



Wednesday 9th February 2022

Newsletter 4 - February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The media have been reporting recently on high levels of staff absence in schools. Sadly, the reporting reflects what is actually happening in our schools. This half term, we have experienced high staff absence in school, some absences related to Covid but also absence related to other viruses. Ordinarily, staff absence is rare for us. Fortunately, we have been able to continue to deliver education face-to-face but I know some schools haven't been able to do so, and have had to return to remote learning. My sincere thanks go to all our staff who have stepped up to do additional duties over the past few weeks.

Similarly, we have an increasing number of Covid cases in children and we have had many children off with Chicken pox, upset stomachs and flu like symptoms. I am hoping that the half-term holiday will create a bit of a "fire-break" and the spread of the germs will cease. In the meantime, continue to be cautious and don't send your child into school if they have a high temperature or are coughing. In addition, children must remain off school for 48 hours if they have had sickness or diarrhoea.

Open the Book

We were delighted to welcome back members of St Michael's Church. Due to Covid the volunteers have been unable to attend school for the past two years. They deliver fortnightly assemblies (called Open The Book) linked to stories from the Bible. As you can see the children are engrossed in the story and enjoy the lively delivery.



Our children are reminded regularly in the assemblies that Christianity is one of many religions and that there are other faiths and beliefs.

Lunar New Year 2022



Thank you to our Mandarin Teacher Mrs Cui for coming to school and sharing with the children how Lunar New Year is celebrated by families in Asia. The children found out all about the customs linked to the festival. We also heard why the festival has changed from Chinese New Year to Lunar New Year.

Safer Internet Day February

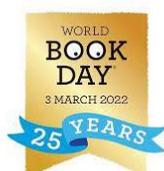
Earlier this week, Mr Young delivered an assembly to the children about keeping safe online. This is something that we will talk about in our computing lessons and it is important that parents/carers revisit this at home. Some children have been talking about viewing inappropriate material at home (such as Squid Game) on Youtube channels. Therefore, please monitor what your children are watching on their devices and who they are communicating with, especially if there is a chat function on their device.

Below are some useful websites for parents/carers:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/parental-controls>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfcvbk/articles/zkcj92p>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>



World Book Week

At Black Horse Hill Infants we pride ourselves on promoting a love of reading all year. We do however recognise the enormous benefits of participating in World Book Day and how the initiative further raises the profile of reading for pleasure.

Always popular with the children is the dress-up day, which this year is on **Thursday 3rd March**. Please send your child to school dressed up as a character from a book.

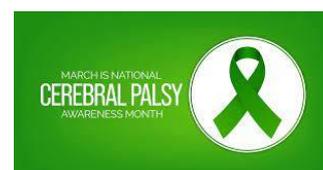
In addition, we are having a poster competition. Can your child design a poster (no larger than A3) to encourage children to read? Each child will receive a piece of A3 paper to complete their design. The winning entry will be displayed in Lingham's bookshop in Heswall. Why not complete the poster over the half-term break. Closing date for the competition is Friday 4th March.



Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month

All our BHHIS pupils are amazing but we have a particularly special young man in our F1 class called Theo. Theo has Cerebral Palsy but it certainly doesn't stop him from having fun with his friends and enjoying every minute of school life.

Theo is currently learning to communicate using eye-gaze technology and he has impressed us all with how quickly he has picked it up.



On Friday 18th March, we are holding a non-uniform day, to raise awareness and to celebrate all of the wonderful children with Cerebral Palsy. We ask that children wear something green on this day. Our parents/carers may wish to donate direct to the charity or give a donation to Theos's fund raising page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/theosfight> or [facebook/Instagram #theosfight](https://www.facebook.com/theosfight).

Parent/Governor Coffee morning

Haven't got anywhere to go on Valentines day then make a date with us! Please join us for a cup of coffee and a tasty treat on Monday 14th February. Our govenors and senior leaders want to know your views about what we do well and what we could do better. It will be a very informal event. I look forward to seeing you there.

Foundation 1 Places

Do you have a child born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 ? We are currently taking applications for places in our Foundation 1 provision. Please contact the school office for an application form.

Before and After School in the playground.

This is a polite reminder that children should not be riding their scooter or bike in the playground. Please ensure that your child dismounts from their scooter or bike at the storage rack which is located near the school gate.

Moreover, children **should not** be using the play equipment before or after school. This is for use during the school day when children are closely supervised by school staff.

PE days for next half-term (no change from last half-term)

Monday- Year 2EA PE

Monday Year 1 DH

Tuesday- Yr1 CY

Thursday –Year 2 TM

Friday- Foundation 2 PE day

February

- Monday 14th February - Coffee morning. Opportunity for parents/carers to meet our governors and share their views of the school
- w/c 14th February - Parent/Teacher meetings
- Friday 18th February - Non Uniform Day. Children finish for half-term break
- Monday 28th February - Staff Development day (Teachers only)

March

- Tuesday 1st March - Children return to school after half-term
- Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day. Children dress up as book characters
- Friday 18th March - Wear something green for Cerebral Palsy Awareness
- w/c 21st March Neuro-diversity week
- Tuesday 22nd March - Fun Food Chef Year 2
- Thursday 31st March - Year 2 Everyman Theatre Trip

April

- Wednesday 6th April - Rock Steady Concert (invited guests only)
- Friday 8th April - Children finish school for Easter holiday.
- Monday 25th April - Children return to school.

May

- Tuesday 3rd May - Additional Bank Holiday for Queen's Jubilee
- Year 2 Statutory Assessments
- Friday 27th May - Finish for half-term

June

- Monday 6th June - Staff Development Day
- Monday 13th June - Breakfast Judo club
- Tuesday 14th June - Class Photographs
- Year 1 Phonic screening check

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher