



This Link Letter contains news, forthcoming events and information, helping you to keep in touch with school.

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**Happy New Year!**

We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are very pleased to welcome you back to school.

**Assembly**

This week we have been busy thinking about New Year, resolutions and rules. We have enjoyed seeing each other again in school and sharing our Christmas holiday news. We have thought about compassion and caring for others - thinking about what a neighbour is with some super re-writing and consideration of the hymn, 'When I needed a neighbour'. We have also welcomed Barry Bedford to lead one of our assemblies this week.

**Attendance**

Good attendance is crucial in helping children to achieve their best. The more children are at school - the more they can learn! We do understand that when children are unwell it is important that they rest and get better. A reminder that the gate opens at 8.40am and the bell goes at 8.50am - all children should be in school by this time. Formal registration starts at 8.50am with morning tasks in class. Thank you for your continued support.

Reception	Year 1/2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
95.54%	96.67%	97.4%	94.27%

**Team Points - Spring Term 2020**

Team points are totalled for each class and the whole school and celebrated in assembly every Friday. There will be prizes at the end of each term and the school year for the winning team. Team points are awarded when children have done well at school - in their work, behaviour, attitude - and much more!

Red	Green	Yellow	Blue
13	9	10	8

**Belvoir Challenge 2019**

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the Belvoir Challenge Friends of the School Meeting this week. The next Belvoir Challenge, our big school fundraiser, will be on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020. We will be adding more information in the Link Letter over the coming weeks and look forward to another family event that we can all enjoy together! The event has already been so very popular that places are full and we have a waiting list! There will be lots of jobs for parents, lots of baking and lots of fun! Our next meeting is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm and everyone is welcome. There will be information going up in the school corridor and a letter will go out next week with information about Class Coordinators and how you can get involved.

**After School Clubs**

Please see the details at the end of the Link Letter for after school clubs being offered this term. Thank you!

## What have we been doing this week?

### Reception

This week in Reception the children have enjoyed starting the topic on "People who help us". We started with thinking about how our family and friends help us. We talked about all the things that we had enjoyed over the Christmas holidays and the things that we were thankful for. The children did some writing about the people in their lives that they were grateful for and why. The children have also painted some pictures of their family. In maths we've continued to think about time we've looked at months of the year and sequencing simple events using keywords such as 'first', 'then', 'next' and 'finally'. We have created a visual timetable of our school day which the children have enjoyed referring to in the classroom. The children have been using the computer to design their own monsters which they are teaching to read. They have also been fascinated by the nature table we have set up in the classroom.

### Year 1 and 2

There has been lots of excitement this week surrounding our new topic, The Great Fire of London. The children have approached the topic enthusiastically and vowed to become knowledgeable historians in no time at all! We have begun our topic by forming our own questions about what we would like to learn about and thought about some of the sources that we can use to find out more! It has been wonderful to see so many happy faces in maths this week! The children have been working hard to spot relationships between numbers in their calculations and these relationships have made their mental arithmetic much more efficient! We have continued to make our writing more interesting by adding more descriptive language. We also considered our wishes for 2020 in school and created our own 'wishes' display.

### Year 3 and 4

This week, we have been immersing ourselves in the story: Leon and the Place Between. We have enjoyed acting out as part of the audience and the class have been enthralled by the magical illustrations and storyline. We have used our VIPERS skills to develop our comprehension skills further. In our maths work, the class have been guessing mystery card numbers using multiplication skills as well as considering possible ways of comparing calculations and arrays. We have been physicists in science. Children have shared their initial thoughts on what electricity is and where it comes from. They have looked at different objects powered by electricity and considered what appliances are used around the home. They succeeded in powering a lamp for their acrobat without any wires in their circuit! We have also started our choreography for our class dance and the children have got some super ideas!

### Year 5 and 6

This week in year 5/6 we've refreshed our long term working 'fraction' memory from last term before we delve deeper in our mathematical learning. We've really focused on reading this week, looking at our own reading books; comparing how often we read at home or in school time. We've also started our new class novel - Street Child- and we are enjoying exploring the language and vocabulary so far in the text, discussing themes and features of the Victorian Era. We spent a little bit of time finding out about the reign of Queen Victoria but also in Mrs Grevatte's lesson we started to find out about the Grantham Canal system - which was put in place by the Victorians. A great start to the term.



Year 1 and 2 - super display about their wishes for 2020!

What would you wish for?  
How could you help to make it happen?



Reception's new nature table! Lots of fascinating things to explore.

They have enjoyed the addition of our skeleton! Children in all classes are fond of him... some call him Bob and some call him Jeff! What do you think a good name would be?

**Mrs. Hodder's Mummified Tomato Experiment is Finally Finished!**



This sequence of photographs shows the story from start to finish! As part of their learning about Egyptians last term the children were learning about mummification. They set up an experiment and over last couple of months the tomato has been slowly mummifying with salt as part of the embalming process. The children were amazed to see how the tomato looked after all this time!

**They had lots of comments...**

"It's like a raisin."

"It's no longer a sphere. It's sort of dome shaped."



