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Headteacher: Mrs L Dance
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Rainscombe Road
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Be Adventurous Be Ambitious Be Curious Be Kind

Date: 28th March 2024

Newsletter

Dear Families,

Term 4 has come to an end; has been a fantastic term and we are so proud of everything that your children have achieved. We have had many enrichment opportunities over the term including Forest School, World Book Day, visits to the local library, school trips and musical performances. Thank you to our wonderful staff who make this happen.



I had a fantastic time at the Make a Noise festival last week and was so proud of children from Nursery and Reception classes representing Badbury Park alongside other Swindon schools. They looked and sounded amazing and so confident in front of an audience. Thank you to Mrs Humphries and Miss Lanham for all their hard work.

With the new term around the corner, I hope that the longer days and a renewed energy will help pupils boost their attendance and punctuality—please see page 4 for a reminder. On that note, don't forget to turn your clocks forward on Saturday 31st March. The lighter mornings and longer evenings will certainly help put a spring in to everyone's step!



I have been concerned about the high number of children this week that have disclosed to me that they talk to people on Roblox and are using Tik Tok—please see page 5 for a Parent guide to these platforms.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing you on 15th April 2024

Mrs Dance



Nursery Apple Tree have been celebrating Spring and the new life that it brings. In Forest School, we have been thinking how to 'be kind' to the environment, planting lots of new trees. The children were very excited to see them grow, even though it will take a really long time! In our class, we have excitedly seen the caterpillars get bigger and bigger. They are now safe in their cocoons, and we cannot wait to see what happens next!



Reception: What a very exciting way to end another fantastic term! Ash Tree and Oak Tree went on their first school trip to Farmer Gows. We went on a coach, held chicks, bottle fed lambs, fed goats, cows and sheep and got to do a treasure hunt on a giant hay bale playground...the coach journey home was very quiet! The children have been very ambitious and wrote about their favourite part of the trip and sharing their writing with the class. In maths we have been focusing on our number bonds to 10 and we used bowling to help us! We set up skittles, bowled the ball and wrote a number sentence for how many skittles we knocked down.



Our beanstalks are growing even taller and our caterpillars have made their chrysalis which has been very exciting to watch!

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KS1 Year 1 have been learning all about capacity and volume over the past couple of weeks; we have been measuring greater and less than capacities between objects. We have looked at the “Snail and the Whale” and learning about using question marks. We have also been exploring printing patterns in our Art this week and have enjoyed a fantastic time creating our pictures of Liddington Hill. We made rockets using materials in science to help our friend Beegu back to space.



We have been busy over the past 2 weeks in year 2; planning a science investigation, designing and making round houses and learning all about Roald Dahl to celebrate Author Study week. We have also learnt about biodiversity and why this is important.



Maple Tree patiently waited for their trip to Avebury and had a fantastic time; what beautiful weather they had too!



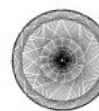
KS2 Year 3 have been busy in Science learning all about the different types of fossils and we then made our own mould fossil using salt dough! We have been studying the author Roald Dahl during our story times and learning lots of facts about him; why don't you ask us to tell you some?



Maple Tree thoroughly enjoyed their educational visit to Avebury and the sun was shining too! We have spent this week designing and making our very own round houses.



Well, what a term we have had in Year 4! There are too many successes to count. I think one of our biggest achievements has to be our designs in Computing using FMS Logo and the completion of our swimming sessions at Dorcan. All the children have really excelled in this and the swimming teachers at the pool passed on that our Year 4's have been a pleasure to teach. Here is a picture of the children in their clothes as they are rescuing each other and pulling them to safety! You are brilliant!



Clubs: After school sports clubs will continue next term and are available to book on the My Child at School app now. Our new Wednesday club is Dodgeball— a team sport in which players have to dodge or catch the balls thrown by their opponents whilst attempting to hit their opponent—which promises to be very popular! There are still spaces in our other clubs so book now to secure a place:



Mon— Basketball (Y2-4) **Tues**— Multi sports (Y2-4 girls) **Wed**—Dodgeball (Y2-4) **Thurs**—Multi sports (Y1) **Fri**—Mixed Football (Y2-4)

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"Good to be me" club

Mr Hanks will be running this club again next term from 18th April—23rd May (3.00pm-4pm). The club aims to help children develop knowledge, understanding and skills in self-awareness, managing feelings and empathy and to help to realise that it really is 'Good to be me'. Next term will be offered to children in years 1 and 2 for a maximum of 6 children. If you think your child would benefit from attending the club, please sign up on the My Child at School app.

Mini London Marathon



As part of our on-going commitment to deliver a varied sports offering to all of our students, this year we shall be taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon 2024, on the week commencing Monday 22nd April.

The Mini London Marathon is 2.6 miles in total (rather than the 26 mile event ran in London each year) and will be completed across our 5 day school week. This means your child will be running/walking 0.52 miles per day, which is equal to 7 laps of our daily mile track.

This years marathon partner charity WWF-UK will be sending each entered school resources, which the children can use to learn about the event and make the experience of completing the Mini London Marathon both engaging and inspiring

SCHOOL HOURS



Important changes to the school day starting September 2024

Whilst the next academic school year may feel far away, preparations are already afoot and I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about some changes to the school day that will take effect starting September 2024. These changes are aimed at creating a more structured and productive learning environment for everyone, as well as ensuring that we comply with government guidance which requires schools to be open for thirty-two and a half hours a week).

- Reception will start at 08.30am and finish at 3.00pm
- Years 1-5 will start at 08.40 and finish at 3.10pm.

School gates will be open from 08.30am and pupils can go straight into their classroom (no lining up in the playground); gates will close promptly at 08.45am. The start and end times of the nursery sessions will be unaffected.

School Safe Environment Zone—starts 15th April

Yellow lines have already been painted at the front of the school and our "traffic buddies" have been delivered ready for Monday 15th April when a car free zone at the front of the school is introduced. The traffic regulation order will prohibit any vehicle without a school permit from driving down Rainscombe Road from 08.15 to 9.00am and 2.30pm to 3.15pm. The area will be patrolled by Swindon Borough Council and school staff who will check permits and anyone who drives into the School Street during the restricted times, without a permit will be may be subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice issued by the Police



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Attendance Matters

Attendance and Punctuality

As you will know from previous newsletters, we monitor attendance weekly; if your child's has fallen below 95% you will be advised today and offered support to help improve this. We ask you to support good attendance in the following ways:

- ✓ Make school attendance a priority.
- ✓ Regular bed times—going to bed at a reasonable time means children are ready to learn the next day
- ✓ Be in school regularly and on time. It is settling for children and helps them get into a routine. The more regularly they are in school and on time the more they get used to it.
- ✓ Contact the school to report each daily absence by 9.15am

Absence during term time will not be authorised unless there are valid and compelling circumstances (visiting relatives, birthday treats or cost are not regarded as exceptional circumstances) .

We recognise that parents have reasons to travel but we ask that leave is taken during the 13 weeks school holidays as lost learning cannot be caught up; children's friendships will move on in your child's absence, making it difficult for your child to readjust upon their return leaving the child feeling excluded and lost time in school creates unnecessary worry and anxiety in children when they realise that their peers and class mate are ahead in learning. Taking extended leave in term time also puts your child's school place at risk at a time when we have pupils on a waiting list to join our school.

There are 190 days in a school year leaving **175 days** in the year that can be used for holidays and other occasions. The school academic year calendar for 2024/25 is already available on our website for you to plan holidays **outside** school term time.

Where absence during term time is genuinely unavoidable in the case of exceptional circumstances, we would ask you complete an online form, providing as many details as possible regarding your child's address during their absence and confirmation of any travel plans. The form can be found on our website or by clicking [here](#)

Punctuality—To have the best possible beginning to the school day it is important for children to arrive on time. Arriving late can mean missing out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson which can significantly reduce achievement. Your child may also feel awkward arriving in the classroom when everyone else is settled. Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher. Children arriving after 8.45am will gain a late mark and need to come in through the office and arrivals after 9.15am will receive an unauthorised absence mark and may incur a fine



Medical appointments: Where possible appointments should be booked outside of school hours. If this is not possible:

- a medical/dental appointment should be confirmed with an appointment letter, email or text
- pupils are expected to attend school prior to the appointment and return to school after the appointment. Any absence outside of the appointment/travel time will be unauthorised
- authorisation will not be given for pupils to attend family member's medical appointments

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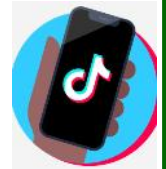
ONLINE SAFETY

ROBLOX

What is Roblox?

