Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthday in March.

Samuel	Year 02
George	Year 02
Chloe	Year 02
Mia	Year 06
George	Year 05
Teddy	Year 0R
Edie	Year 0R
Darshhi	Year 01
Henry	Year 04
Betsy	Year 03
Max	Year 04
Liza	Year 01
Isabella	Year 04
Faith	Year 01
Jude	Year 05
Gracey	Year 03
Jack	Year 03

Attendance

w/e 1st March 2019

Class R – 100%
Class 1 – 97.9%
Class 2 – 97.6%
Class 3 – 99.3%
Class 4 – 100%
Class 5 – 98.4%
Class 6 – 98.4%
Whole school – 98.8%

109 100% Term 3 Attendance certificates given out this week. Well done!

Star Awards

w/e 1st March 2019

Class 1 – Henry
Class 2 – Caitlin
Class 3 – Bobby
Class 4 – Reece
Class 5 – Anais
Class 6 – All of Year 6

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to Term 4 – we are now well into the second half of this academic year with, as always, plenty to keep us all busy!

Science Week

Well we certainly started this term with a literal bang courtesy of a number of science related activities which have been taking place in Classes 1-6 throughout the week (Reception Class will be undertaking their work next week). Children have taken part in a range of experiments including foaming clouds, milky-way and colour dissolving. Pupils have had fun with exploding glitter potions and creating static electricity as well as making lava lamps, rocket propulsion balloons, fossils and gyrocopters and paper darts to test for air resistance. Our forest school has been well used providing many mini-beasts for inspection. Classes have used thermal imaging cameras to design their experiments and we thank Pfizer for allowing us to borrow them to enhance this learning.

World Book Day Thursday 7th March

You have already received a letter detailing how we are going to celebrate World Book Day this year. We look forward to seeing your potato book characters – these to be brought to school on Thursday together with your £1 donation for the World Book Day charity. Children are also invited to bring a small cushion or blanket and a favourite book from home to share in our whole school 'share a story' session.

Pancake Day Tuesday 5th March

Mr Oliver will be leading us in all things pancake related on Shrove Tuesday – a much anticipated annual event! Children will have the opportunity to make and eat pancakes during the morning with pancake races being run in the afternoon!

Your View Matters

With parent/carer consultation meetings fast approaching you will be receiving, next week, a proforma for you to record your views about school. Further copies will be available on the evening. Do take a moment to complete these and deposit them in the drop-box available on the evening.

Online Safety

Recent media stories regarding a viral story being shared on social media serve as a good opportunity to remind you of the importance of ensuring online safety for your child/ren at all times. We already hold useful online safety information on our school website:-
http://www.stmargaretsprimary.co.uk/page/?title=e%2DSafety+Resources&pid=107
Rebecca Avery the Education Safeguarding Advisor (Online Protection) has sent all Kent schools a letter to share with parents which you can find on the reverse of this newsletter.

P.T.O. **Helen Comfort**

The Week Ahead!

Lunch Menu: Week 1

Week commencing 4th March 2019

Wednesday, 6th March – 2:30pm Class 4 Parents' Information Meeting about residential trip in hall
Thursday, 7th March – World Book Day
Friday, 8th March - Class 3 Family Assembly at 9am in the school hall
-Primary Schools Swimming Gala – selected pupils

Dear Parent/Carer

The recent story has created some anxiety amongst adults (and children and young people who have seen the images) however it's important to recognise that most of the current concerns have been fuelled by the recent publicity. Credible reports about this issue are very rare, making it difficult for people to know precisely what is going on. Due to recent publicity it is likely that content is now being created and shared on popular social media apps to generate fear and panic.

Viral stories such as this often contain graphic or distressing imagery; we strongly recommend this is not shared with children. It is also important to recognise that by mentioning specific challenges by name, we may encourage children to explore something that they were previously unaware of, either out of curiosity, or because they want to feel involved in what everyone is talking about.

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at school and is taught to all pupils. The curriculum empowers children to become critical thinkers and to understand how they can to stay safe and behave appropriately online, but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you.

Talk to your child

- We would not recommend naming concerning challenges or sharing potentially frightening images specifically with children as this can cause them significant upset and distress.
- It's important that parents find out and learn about what children are doing online; find out what your child is looking at, and judge for yourself if it's appropriate.
    - Learning together with your child can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online. By having regular and open conversations with your child, you'll provide them with an opportunity to share any concerns they may have.
    - www.childnet.com and www.thinkuknow.co.uk has some useful tips and ideas for parents about starting conversations about online safety

Do your research

- If you are made aware of a concern being shared on social media, it's a good idea to check such stories out with a known reliable and trustworthy source. Many headlines and stories use sensationalist language with vague details; if this is the case then it's possible that it's not entirely accurate.
- Useful websites that can help determine if an online story is true include:
    - www.thatsnonsense.com
    - www.snopes.com
    - www.truthorfiction.com

Take concerns raised by children seriously

- If your child has been exposed to such content and is scared, then it's important not to dismiss their worries. It doesn't matter if the fear is real or proportionate, if it's scaring them, it's worth listening to them to help them feel reassured and safe.

- Help provide a balanced view to such stories and talk with them about how they can deal with concerns, such as blocking and reporting on websites or apps they use and always talking to a trusted adult if they see something upsetting online.

Understand technology

- Discuss together as a family how the internet will be used in your house and set clear boundaries regarding time-limits, supervision and what they can access.
- Visit sites like www.internetmatters.org and www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide for advice about parental controls on consoles and devices.
- Make sure you read any parental guidance and safety recommendations (including age requirements – most popular social networking sites and apps are only for users aged 13+, 16+ or 18+); visit www.net-aware.org.uk to find out information about some of the most popular apps.

Report any serious risk of harm

- The School Designated Safeguarding Leads are available to discuss any help you may need or concerns that you may have.
- If you are worried that a criminal offence has been committed, then you can report your concerns to the Police. You can contact Kent Police via 101 or 999 if there is immediate risk or you can report online abuse to CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk and using the "Click CEOP" report button.

For more information access:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section and use the "Click CEOP" button to seek advice and report online abuse
- www.childnet.com   – Visit the ''Parent and Carer' section helpful tools and advice
- www.internetmatters.org – A range of advice and support on issues for parents
- www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety – NSPCC provides information for parents about popular social media sites, apps and games.
- www.saferinternet.org.uk – Parents guides to safety tools on popular devices and signposts report mechanisms for some websites.
- www.kent.police.uk/internetsafety - Guidance from Kent Police

It's important that we all remember that the internet is an essential part of young people's lives and provides them with tremendous opportunities. The vast majority use it without coming to any harm so it's essential to be realistic: banning the internet or web sites often will not work and it can make a child feel less able to report a problem or concern, so education around safe use is essential.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Avery
The Education Safeguarding Advisor (Online Protection)