

Newsletter Winter Term – 16.02.2024

What happened this week in school?

It has certainly been a busy week here at Dr Walkers! We have had the Pancake Breakfast, which was a huge success. Love was in the air on Valentine's Day and we had our dress up in red or white day on Friday!

We also welcomed Lent. Ash Wednesday is the first day of lent. The ashes we wear on our foreheads come from the blessed palms from last year's Palm Sunday. Ashes call us to remember our beginning and end as Christians. Lent is the 40 days of preparation leading up to Holy Week, which celebrates the Passion, Death and Resurrection



of Christ. Christ has risen, Christ has risen!

Our Wonderful Governor, Jill Smylie treated the staff to an array of homemade cakes, which I am sure you will agree is a very kind thought!



Roots and Fruits







This term's focus will be on the words of Jesus.

British Value of the term





Democracy



Attendance target: 96%

	Reception class 98%
	Yeas 1 and 2 95%
	Years 3 and 4 90%
	Years 5 and 6 90%
Whole school	93%

House Points








Ants		1211
Badgers		1098
Locusts		1195
Lizards		1098

Picture News – This week's Big Question...



Should we learn sign language at school?

Value Awards

	Reception	Poppy	Hope: For participating more confidently.
	Courage		
	Years 1 and 2	Diane	For settling well within our class.
	Years 3 and 4	Cassidy	Willing to try new things.
	Years 5 and 6	Harley	For being brave during our class assembly.
	Creativity		
	Years 1 and 2	Amelia	Using great vocabulary in her work.
	Years 3 and 4	Phoebe	Great ideas in class.
	Years 5 and 6	Gabriella	For an outstanding self-portrait in Art!
	Respect		
	Years 1 and 2	Lucas	Always addressing adults and his peers politely.
	Years 3 and 4	Amelia	Always respectful in class.
	Years 5 and 6	Talia	For always treating all with a lot of respect.
	Compassion		
	Years 1 and 2	Jesse	For all his kindness and care towards his friends.
	Years 3 and 4	Kai	Caring towards others.
	Years 5 and 6	Barney	For being thoughtful to other people's feelings.
	Perseverance		
	Years 1 and 2	Scarlett	For trying hard with her maths.
	Years 3 and 4	Daisy	Keeps trying.
	Years 5 and 6	George	For trying hard with area and perimeter this week.
	Responsibility		
	Years 1 and 2	Knightly	For great attitude and independent approach to his learning.
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Cus	Willing to do jobs for the class.
	Years 5 and 6	Archie	For completing tasks to the best of his ability.
	Hope		
	Years 1 and 2	Loki	For trying to improve his presentation.
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Cur	Willing to improve.
	Years 5 and 6	Ralph	For always going over maths corrections to improve understanding.

Classroom News



Reception Red Class

Reception were busy creating and writing their own algorithm for Computing – All about Instructions - this week.

They discussed how to brush their teeth and talked through each step.

After, they used the giant teeth to consolidate their algorithm and then took turns to write each step!



Click [here](#) to visit our school website to see more photos that have been added to our gallery section.



Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

This week Orange-Yellow class has been discussing how to be safe near the road. The children came up with scenarios that they acted out and also created a list of rules that they should follow to be safe while crossing the road.

We have also spoken about our fast approaching half term and what to do to stay safe and healthy during that week.

Some of the ideas about being safe during the half term:

- Always listen to your parents.
- Tell them where you are going and with whom.
- Do not spend too much time in front of a screen.
- Move more – go for a walk, play in the park!
- READ!
- Eat your fruit and veg - not only when your parents tell you.
- Have some quality family time.



Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class

Roman Britain

This week, we researched what it was like being in the Roman Army! We found out that a soldier had to work for 25 years before he could retire and become a Roman citizen. It was hard work being a soldier in Roman Britain. They had to take care of their armour and practise fighting. They used many kinds of weapons, but their shield was very important. We made our own shields in class and decorated them as the romans would have!



Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class

This week we continued our persuasive unit in English. We decided to debate on the motion: Should children have a 3 day weekend?

Some of the reasons for:

- Pupils to have a longer rest,
- To learn from life,
- To give teachers more time to plan lessons,
- It will be more cost efficient for schools as they will only have to pay electricity etc for 4 days instead of 5.

Some of the reasons against:

- You will most probably get lower scores in, your tests as you are not in school as much as you should be,
- If you are at home for 3 days you will be spending too much time on your PlayStation and other devices etc.
- You will eat more junk food as you are at home and the school dinners are healthier.

Information

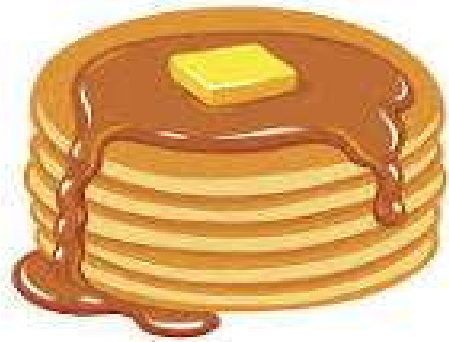
Pancake Breakfast



We ate lots of yummy pancakes on Tuesday, the children had a fantastic time and so did the parents and staff!

The pancake tossing was won by George Donovan and all the children in the Badgers' house were given house points. Well done to all the children in year 5 and 6 who represented their houses!

Thank you to the parents who worked so hard on this for the children









Water Bottles



Please be aware that glass water bottles are not permitted in school for safety reasons, please provide a plastic water bottle for your child. Thank you for your kind understanding regarding this matter.

Valentine's Day Dress up

We had lots of fun with our Red & White Dressing up day.....