"It's lost its red colour."

"It's dry but squidgy."

### **When I needed a neighbour...**

Following our assembly where we collected ideas from the children about being a good neighbour and how we can show this Mrs. Hodder has written this up so we can sing our own Harby hymn. Lots of super, thoughtful and compassionate ideas from the children.

1. When I needed a neighbour  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour  
Were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

3. When I was lonely at playtime  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I was lonely at playtime  
Were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

5. When I needed a friend  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a friend  
Were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

7. Wherever you travel  
I'll be there, I'll be there.  
Wherever you travel  
I'll be there.  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
I'll be there.

2. When I struggled on my way  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I struggled on my way  
Were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

4. I was hurt and crying  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was hurt and crying  
Were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

6. When I had forgot or was lost  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I had forgot or was lost  
Were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

**Year 1 and 2 - working hard to mix colours and paint flames!**



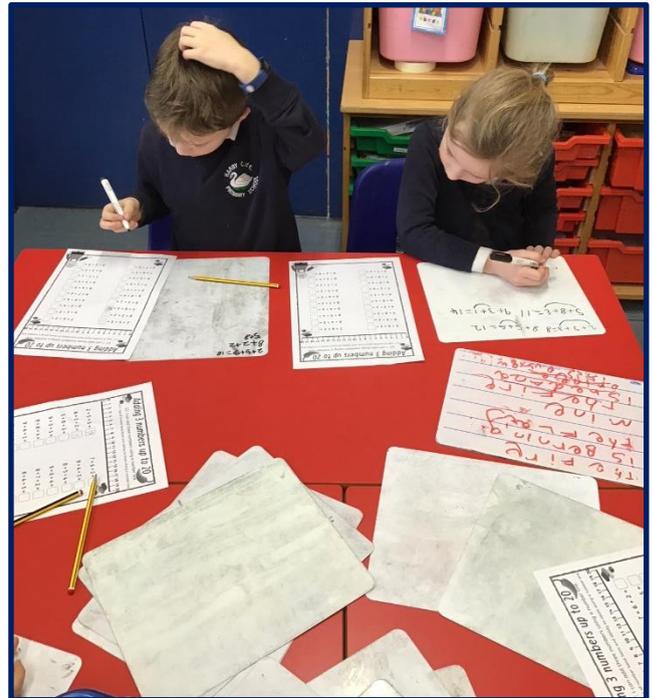
### **School Swimming**

Swimming will begin for children in Years 2, 3, 4, and 5 from Monday 13th January. This will take place at Waterfield Baths in Melton Mowbray and children will need to arrive at school with their kit - costume / towel. Aerosol deodorants are not to be brought. We will be leaving promptly in the morning to make the most of our swimming session and the first session will involve an assessment to take account of where the children are now at following a break from school swimming. To comply with health and safety guidance long hair must be tied back in a bobble and earrings removed. There is a voluntary contribution towards this (£3 per session) which can be paid via School Money, cash or cheque. This is a reduced contribution as the cost is subsidised by the Friends of the School. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Vale Choir**

This year we will again be taking part in the Vale Choir. This is an event that involves children from primary schools across the Vale of Belvoir singing together with rehearsals in individual schools and culminating in a shared performance at Belvoir High School. Due to limitations in numbers, to comply with fire regulations, only children in Year 4 will be able to take part this year but both Year 3 and 4 children will be able to take part in the singing experience at school with a professional singing teacher. We are looking forward to this event and the rehearsals when they begin in this week in school. The final performance will be on Wednesday 12th March at 7pm with further details following nearer the time.

**Year 1 and 2** - working hard at completing maths - Spotting numbers and patterns to help their calculations and mental arithmetic.



### **Applying for Primary School Places – September 2020**

Parents of pupils due to start school in September 2020 will need to complete an application to the local authority in which they live. If you live in Leicestershire information can be gained and applications can be made online at <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place> The deadline for completed applications is 15th January 2020. Please do ask if you have any questions or would like any support with this and we will be happy to help. Thank you.

### **Year 5 and 6 Residential**

We have provisionally booked a residential visit for pupils in Year 5 and 6 to visit Scarborough. This visit will take place in the summer term after KS2 SATs - look out for a letter home next week with further details!

### **PE Kits**

Please accept this polite reminder that full PE kits, including trainers and socks, should be in school every day. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Snow - information regarding school closure in the event of severe weather**

As much as we enjoy the snow it can cause difficulties and sometimes this can warrant the closure of the school. Closing the school is our last resort and we will only do so if we cannot get enough staff here to run the school safely for the children. If we do have heavy and significant snow and ice during the night we will check early with staff living in Harby and also those living further away to determine whether they can get to school safely. If enough members of staff are able to get to school safely we will open as normal. It may be that, in exceptional circumstances, we open slightly later to enable staff and parents more time to drive safely. If we make the decision to close or open later we will get an email to you as early as possible in the morning, send a tweet from our Twitter feed and post it on the school website. Radio Leicester will also be informed. Hopefully this won't happen and we can enjoy any snow that we may have at school safely!

