



Principal's update

Welcome back to all our current families and a very warm welcome to new families joining the school. I hope that you had thoroughly enjoyable summer holidays.

I am delighted to say that we have had a great start to the term, Children are looking super smart, they are behaving brilliantly and working hard. I am also pleased to see how punctuality has improved with our new 8:40 start time. We allow a few minutes for children to enter school but then close the gates at 8:50am. It is meaning so much extra learning time for some children who used to arrive much later previously. Thank you so much for your support with this.

As you will have noticed a huge amount of money has been spent on playground improvements over the summer. This is a project we have been keen to enable for years and it is wonderful to see how much extra space we have gained and how smart and neat the new surface looks now we have finally been able to do it!. Old and worn equipment has been removed and we have been able to increase the play space considerably.

In a few weeks time lots of colour will be added to the playground surface. We have a range of games and sports markings that will be added to the playground and these will encourage active play and fun learning. We will also be fundraising over the year to increase the amount of equipment the children can play with at lunchtime. This week it has been excellent to see that we now have space for tennis nets and other sporting activities to be set up in the playground as a result of the changes. . We are also incredibly lucky to have such a large school field and in November we will be planting lots of extra trees and bushes on the field- exciting times!

Dates for your diary

Year 6 Secondary School Transfer Meeting -

Monday 18th Sept @ 6.00pm

Staff Development day

Friday 13th October

Half Term

Monday 23rd Oct - Fri 27th Oct.
2023

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this last week was:

1st place: 3NI

2nd place: 4SG

3rd place: 6RH

**It will be a non-uniform
day for on, well done!**



Key Reminders:

- Please can all parents and carers be extra careful when dropping off around St Dunstan's Close gate. I continue to be really concerned at the number of parents, often with prams or young children, who stand or walk in the road by the gate. This is incredibly dangerous and also adds to the general traffic congestion. Please can all families walk on the pavements to keep us all safe and help avoid any accidents. Please also move away from the gates once you have dropped your child to give space for the other children to enter. Many thanks for your support to keep our children safe.
- Please consider not driving to school but if you have no option please consider parking a couple of streets away and walking the last little part to help with congestion and road safety.
- Please can I also remind parents not to park or walk on the driveways of local residents. This is a residential area and we must always be respectful of our neighbours.



Safeguarding: **GOOGLE FAMILY LINK**

Due to the increase in issues with online safety, appropriate use of technology and the dangers of social media, I cannot stress enough the need for parents/carers to be monitoring how children are utilising technology and ensuring they are doing so safely and responsibly. It is you as parents/carers responsibility to do this.

As well as physically spending time checking your child's devices which is vital, a really helpful app that I can not recommend enough is **Google Family Link**. This app allows parents to monitor who their children are talking to online and shares their location, so for walking to and from home, this is perfect, including having control over what your child is posting, sharing and downloading. It gives parents/carers control of what apps their child is allowed to have access to; finally, it can even control when the child has access to the phone and when it is downtime. It is a highly beneficial app for parents wanting to support their child's independence but also teaching them responsibility. The app is available in the Android Play store to download or the Apple App Store.

Well-Being:

Self-Care September 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly
4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'	8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok
11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one	14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break	15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself
18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories	21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside	22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love
 25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans	28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn	29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are	

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**

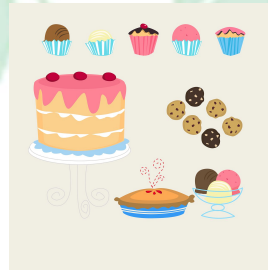
Events:

Vocabulary Day

Taking place on Thursday 21st September 2023. We are asking children to dress up as a word. The word should be an adjective, verb or adverb. There will be prizes for children who are especially creative with their choice of word/costume! Good luck!

Worlds Largest Coffee Morning!

In aid of supporting Macmillan we will be selling cakes in the playground after school on Friday 29th September. Further information to follow!



Principal awards:

Congratulations to the following children who have received a Principal Award this month.
Very well done!



Family Support worker focus:

Being a parent is extremely rewarding and enjoyable but it isn't always easy. It can very demanding, frustrating and tiring. For parenting to be a positive experience and in order to achieve this, children need to be able to communicate their needs, explore and manage their emotions and feel confident as they grow up.

