure too! In addition, we will be talking to children about their reading habits and finding ways to Drop Everything And Read (**DEAR**) within school.

We want to encourage children to think of reading as something they do all the time in all sorts of ways. We are adopting the moto:

Anytime Anywhere Anyplace Anything

If you would like to find out more about the OU research please follow the link below:

<https://wels.open.ac.uk/research/ljs/reading-for-pleasure#:~:text=OU%20research%20in%20this%20area,members%20of%20vibrant%20reading%20communities.>

We are always keen for volunteers to read with or to our children so if you can spare some time please let the office know.



Help support our reading for pleasure

As we go through school we want to create areas throughout that have comfortable places that the children can rest and relax. We are appealing for donations of old beanbags or cushions which could

be used in reading areas for children. Also if you have any childrens books that you no longer feel are age appropriate for your children if you think we could use them please think of us before you take to a charity shop. We will place a large box for any donations in the front reception area and look forward to having an assortment of comfortable seating for the children as soon as possible.

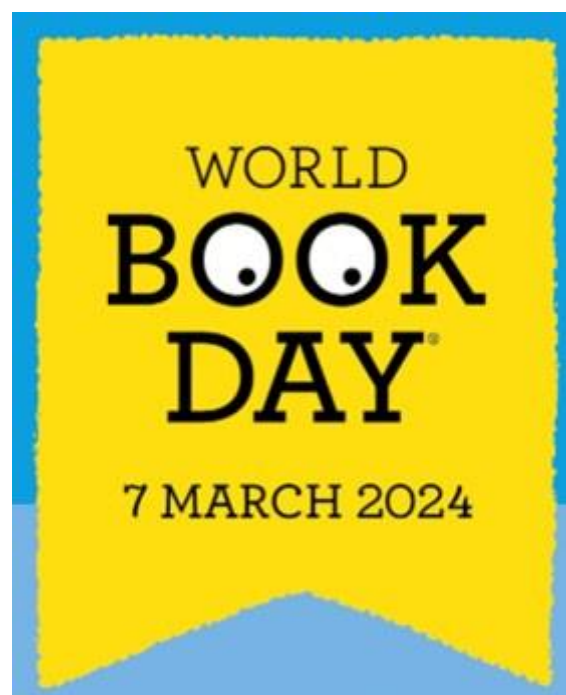
PLEASE REMEMBER INTERNET SAFETY

We regularly inform you about updates on keeping your children safe on the internet and before half term this feature was also on the newsletter. We informed you that there are many sites and games that are not age appropriate for children of primary age, Roblox, WhatsApp, TikTok and Facebook are just a few that children should not have their own personal account or access to. If children give false information about their age this opens the potential for them to receive inappropriate content as they get older. We also informed you that children should be protected from joining chat groups through age inappropriate sites. **It is also concerning when we have reports that children are communicating with each other in a manner that is causing issues between friendship groups. Over the half term we sadly had reports of distress being caused to children through this form of communication. We recommend that you check your child's device and refer to <https://www.common sense media.org> to check age ratings for individual websites and games.**

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

Safer Internet Day is held every February all around the world. Last year, over 170 different countries celebrated the day. Safer Internet Day is a chance to think about any worries we might have about using technology and the internet, but it's also about celebrating all the fantastic things technology can help us with.

WORLD BOOK DAY



The charity World Book Day® is holding its annual celebration on Thursday 7th March right across the UK and Ireland.

World Book Day 2024 will celebrate that children are more likely to enjoy reading when their choices are championed and we make reading fun.

This year we want to make the focus Reading For Pleasure. Read what you like, when you like and how you like.

Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and be willing to share this with their class. We would ask that children don't come in football kits or onesies please. Children who do not wish to dress up are still invited to bring in their favourite book to share.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

Reading for pleasure improves children's life chances across a range of social, educational and well-being measures. However, research from National Literacy Trust found that fewer than 1 in 2 (47.8%) children now say they enjoy reading; this is the lowest level since 2005, and reading enjoyment is lowest among children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Mothering Sunday save the date....

Mothering Sunday

The service to celebrate our families and our Mother Church will be held in the parish church St Peter and St Paul on Friday, 8th March at 9.30am. As usual, this will involve our children singing songs and is a joyful celebration of all the very special things are family do to support us. We hope you will join us.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

URGENT INFORMATION

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEASLES OUTBREAK

The measles cases continue to rise across the country and the local authority have asked me to remind you all gain about the importance of vaccination. While Worcestershire has one of the best rates for uptake, some children who haven't had their MMR could be at risk of getting this serious illness.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are given to make sure we have the best protection from measles. The first dose is given at 12 months of age and the second dose is given at three years and four months, before starting school. For anybody who did not receive the full vaccination course, your own GP will be able to provide a catch-up MMR vaccination.

The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective combined vaccine that protects against three serious illnesses: Measles, Mumps and Rubella. Overall, Worcestershire has an excellent uptake of the MMR vaccine; for 5-year-olds, the county shows as having an uptake of 96.4% (1 dose) and 91.3% (2 doses). The 1 dose figure is joint highest in the West Midlands region and the 2-dose uptake is the outright highest in the region. Having the vaccine protects not only the child but also reduces the spread of the disease. This relies on as many people as possible being vaccinated and is why Public Health experts in the county are keen to continue to encourage all children to be vaccinated.

Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes. It usually starts with cold- like symptoms which can include a high temperature, a runny or blocked nose, sneezing, a cough, sore red eyes and a rash. It spreads very quickly to non-immune children and adults who are unvaccinated or have not previously been infected.

- For more information on measles and the MMR vaccine please visit: Measles - [NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

