



Newsletter

Spring Term

01234 740100

office@cottonendforestschool.co.uk

Inspire, Enjoy, Achieve

4th March 2022



Dear Parent / Carer

It has been so nice to have been able to welcome parents onto the playground at the end of the day as well as have some visitors back into school.

The children have enjoyed another fabulously busy couple of weeks since our last newsletter. Kestrels class experienced an art workshop with a representative from the Harpur Trust who introduced the children to printing frames and the children created their own images of endangered animals using the printing technique for Future Bedford 2022 competition. The finished artwork was very impressive and we are looking forward to hearing the results of the competition.

Book week has been a great success and I was totally amazed at the creativity displayed in our cake competition—we clearly have some very talented bakers in our midst. Mrs Thacker, our Chair of Governors, was given the unenviable task of picking the winning entries and the five selected were given £5 vouchers to spend at the book fair. Well done to everyone who participated!

We are pleased to say that attendance has improved this week but can you please ensure that your children arrive on time for school as Mrs Coe has reported that since January we have recorded 56 hours of lateness!! The gates open at 8.45am each morning so there is a 15 minute window of opportunity to arrive on time before 9am. Thank you very much!!

Next week, we have scootability booked for children in KS1 which will help them develop their skills for safe scooter riding. I am looking forward to watching all the activity on the playground.

We are all aware of the situation in Ukraine and if anyone wants to support please have a look at the website British-Ukrainian Aid where you will find details of how to donate.

Mrs Headland

Attendance

A big well done to class Kestrels this week with 99.5% attendance and Eagles last week with 100%.

The whole school attendance is 95.3% but we are aiming for 98%!



Diary Dates

- Thursday 10th March—Movie Night
- Tues 15th March—Year 4 trip
- Fri 25th March—Purple Day
- Thurs 31st March—PTFA Easter Raffle
- Fri 1st April—Last day of term
- Wed 20th April—Back to school



Victorian Day

Ospreys class had a special Victorian experience last week when they were lucky enough to have a Victorian Day!! The day was fun and jam-packed with activities. The day began with an archaeological dig, where the children learnt about how archaeologists find out about history over the ages.

This was followed by an authentic Victorian lesson where the children wrote on slates with slate pens. The children practiced writing the alphabet and reciting their times tables to the beat of the cane on the desk!!

The children also learnt about the punishments used in a Victorian school including the cane, the posture board and finger stocks! Fortunately, the class were very well behaved so punishments weren't needed!

After lunch, the children had the opportunity to handle some Victorian toys including, pick up sticks, skittles, hopscotch, solitaire, snap, yoyos and many more. Time was spent playing the games and sharing a fun, hands-on learning experience. The children also made comparisons between Victorian games and games they play today. We all had a great time going back in time!!



The whole day was a huge success and the children and staff enjoyed every minute!



The day concluded with the children learning about Parliament and holding a debate, then about the vile Victorians! The children learnt that in Victorian times children were given unusual names, such as scary looker, toilet and princess cheese, which they all found very amusing! They also learnt that Victorians didn't have a toilet in their homes and had to use a chamber pot kept under their beds and that the contents were thrown out of the window!!



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Reminder—Holidays in term time

As we are approaching the holiday season, please could we gently remind you not to book any family holidays during term time. Holiday absences may incur a fixed penalty fine.



Frank the Therapy Dog

Frank is a therapy dog who comes to school once a fortnight to 'hear children read!' He is a large, hairy gentle dog who comes with his owner, Wendy.



Frank likes to spend time in the school library where he makes himself comfy and children come to read to him. Reading to Frank helps to boost children's self-esteem and confidence to read out loud.



Movie Night

We still have some spaces available for our Movie Night on Thurs 10th March. The event will start at 3.30pm, with pick up arranged for 5pm. There will be three films for the children to choose from (all rated 'U') and they will be provided with light snacks (popcorn, tortilla chips and squash). There will be a charge of £2.50 per child for attending. All money raised will go to the PTFA who are working hard to raise money to help school with resources and experiences.



Medicines in school

Please do not send any non prescribed medicines direct with your child into school i.e. cough sweets, pain relief (Calpol), cold remedies etc. We can only have and administer **prescribed medicines where the dose is 4 times a day in school**. Children are not permitted to bring in any medicines in school without a signed Parental consent form



Absences

If your child is going to be off school please ensure that you phone in to the office on **each day of their absence before 9.15am**. There is an option when you call in to leave a message on the answerphone, which is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week, if you choose this option please state your child's name, class and reason for their absence. If your child is absent for 3day or more, medical evidence may be requested.

Attendance Matters



We aim to provide our children with opportunities to become confident, happy children valuing and respecting diversity and who are proud of their achievements.