

Dear Parents and Carers

May is here and our very busy summer term is well underway.

The school has been a super busy place with so many different events to enrich our curriculum and our school life in every week of this half term—we have also had many different visitors coming to work with us. It has been a pleasure to welcome people from different schools, our own Governors, Soundstorm, as well as the Police, a Doctor and Nurses—all very helpful people! External advisors have also visited, giving us an opportunity to reflect on our school development priorities which this year, have primarily been Mathematics and Kinetics Letters—handwriting. It was extremely pleasing to have our success and hard work in these two areas noted—and for the children's ongoing progress to be recognised—for all children whatever their stage of development. Another review also recognised the calm, organised and purposeful environments that the school provides for our children that reflects our school values. Apparently our school also smells lovely...for that we thank Angie and the team of cleaners that work here!

A massive thanks again to the PFA as they are busy planning this year's Summer festival and this weeks Quiz Night - the fundraising is tremendous and we hope to now order and instal an outside canopy to provide some additional shade before the year is out! The work, funds and grants secured by our parents/carers, as well as Mr Warriner, is reflected in the allotment area—look at the photos to see how this area has changed into a cared for and purposeful space over the years—thanks to everyone's commitment.

Time certainly moves along quickly and so Year 2 transition commences this month, with a visit on May 18th from QPA children in Year 3 to talk with each class and answer some questions...watch out for the Year 2 weekly updates to see the experiences planned for them over the coming weeks; it will be lovely to see some of our former pupils back with us for a bit...

Enjoy the quiz night ...and the pudding raffle—if you are coming on Friday—and I will no doubt see many of you at the Sports morning events next week—here's hoping for dry and warm weather....let's cheer and encourage our children together in their races and have also have some fun! I will be writing once more before the end of term to share exciting news in relation to building work that will begin in the May holiday ...ahead of more change for all at QPIA in the Autumn Term.

Thankyou to everyone for all the support and care you show our school.



A happy school; learning, caring, succeeding together





TROPHIES



3 more well deserved children were awarded the 'Be Successful' trophies for this half term.

Mrs Edwards and Miss Donald are rightly proud of Ella in Barn Owls, Liliana in Otters and Kiara in Grasshoppers.

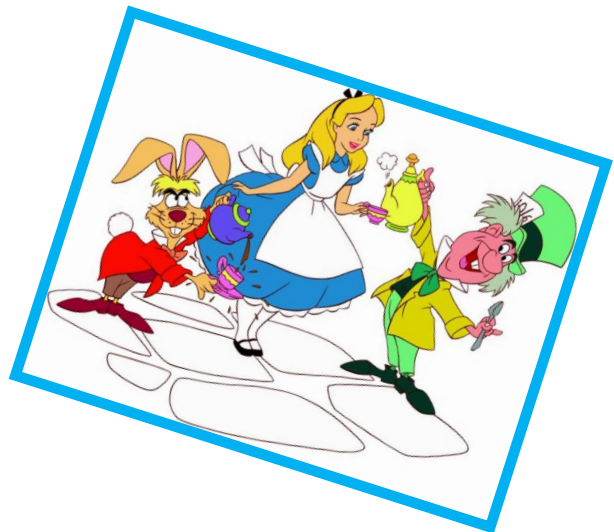


THE 200 READS TEA PARTIES



Will Your Child Reach 200 Reads?

There are 5 tea parties in Mrs Edwards' diary between now and the end of term. The 200 Reads parties are great fun, as well as a celebration of a real commitment to reading, so if your child is close to 200 reads, keep going!!



MATHS

This half term, we welcomed an external consultant to reflect on our curriculum, with one of the areas of focus being mathematics. It was a positive and productive day for both staff and children, and we would like to share some feedback that highlights the success of maths teaching across the school and the positive impact it is having on children's learning.

Pupils' understanding and ability to use correct terminology are developing well.

Children respond positively, remaining clearly excited and focused throughout lessons.

It was particularly pleasing to see a strong focus on the teaching of mathematical vocabulary. Key vocabulary used in lessons is revisited at the start through a dual-coded vocabulary slide, alongside a strong emphasis on 'maths talk' using a 'turn, talk and tell' approach.

This half term has been busy, as always, but the enjoyment and enthusiasm for maths is evident across all year groups.

You can support your child's maths learning at home by talking to them about what they have been learning, logging into Numbots, or practising writing numerals.



If you have any questions, please do speak to your child's class teacher.

Mr Spokes

Maths Lead

NEWS FROM EYFS

Our topic this half term is *When I Grow Up*, and we have been learning about all the different people who help us in our community. The children have been exploring the jobs people do and how they keep us safe and healthy, as well as learning about their uniforms, vehicles and responsibilities.



We were lucky to welcome Dr Reidy, who showed us the equipment she uses to help people get better.

The children loved listening to their heartbeats and asking thoughtful questions—there may be some future doctors amongst us!



NEWS FROM EYFS

We also had a visit from Mr Squires, a police officer, who brought his police car. The children enjoyed trying on uniform, seeing the flashing lights and hearing the siren.



A big **thank you** to our visitors for such exciting experiences—we now have lots of children who want to be police officers... as well as doctors!

The EYFS Team



Ru Comes to assembly for EYFS

Karen and Ru came to talk to the children about how some dogs are more than pets and can help us with everyday activities and jobs.

The children had some great ideas from Police and Rescue dogs to dogs that help people who are blind or deaf.



In school, Ru is also a working dog, and a very important part of our team. As our Therapy dog, she brings her waggy tail to see us every Wednesday and is fantastic at making people smile!

Her visits help boost self-esteem, improve concentration and have a truly positive impact on children's social and emotional wellbeing.

The assembly was also the perfect opportunity to teach the children to always ask Karen first if they can stroke Ru and to learn how to approach Ru slowly and gently.

This is also an important message for children who might meet dogs out in the community at the park or outside school.



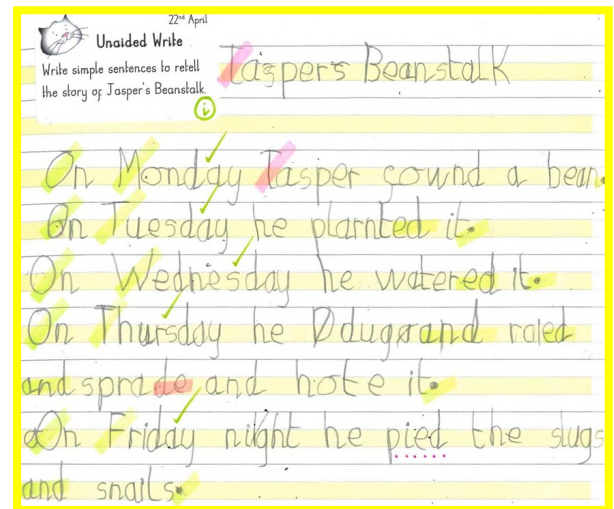
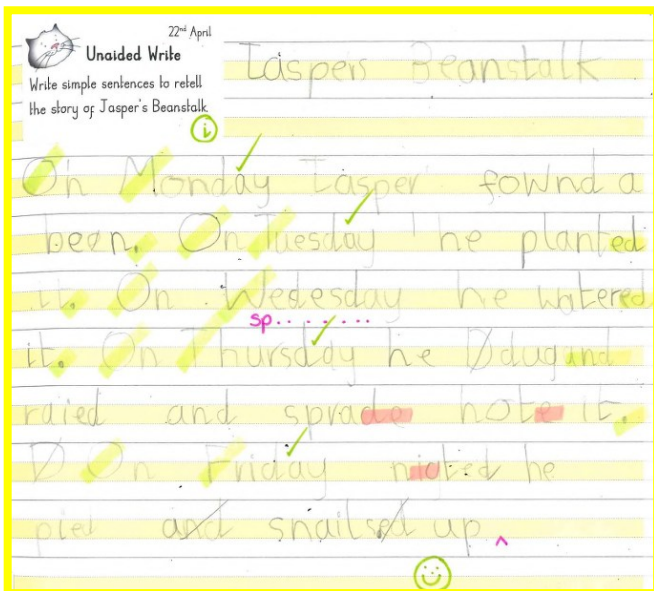
NEWS FROM YEAR 1

Year 1 have had a busy start to our Summer term.



In **English** we began by learning the story of Jasper's Beanstalk.

We created a story map and added actions to help us orally retell the story. We enjoyed learning some drama techniques to turn our story into a play. We learnt how to do freeze frames and took part in hot seating. These fun activities really helped us recall the story and produce some fabulous independent writing.

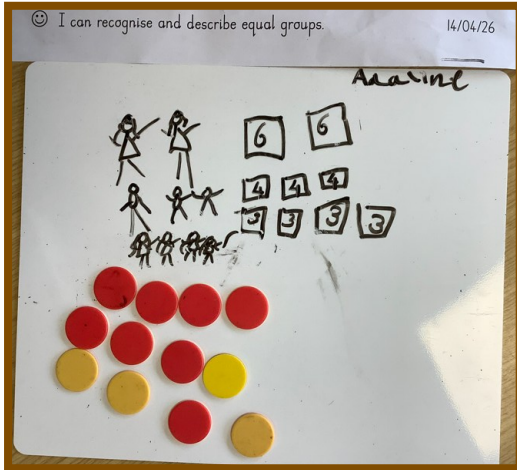


As the weather has warmed up we have enjoyed exploring our school grounds to spot flowering plants. In **Science** we have been learning about parts of a plant and really enjoyed making some wildflower seed-bombs using compost, clay powder, seeds and water..

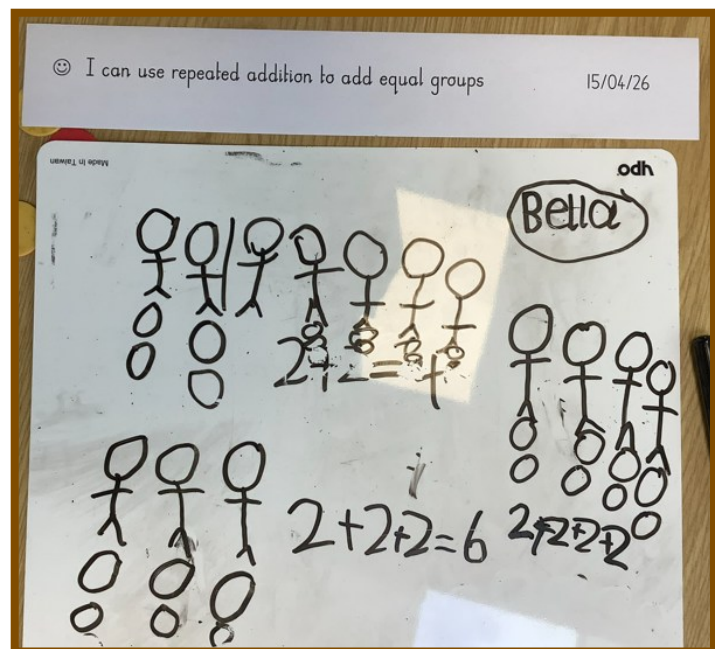


We were surprised by how many flowers we found growing in our school grounds. Many hadn't been planted so we explored how they might have got there.

NEWS FROM YEAR 1



In **Mathematics** we have been learning our double facts to 10. Please do keep practising these at home so the children can recall their doubles straight away. We began to look at division by sharing into equal groups and then the beginnings of multiplication by doing repeated addition.

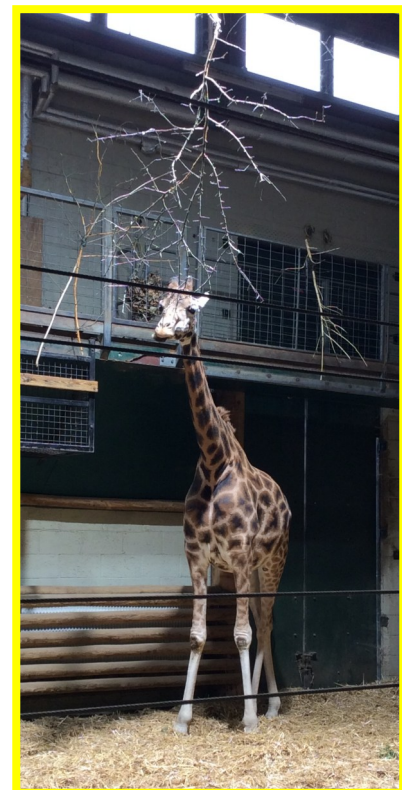


In **Geography**, we've been learning about the countries that make up the UK and their capital cities. So far, the children have looked at England and London, as well as Scotland and Edinburgh. Some children had visited London and were able to tell their friends about some of the landmarks they have seen. We've also been practising our mapping skills and learning new geography vocabulary. This work is helping us prepare for our visit to Blashford Lakes, where the children will be using coordinates and having a go at making their own maps during some exciting outdoor learning.

NEWS FROM YEAR 2

A TRIP TO MARWELL ZOO

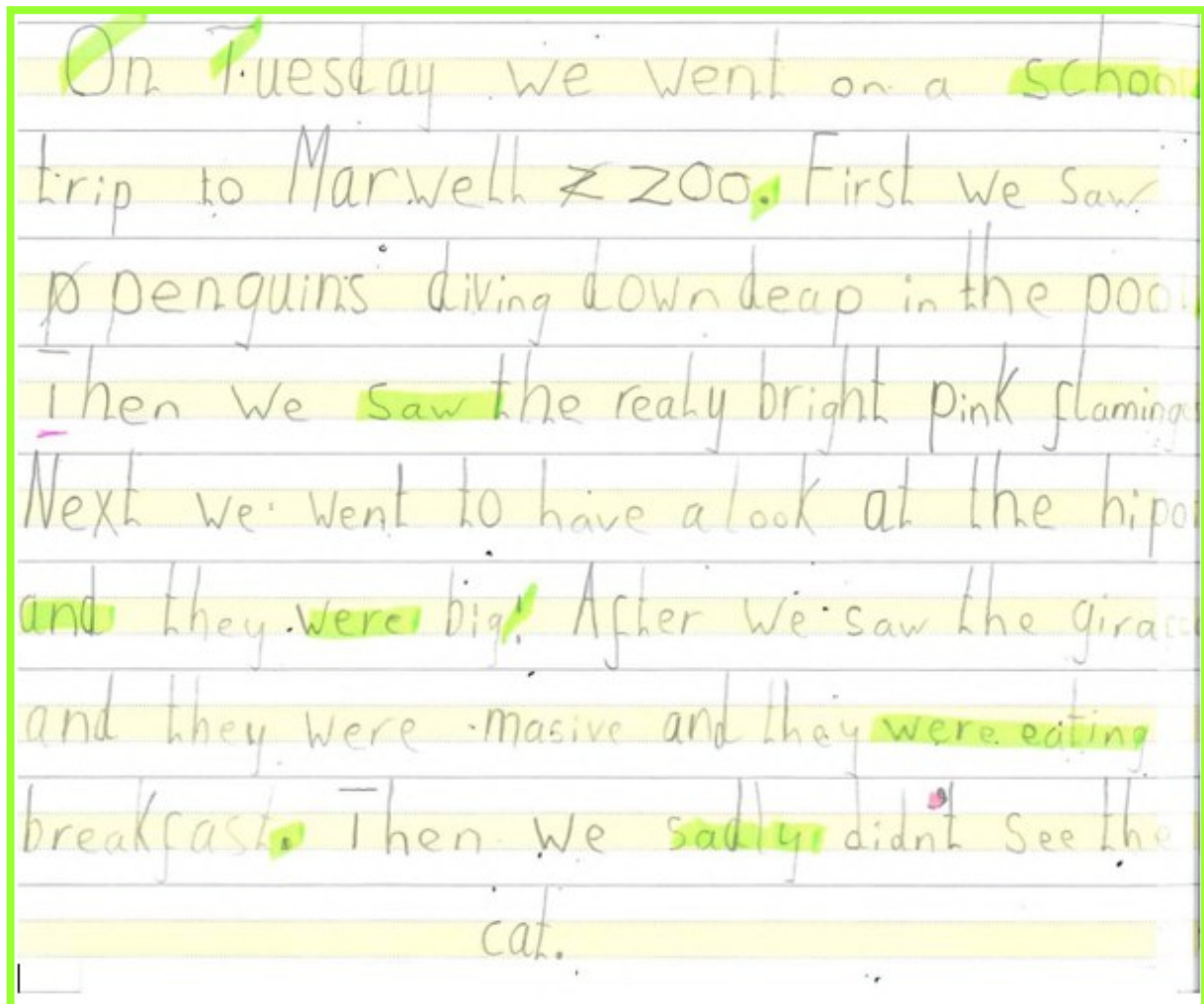
Year Two went on their trip to Marwell Zoo last week. We were so lucky with the weather and lots of the animals came to see us. We particularly enjoyed seeing the sloth and the monitor lizard in the tropical house and the monkeys were also a highlight. The children were identifying whether they were herbivore, omnivore or carnivore. We learned a lot about their habitats and whether they are endangered. The children also spotted the continents where they are from on the signs.



