



## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

No 26 – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

### NEW READING SCHEME



Fantastic news! Our new reading scheme has arrived in school!

Our work now begins on labelling up the new books and ensuring any good books from the old scheme are incorporated within the new scheme. To enable us to do this, we are asking that all reading scheme books are back in school for **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**.

We appreciate that this means that, for a short time, the children won't have a reading scheme book to enjoy; however they will still have their library book, and will be encouraged to change it in their library slot or at lunch time. We aim to have the whole thing running within a 2 week period of time.

Once the scheme is up and running, Miss Lewis, our Phase 3 Leader and Reading Leader will invite you in to have a look, and to explain how it all works!

### CHILDREN IN NEED – FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER



Just a reminder that the school will be taking part in the Children in Need Day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. We ask that, in return for a family donation, children come dressed in MUFTI or 'Children in Need' inspired clothing.



## INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOS - WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER



We have the individual & sibling photos for children on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

This year, the school will open early at **8 a.m.** to have sibling photos taken with **any siblings currently not attending the school.** If your children are all attending here at the school, don't worry – their sibling photos will be organised throughout the school day.

If you have any questions at all, please contact Kate or Rachel in the school office.

## THE ELECTION 2019



Although the General Election is coming up in December, we are pleased to let you know that there school will **not** be used as a polling station!

PLACC have kindly agreed with the council that they are happy to be the polling station, and we will accommodate PLACC's before and after school provision here within the school. So it is business as usual on polling day for us all!



HOT OFF THE PRESS... OUR YEAR 5/6 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION WILL BE...



...THE SNOW QUEEN!

Mr McDonald and the Y5/6 teams will soon be getting to work on auditions, songs and dances for our big Christmas production!

WHAT'S ON IN THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM THIS TERM

RECEPTION:



Our new topic is 'Blast Off!' This term, the children will be learning all about the solar system and space! This topic will challenge the children's inquiry and investigation skills. In our role play areas, the children will have an opportunity to be astronauts in the international space station. There will be rocket building in the construction area, and all of the writing and number activities will be space themed.

Later in the term, we are very excited to have a visit from the explorer dome (an inflatable planetarium!) where the children will have an introduction to the moon, stars and the beauty of the night time sky!



## YEAR ONE:



Ni Hao! Year one are learning about China this term! We will be looking at where China is using maps, and we will be finding out all about Chinese culture and how it is different to ours. We are very excited to look at how New Year is celebrated in China, and the fantastic carnivals that are held. We will be learning lots of different Mandarin phrases - the first of which we have already tackled - Hello!

## YEAR TWO



This term, Year 2 will be introducing the topic: Blue Planet, with a focus on plastic pollution and the impact it has on our environment and the animals (in particular the ocean).

We will also explore the properties of plastic, uses of plastic, good/bad choices when using plastic and how we can use plastic more effectively to help the environment. We hope this will highlight the importance of looking after our planet and being aware of the impact some choices can have resulting in an encouragement for the children to make positive choices with plastic.

The topic will involve lots of investigating, practical activities to help in our local environment, debating, letter writing and drama.



### YEAR THREE



This term, Year 3 are excited to begin with a topic based on Australia called, 'Living in a Land Down Under'.

We will study and celebrate aboriginal art focusing on the techniques used, symbolism and stories that inspire the artists. The topic will also involve looking at the important landmarks and the cities of that continent. The topic will culminate with a non-chronological report on what they have found out.

### YEAR FOUR



This term, Year 4 we will be going on a 'Polar Expedition' heading on a journey to Antarctica! The children will be learning all about this unique continent focusing particularly on the causes and impact of climate change, as well as using the green screen to produce an interactive weather report. We will also be producing an icy landscape by experimenting with different tools and tones to create a sense of place and atmosphere.

Our English work will also link to this topic as the children will become crew members of Ernest Shackleton's 1914 expedition to the South Pole, writing recounts and adventure stories.



## YEAR FIVE



For the first few weeks of this term, we are carrying on with our Britain at War topic to give us the opportunity to learn about and commemorate Remembrance Day.

We have got a celebration day planned to end the topic, where the children will have an opportunity to dress up, look at and touch real WW2 artifacts and take part in a wide range of activities, such as code breaking. We're also hoping to see lots of you at our VE Day party to celebrate the end of the war with us and a special guest, who will be able to talk to the children about her experiences during WW2!

After this, we will spend the last few weeks in the run up to Christmas studying an artist and recreating some of their work using a range of techniques and materials - in between rehearsals for our Phase 3 production of the Snow Queen!

## YEAR SIX



This term, in and around the build up to our annual Phase 3 Christmas Production, Year 6 will be working on their own democratic project: 'Principal For A Day'.

Their project will build from a foundation in learning around democracy (linking to their growing understanding of British Values), and then develop into an awareness and understanding of our government, policies and how decisions are made. At a time in British politics where it makes daily news and is a household discussion, it seems a wonderful opportunity to immerse Year 6 in decisions that will have a direct effect on them in their later years. Year 6 will debate current political Party's manifestos,



considering the pros and cons and even take part in their own mock election where they can vote on December 13th for who they'd like to win the General Election!

Additionally, during the term, the children will use their understanding of manifestos and democracy to put themselves forward for leading their own political Party where they'll drive their Party in their promises or contribute to the Party they support. From this, each child will be assigned an integral role within their Party for contributing towards their hoped success: marketing, speech writing, and public speaking etc - all vital roles a political Party must behold if they are to win a General Election.

The children will pitch their manifestos (areas in and around school they would like to improve/have an impact on) to Phase 2 and 3 who will vote on who they would like to 'run' the school. The winning Party's Leader will then have the opportunity to be 'Principal For A Day' alongside Mrs Coles, wearing work clothes, have their own chair in the office and making important decisions!

### FRIENDS OF PARKLANDS PRICE MATCHING

If any of our parents work in a company that price matches, please do get in touch with our Friends group, or the school itself.

Price matching on our fundraising would enable us to raise double, and we really need this if we hope to achieve that outside classroom space!

### INVITATION TO CELEBRATE THE UN RIGHTS OF THE CHILD 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON



The University of Northampton would like to invite you to join them for a book launch and children's activities to mark the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Rights of the Child. The event takes place on Tuesday 12.11.19 at 4.30-5.30pm at The Owl's Nest in the Learning Hub at The University of Northampton Waterside Campus NN1 5PH.

To book: Contact Dr Jane Murray directly at: [jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:jane.murray@northampton.ac.uk) using the subject UN@UoN Tickets for this event are limited, so you are encouraged to book quickly if you are interested.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** – Individual School Photos

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November** - FOPPS Film Night

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 9.05am & 2.30pm** - Reception Nativity

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Flu Vaccinations

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Jumper Day

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Craft Afternoon (whole school) –from 2 pm in your child’s classroom. (We will have the reindeers at school from 2pm -4pm on this day, and the friends will be selling hot chocolate and drawing a Christmas raffle!)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 2pm & 6.30 pm/ Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm**  
Year 5/6 Christmas Production – (all details and tickets will be organised closer to the event)

**19<sup>th</sup> December** - FOPPS Christmas Disco (3.30pm – 4.30pm for YR, 1, 2 & 3; 4.45pm – 5.45 pm for Y4, 5 & 6)

**20<sup>th</sup> December** – School breaks up for the Christmas break.

Have a lovely weekend!

Here are some images from this week:



Rainforest creatures in Y4 (from last term!)



An astronaut in Reception:





Year 5 building the perfect friend:



A winning Y6 football team:





Volleyball in Y6:



Building webs on the 'Wild Walk'