Dealing with children's behaviour can be challenging and very stressful and having a positive approach to parenting that promotes their development and manage behaviour and emotions can make parenting a more enjoyable experience and promotes a positive, nurturing environment for children.

Tips for making a positive and nurturing environment for children

- Spend time with your child – short frequent amounts of quality time are very important.
- Children need to feel valued. Make time for them and be available to them.
- Speak nicely – this conveys respect and teaches them how to speak nicely to others.
- Listen and talk to your child often – ask your child about their day. Children learn to express themselves through conversation. Keep communication open as this builds close relationships. Share your day with them and talk about things that they are interested in.
- Be affectionate – children need to feel loved and cared for. Give your child affectionate that they feel comfortable with.
- Give your child attention – Show an interest in what your child is doing and be available when they want to share something with them.
- Praise – children love being praised. Use descriptive praise to encourage positive behaviour eg thank you for tidying up. Your child knows exactly what they did well. Some children may find praise embarrassing or uncomfortable so a smile or thumbs up can show that you are pleased with them.
- Praise good behaviour - when your child behaves well praise them as this encourages behaviour that you want. Use consequence to deal with negative behaviour eg remove a toy or activity/give them time out.

Take home messages

- **Create a warm, loving, safe environment**
- **Use positive strategies to encourage good behaviour and use consequence to deal with negative behaviour**
- **Have realistic expectations of your child**
- **Take care of yourself – You are very important!**

For more information or if you need support with your child's behaviour, please call Margaret O'Donovan on 07771 614981.

Curriculum Showcase:

Nursery

What a great start to the Nursery! The children have enjoyed exploring all the new activities in the indoor and outdoor learning areas.



Curriculum Showcase:

Reception

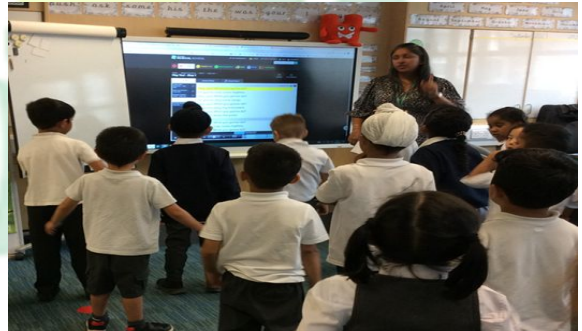


Reception have settled well into their first week of school. They have enjoyed getting to know their peers and explore the learning in their new classrooms. We are looking forward to the year ahead.

Curriculum Showcase:

Year 1

Year one have had a lovely start to the year, exploring lots of new subjects and showing their teachers all the wonderful things they had learnt in reception. The teachers have all been very proud of how the children have settled so well and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.



Aim: I can sort objects by colour, size and type.

Today the children worked in pairs, they were given a number of different objects on their tables which they sorted based on their characteristics.



Curriculum Showcase:

Year 2

Year 2 have settled back into school really well and enjoyed spending some time reading outside in the shade. We introduced our topic for Autumn 1 'Sensational Safari' and created some African sunset Art.



Curriculum Showcase:

Year 3

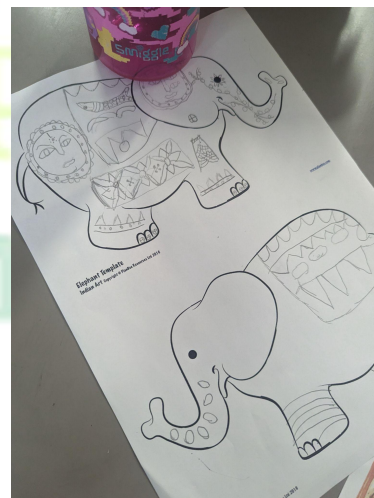
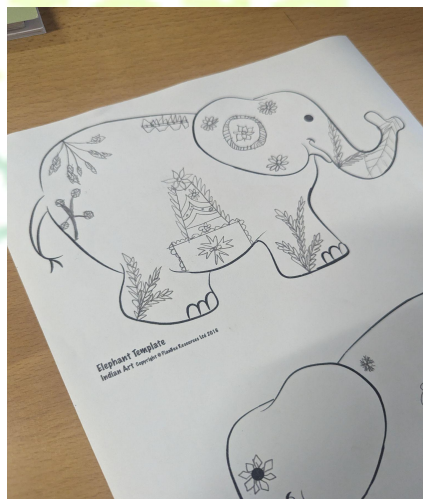
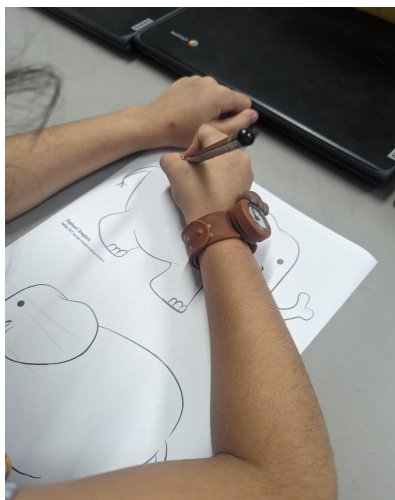
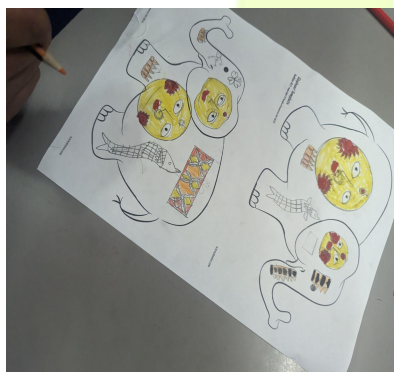
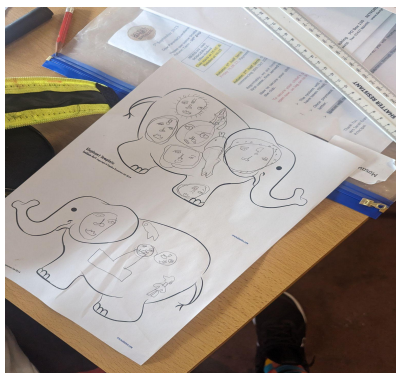


Bonjour! Year 3 had loads of fun having their first French lesson with Madame Mezrit, where they learnt French greetings! Au revoir.

Curriculum Showcase:

Year 4

Year 4 have been getting creative with using Indian patterns to design their own elephants as part of their new Art unit. Here are some examples of their fabulous work!



Curriculum Showcase:

Year 5

Year 5 Learning about states of matter and what a solid is.



Curriculum Showcase:

Year 6

Year 6 have been thinking about their hopes and dreams at the start of Year 6 during their PSHE lesson this week. Many have set themselves ambitious and positive goals.

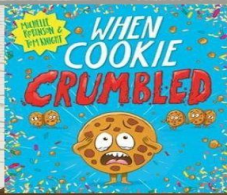


Mrs Hall's Recommended Reads

September 2023 Issue



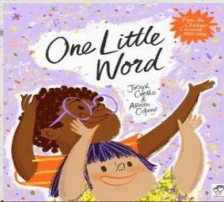
Nursery and Reception



Michael the cookie loves standing out from the batch, but the other cookies disapprove. Can Michael find a way to be himself? Funny rhyming text and fabulous illustrations, with themes of friendship and acceptance.

When Cookie Crumbled by Michelle Robinson

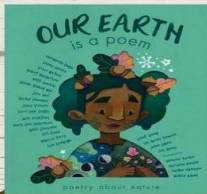
Year 1 and 2



This is a poignant picture book about the power of friendship and knowing when to say sorry. The gentle, lyrical text from Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho handles the familiar heightened emotions of playground-fall outs in a way that feels sincere and authentic.

One Little Word by Joseph Coelho

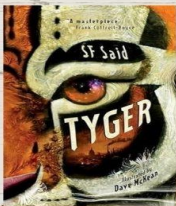
Year 3 and 4



A stunning collection of poems, beautifully illustrated, that explores and celebrate nature in its various magnificent forms. Perfect for reading aloud, and for curling up with.

Our Earth is a Poem by Various authors

Year 5 and 6



From the acclaimed author of Varjak Paw comes a compelling story of a world on the brink of destruction and the magical animal discovered in a London rubbish dump that might just be able to save it. For an engaged reader this will be a rich experience. A book to cherish and read again.

Tyger by SF Ssid