### **Plastic Bottle Tops - keep them coming in!**

We are planning to design and make a whole school artwork using recycled bottle tops. We would be very grateful if you could collect your plastic bottle tops in any colour and size and send them to school with your child. Many thanks for your support. We have been delighted with how many have been coming in - but we still need more! We are looking for all plastic bottle tops but particularly those that are not green! Thank you!

Mrs. Grevatte has started work on the bottle top project with some of the children - initially sorting the bottle tops into their colours and considering the patterns that we will make. We are looking forward to sharing it with you as the project progresses. Please still keep the bottle tops coming in.

### **Talented Staff**

A special poem written by Mrs. Gordon following our staff training day where we reflected on values, beliefs and respect. We talked about how poetry was a good way of expressing our knowledge and views and think that Mrs. Gordon has done a fantastic job.

**Your visions and values are yours, to talk through and share  
Please listen to others, reflect and show that you care  
Trust in yourself to reach your full potential  
Believe in yourself, for this is essential  
Have faith to make choices, to go your own way  
Don't just follow what others do or say  
Be kind and offer your hand to those in need  
No matter their age, race, colour or creed  
Live your life being positive, kind, forgiving and strong  
Remember the world is our home - where we all belong**

The children all enjoyed this in assembly this week. Perhaps it will inspire you to write some poetry!

### **Can you help?**

Reception's class topic for the spring term 2020 is 'people who help us'. If you are in a 'helping' job role (i.e. doctor, nurse, vet, paramedic, police officer, fire fighter etc...), or know someone who is, and you/they would like to come and talk to the Reception class about what you/they do please speak to Mrs Lewis to arrange a time to come in. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Cereal Boxes Needed!**

Year 1 and 2 are collecting cereal boxes for a project after the holiday. They need regular / large sized cereal boxes - all donations gratefully received! Thank you!

**Next week in school:**

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January:** Swimming for pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5  
Year 6 Rock at Reading Club after school
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 3 and 4 - Vale Choir rehearsal at school  
Violins in school today  
KS1 Multiskills Club after school
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January:** Violins in school today  
Year 1 and 2 Fire of London workshop afternoon at school
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 5 and 6 Dance Club after school  
Year 6 Motivational Maths after school
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January:** Football Club after school

**Diary Dates - new and revised dates added in red**

**20<sup>th</sup> January - Holy Communion Service at St. Mary's Church Harby at 2pm - everyone welcome**

29<sup>th</sup> January - Vale Choir Rehearsal at school - Years 3 and 4

6<sup>th</sup> February - Sky Dance Challenge at Melton Theatre for Year 3/4 (and additional Year 5/6 if desired)

29<sup>th</sup> January - height and weight for pupils in Reception and Year 6 (a letter has gone out)

**30<sup>th</sup> January - Belvoir Challenge Friends of the School meeting, 7pm at school - everyone welcome!**

14<sup>th</sup> February - School closes for the half term

24<sup>th</sup> February - School opens

26<sup>th</sup> February - Vale Choir Rehearsal at school - Years 3 and 4

29<sup>th</sup> February - 30<sup>th</sup> Belvoir Challenge!

4<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening - further details to follow

5<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening - further details to follow

11<sup>th</sup> March - final rehearsal for the Vale Choir (Year 4 only) and evening performance at 7pm - further details to follow

2<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter Service at St. Mary's Church, Harby. 1.45pm - everyone welcome!

3<sup>rd</sup> April - School closes for the Easter holiday

20<sup>th</sup> April - School opens for the Summer Term

*Further dates will continue to be added but we hope you find this overview useful!*

**After School Activities - Spring Term 2020**

This term several after school activities are being voluntarily offered by staff. Please note they are subject to cancellation due to weather or staff unavailability. Every effort will be made to inform parents/carers in such an event and we are sure that you will agree that they enhance the children's experiences at school. If you would like your child to attend please tick against the activity and complete and return the form or email / write to school with the details. Thank you. The clubs will begin from next week unless otherwise stated.

Child's Name..... Signed.....

I do / do not give permission for my child to walk home alone after the club

KS2 Recorders with Mrs Bye on MONDAY 3.15 - 4.15[] (Starting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January)

Year 6 Rock at Reading Club with Mrs Ford on MONDAY 3.15 - 4.15[]

KS1 Multiskills Club with Kat Plimmer on TUESDAY (Years 1 and 2) 3.15 - 4.15 []

KS2 Origami Club with Mrs. Lewis on Tuesday 3.15 - 4.00 []

Year 5 and 6 Dance Club with Mrs. Hodder on Thursday 3.15 - 4.15 []

Year 6 Motivational Maths Club with Mrs. Ford on THURSDAY 3.15 - 4.15 []

KS2 Football Club with Kat Plimmer on FRIDAY 3.15 - 4.15 []

In addition, Mrs. Marsden will be leading Library Club on Wednesday lunchtime, beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

Many thanks to Xanthe who supported Mrs. Bye in writing the Link Letter this week with lots of good ideas and headings!

**We hope you all have an enjoyable weekend!**