

Harleston C.E. Primary Academy

School Lane, Harleston, Norfolk. IP20 9HG

Tel: (01379) 852302 / 853211

E-mail: office@harleston.stbenets.org

Website: www.harleston.stbenets.org



Headteacher: Miss Hannah Holgate

Friday, 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A letter from Miss Moss

The fluctuating temperatures over the last few weeks have seen me standing at the gate each morning and afternoon frequently dressed in the wrong clothing for the weather. I have now made the decision to follow the advice my mother always gave me as a child which was `Never cast a clout until May is out`. I had a very enjoyable discussion with a parent this week debating whether `May` was the month or the blossom. After going home and researching the origins of this saying, it appears that historians are uncertain of the original meaning and we are both right! With this in mind, please can we ask that you continue to send your child with the correct clothing to support these fluctuations across the school day.

What we can say with certainty, however, is that there is hope of warmer weather to come as we move into the Summer term, and for me the first sign of this is seeing our children able to play on the field at break times. We know that lockdown measures will continue to be a part of our lives over the coming months, but here at Harleston we are planning, with cautious optimism, a Summer filled with memorable experiences for our children. Everything we do is planned and considered to ensure the best (and safest) experience for our pupils and we are extremely appreciative for all your ongoing understanding and support.

WOW moments - my three highlights of the week!

- This week I have seen the most beautiful cursive handwriting in year 2 from Izabella.
- Well done to Year 4's Evie and Olivia in Mandela class. Mrs King tells me that they have been working very hard to develop their discussion skills in guided reading and have been excellent role models for their class.
- A big thank you to Miss Scofield for all she is doing to encourage our children to love and enjoy reading. This has included securing additional funding for KS1 phonics provision and working tirelessly towards the refurbishment of our library resources. More to come on this next month!

Destination Reader

We continue to move forward with developing and improving our school curriculum. One such exciting project is the KS2 Destination Reader initiative, which has been rolled out in years 3-6 this term.

What is Destination Reader?

Destination Reader is a whole class guided reading approach, which focuses on 2 things:

- Explicit teaching of key reading strategies to support comprehension
- Developing the learning behaviours for children to be able to engage in dialogue about books.

How will it help my child?

- Destination Reader is based upon evidence-based teaching practices, to provide a high quality reading experience.
- It develops the skills required to read more and for longer.
- It teaches children how to think about their reading.
- Talking about books is at the centre of all Destination Reader lessons.
- It encourages reading for pleasure.

What does Destination Reader look like in the classroom?

The key part of Destination Reader is talk.

1. Teachers model how good readers think and talk about books.
2. The children read and discuss books with talk partners
3. To encourage respectful communication, children are taught to use sentence starters to support active listening and the ability to discuss and explain their ideas.

How can I support my child to develop this further at home?

- All reading is good- encourage your child to read everywhere whether that is posters, leaflets, recipes, magazines, audio books or games.
- Daily reading opportunities are essential, from Nursery to Year 6.
- Show enthusiasm for reading by engaging in discussions with your child about what they have read, including asking them about their guided reading sessions at school.
- Read to your child, whatever their age. This is an opportunity for them to be exposed to language at a higher level, which will benefit them across the whole curriculum.

We hope to share some videos with you later this term, once the children have completed their training, so that you can see Destination Reader in action.

Reception Places

Do you have a child who will be five between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, if so, your child could start school full-time in September 2021 and you should apply to Norfolk County Council. You must apply for a school place for your child, even if your child currently attends a Nursery or you have an older child already in school. To make an application or for more information please call 0344 800 8020 or email admissions@norfolk.gov.uk.

Parents Consultations

Parent consultations will take place virtually during the week beginning 24th May, using the same system as the Autumn term. Further information regarding the days teachers will be available will be sent out via e-mail.

Face coverings on school premises

Please can we remind you that face coverings still need to be worn when you enter the school site and that gate staff are required to challenge anyone who is not wearing one. Thank you for your continued support with the measures we are taking to keep schools as safe as possible for pupils, staff and parents.

St. Georges Day

Today, to recognise the importance of St. Georges day, children who are members of local Beavers, Brownies, Guide and Scout groups were invited to attend school wearing their uniforms. Well done to everyone who participated.

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, appointed St George as the patron Saint of Scouting as he felt that the Saint set a good example in terms of the values of perseverance, faith and courage; values which are a central part of our school curriculum. Traditionally this is a day when these groups come together, renew their promises and celebrate.

In the same way that St George is remembered for his courage, we as a community, a nation, and a planet, have had a year which has required much courage, but we continue to work and grow together remembering that“ *God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and self control* ”. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Moss
(Assistant Headteacher-curriculum)