Roblox is an online gaming platform where children can play games designed by other users and also create and share their own games. Once signed up, they can play an infinite number of games and chat with other users—all for free. Roblox doesn't specify a minimum age; children of any age can create an account on Roblox with no parental restrictions. On accounts for children under 13, Roblox automatically defaults to stricter settings, but this can be easily changed if there's no parent PIN and children can access any of the games on the platform (e.g. one game includes players knocking each other over with guns before beating each other's head until they died with blood splatters).

Roblox offers parental account controls to restrict how children can interact on the site and the types of games they can play. The controls are optional, and Roblox encourages users to interact through its Chat & Party function. Chatting for accounts of children under 13 is filtered but even with the monitors and filtered chat, people have figured out ways to bypass this, so knowing who your child is talking to is vital for safe interaction. For more information about parental controls please click [here](#)



A Parent's Guide to Tik Tok

TikTok is a video-sharing platform where users can watch, create and livestream videos and connect with each other. **The TikTok app is meant for children 13 years or older** and many full settings in the app aren't accessible until the age of 16 and older. But that doesn't mean that children will necessarily open an account with their correct birth year and Tik Tok doesn't use any age verification tools when new users sign up. TikTok's emphasis on popular music means many videos include swearing and sexual lyrics; it is essential to monitor your child's activity and consider the risks before letting your child use TikTok.

There are safer alternatives to TikTok that your child can enjoy such as Grom Social a media entertainment site for children ages 4-15. Children can use the app to meet and connect with other children online, make videos, share posts, chat and make new friends. Or Zigazoo Kids, a TikTok-like app made for children under 13 which lets users create videos of themselves dancing, acting, telling jokes and doing other artistic things, then share their videos or participate in challenges.

For a parent's ultimate guide to Tik Tok, please click [here](#)



Managing Screen time from Internet Matters

Are you worried your child has too much screentime or would like more advice on how to support your child in managing their screen time?

Internet Matters have a wealth of information on their website to help support you. This first link discusses how to get the most out of screen time and how to talk to your child about screen time based on their age: <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/protectyour-child> This second link provides advice on how to tackle too much screen time and what the signs of too much screen time might be: <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/deal-with-it/> This final link provides a guide on how to balance screen time: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanceddigital-diet-with-screen-timetips/>

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Could you be a School Governor?

- * Do you care about improving children's education and want to contribute to your local community?
- * Could you be a strategic leader and play a vital role in making sure every child receives the best possible education?
- * Are you willing to challenge and ask questions?
- * Do you have valuable/professional skills to offer?
- * Are you open to new ideas, willing to learn and undertake training to understand the role?
- * Can you volunteer some of your time?

Badbury Park Primary School would love to hear from you. To find out more and register your interest, please contact the school office on 01793 299101 or email admin@badburypark.bluekitetrust.org

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School Diary

March 2024

4th: Author study week
6th: Phonics meeting for Year 1 parents
7th: World Book Day
8th: FOBPPS Gift event
11th: Year 1 to Holy Cross Church
12th, 13th, 14th : Y2/Y3 to Avebury
13th: Roving Book shop in school
14th : Year 1 Spring show
15th: Comic Relief day
22nd: Reports out to parents
28th: "Open house" parents are welcome to come in to see class and books from 2.30pm or 11.30/3.00 for Nursery)
28th: Last day of Term 4
29th—12th April : Easter Holidays (school closed)

April 2024

15th: Children return to school for term 5
15th School Safe Zone begins
22nd: Curriculum meetings for all year groups—5pm
24th : "Beep, beep" day. Road safety practice

May 2024

6th: Bank holiday (school closed)
24th: Last day of term 5

Teacher Training Days 2023/2024

- Monday 3rd June 2024
- Monday 8th July 2024

June 2024

3rd: Teacher training day (**school closed**)
4th: Children return for term 6
w/c 10th: Phonics screening check (Y1)
12th: Meeting for parents of new Reception starters (6.30pm)
14th: Stay and Play sessions for nursery and new Reception starters (3.30-4.15pm)
14th: FOBPPS Gift event
18th: Stay and Play sessions for nursery and new Reception starters (3.30-4.15pm)
19th: Meeting for parents of new nursery children (6.30pm)
20th: Class group photos