Mobile Library Bus Visit

We had another visit from Ruth Stickley, our Librarian Outreach contact, who came to explain more about the Mobile Library Bus that visits our local area.



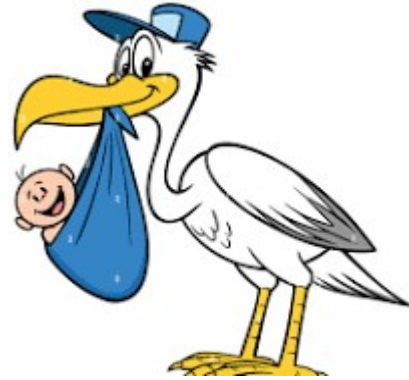
Just before lunchtime, Reception class were very lucky to visit the local Mobile Library Bus. Many already had library cards, and some parents completed a form for their child to receive a card during the visit. We had a lot of fun looking at the huge range of books – over 2,000 – that are available on the bus! Thank you to the parents who attended the assembly and to Mr Laurence who accompanied us!

Did you know that there are only TWO Mobile Library Buses that cover the Essex area?



Welcome to the world!

We are pleased to announce the safe arrival of baby Rya to the world. Hugo, Harley and Hunter are very proud of their new little sister. Hugo commented "She's very chilled".



Welcome to Dr Walkers!

We would like to welcome Patrick to Dr Walkers, he will be in Reception Red Class, if you see Patrick around the school, please give him a wave!



A Big Shout Out!

We would like to thank our wonderful parents, and staff for arranging and helping with the Pancake Breakfast. Team Work really is Dream Work! I am sure you will agree the Children had a marvellous time!



Thank You

We have so many wonderful parents here, who always help and support our community school. We would like to thank Graham Laurence for his kind donation of Harry Potter books for our older children to read, it was most kind of you to think of the children.



Independent Learning



Lucas has been practising his tricky words at home, all independent work on his white board. Well done Lucas!



Beginning Of Lent

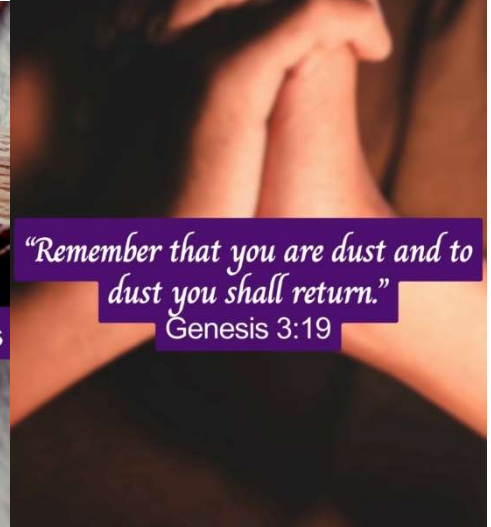
Shrove Tuesday set us up nicely for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, we can now reflect on the forty days and nights in the lead up to Holy Week and Easter. It also helps us to think and appreciate our many blessings.



Ash Wednesday is the **first** day of Lent.



Lent is the **40** days of preparation leading up to **Holy Week**, which celebrates the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.



"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."
Genesis 3:19

Lateness



Please can you ensure that you arrive at school before 8.45am, as registers are closed at 8.45am. Anyone arriving after this time will be recorded as late. Thank you for your kind understanding in relation to this matter.

Dinner Money



Please ensure that all Dinner Money is paid in advance of booking a school dinner, there should be a credit balance on your account. Thank you for your kind attention.

Parent Pamper Session



Dear Parents / carers,
Following the success of our recent Parent Temple Spa Wellbeing session, and as a thank you for all your support this term we would like to offer you a free pamper afternoon in school on **Wednesday 28th February**.
It's like a pop-up spa boutique in school where everyone enjoys a bespoke guided facial, learns lots of skincare hints and tips and leaves feeling relaxed and rejuvenated!
It starts at 1.30pm and will be finished by 3pm in time for you to collect your children.

This is a chance for you to unwind, pamper yourselves, and sample some really luxurious Temple Spa products. You might even like to treat yourself to something at the end, although this is optional.

Numbers are limited to 12, however if more are interested we can put on further sessions.

To secure your space, please contact Sue direct on 07891061674 and she will book you in and give you more information.

Information



16.02.24	Half Term Begins
26.02.24	Back to School
04.03.24	Scholastic – Schools Live event for Orange Yellow Class
05.03.24	Scholastic – Schools Live event for Green Blue and Indigo Violet Class
05.03.24	Epping & Ongar District Cross Country : Ongar Primary
06.03.24	Scholastic – Schools Live event for Red Class Reception
07.03.24	World Book Day – Special Menu, please book a school dinner!
08.03.24	Mother's Day Biscuit Sale
08.03.24	Reception & Year 5 Road Safety 12.45 to 3pm – more information to follow
14.03.24	Orange Yellow Class Trip to House on the Hill Toy Museum. More details to follow.
15.03.24	Science Experiments for Parents to watch
15.03.24	Red Nose Day – Comic Relief
21.03.24	World Poetry Day
22.03.24	Assembly Poetry/ Shakespeare Performance
28.03.24	Break Up for Easter
15.04.24	Back to School



Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

Term and Holiday Dates - Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
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							30	31													

December 2023							January 2024							February 2024						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29			

March 2024							April 2024							May 2024						
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June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

	School closed: Holidays		School closed: Bank Holiday		School closed: Staff training (INSET)		School days		Weekend
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In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term	Monday, 4 September 2023 – Wednesday, 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term	Thursday, 4 January 2024 – Thursday, 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February – 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term	Monday, 15 April 2024 – Tuesday, 23 July 2024 <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday – 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

You are strongly advised to check with the school before making any holiday or other commitments.