



Here we are, half way through the school year and already, what a year it has been! We have had a new track laid with monkey bars, which are very popular, educational visits, visitors in school and live music performances on top of all the fantastic learning the children have done.



I hope you all have a lovely break and get some rest and hopefully it will feel like spring when we return!

Message from Mrs Waters

We have an amazing outside area in Butterfly Class. We use a wide range of equipment in our sandpit and mud kitchen. As the equipment is used by many children, and exposed to all weathers, it needs replacing. Below is the equipment we need at the moment, if anyone has any of these, at home, that they can spare or would like to purchase for us, we would be very grateful. Please can you bring into school and hand to an adult on the gate. Many thanks.

- **metal potato mashers – these are great for developing fine motor strength**
- **metal whisks**
- **hand egg whisk**

- small steps (2/3 steps)
- sticks for weaving
- large buckets
- large paint brushes and rollers
- cable reels – 2 big ones
- builders tray
- gardening resources – seeds, plants, herbs, soil

A chance to find out how your child is getting on...

The 'Open Door' afternoons will take place on **Wednesday 21st February 2024 and Thursday 22nd February 2024 after school until 16:00.**

These afternoons provide a chance for families to come into school to see the classrooms and look at their child's books as our next **Parents' Evenings on Wednesday 6th March and Thursday 7th March will be online.**

If possible, please could families with surname **A-L come on WEDNESDAY 21st February** and families **M-Z come on THURSDAY 22nd February.**

For safety...

- Please wait on the large or small playground and enter the school when invited to by a member of staff
- Use the same doors as used by the children to enter and exit the classrooms in the mornings etc!
- DO NOT enter the toilets used by children
- DO NOT ENTER THE NEST (next to Woodpecker class as Night Owls are in there!)

If you are unable to come straight after school please arrive at any time after that... but before 16:00!

REMINDER - ONLINE PARENTS EVENINGS –

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH AND THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024

Parents' evening with your child's teacher will take place on Wednesday 6th March and Thursday 7th March (15:20 – 18:00). These will be held online using **Microsoft Teams** (please make sure you have this software downloaded onto a mobile, tablet or laptop). We understand that online is easy for many parents but if you do have an issue with this please contact us and we will arrange a phone call instead.

Please use the link below to select your appointment times. We will need you to complete one online form per child, and it needs to be with us no later than **today Friday 9th February.** Your allocated appointment times will be emailed out to you via Parent Mail with a link to the meeting. Please click on the link just before your appointment time.

<https://forms.office.com/e/GGmqREsSBp>

Parent workshops – Spelling and Maths Games Year 2 - 6

Miss Smith and Miss Crook are holding a workshop to help parents support their children at home. This is being held on **Wednesday 13th March 2024** at **5.30pm** in the school hall. This is a great opportunity to find out about how we teach spelling and maths in school and how to help your child. If you would like to sign up for these workshop sessions please e-mail admin@stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk with Parent Workshop in the message box.



World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024

We shall be celebrating World Book Day in school on **Friday 8th March**. This is a day later due to everyone having PE on Thursday!

This year's dress-up theme is...



We would like you to dress up using a 'factual' theme. For example, you could dress up as a plant, an astronaut, your favourite historical figure, or even an aeroplane! Bring in your favourite fact books to share on the day, and let's celebrate how much we can learn from a book.

If this is not your kind of thing, please do not feel pressurised into having to join in! If you don't like dressing up then don't! Wear your uniform.

We will be holding a competition to design and make a scene from a book in a box (a shoe box, a cereal box or something similar. For example....





Please bring these in on Friday 8th March and we will announce the winners and award prizes in Smiley Face Celebrations the following week, 15.03.23. There will be a winner from each class.

Online Safety Update

Being unkind online

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other.

Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would

if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules. Here are some examples of what being unkind looks like online:



- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

The above might happen whilst your child is gaming online or whilst using social media or messaging apps e.g. WhatsApp.

Top Internet Manners



Internet Matters have produced a list of 'manners' that we all should follow to create a safer and kinder online world: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/top-internet-manners/>

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages or see something that worries them, they should not reply or engage in conversation with the perpetrator. Instead, they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact you again in the future.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids/i-want-help-with/how-do-i-know-if-im-being-mean-online>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the day released 09.02.2024.

Best wishes

Justine Watkins