A TRIP TO MARWELL ZOO

We all had an amazing time. but were very tired after all that walking! Year Two were excellent role models and represented the school really well. They were polite and respectful to each other and members of the public and were very calm and quiet around the animals. We were very proud of them all!

When we returned to school the children wrote a recount of their day. This is what Marlon wrote...



On Tuesday we went on a school trip to Marwell Zoo. First we saw penguins diving down deep in the pool. Then we saw the really bright pink flamingos. Next we went to have a look at the hippos and they were big! After we saw the giraffes and they were massive and they were eating breakfast. Then we sadly didn't see the cat.

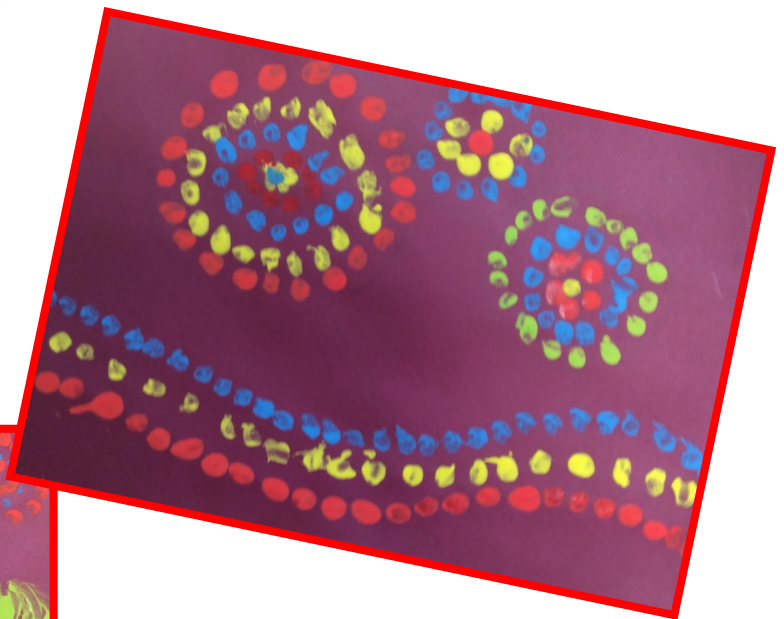
A WORLD OF ART—ART WEEK 2026

Our school was buzzing with colour and creativity as Arts Week took us on an exciting journey around the world! Each year group explored artistic styles inspired by different countries and artists, developing both their creativity and their understanding of the wider world.



In **EYFS**, the children travelled to Australia, where they learned about Aboriginal art.

They explored earthy colours and distinctive dot patterns, experimenting with a wide range of materials and art media.



It was lovely to see them develop confidence in Art as they proudly talked about their creations!

A WORLD OF ART—ART WEEK 2026

In Year One, the children were inspired by the work of Victorian botanist and intrepid traveller Marianne North. The children learnt how to mix different shades of green using powder paint, honed their drawing skills by focusing on the detail and shape of plants, and used collage to represent the diverse world of plants.



A WORLD OF ART—ART WEEK 2026



Year Two linked their art learning to their Rainforest topic, taking inspiration from the vibrant colours and patterns of Brazil. The work of contemporary artist Beatriz Milhazes inspired an exciting exploration of pattern and printmaking, resulting in bold and colourful designs.



Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed this extended opportunity to get creative! We look forward to sharing some of the children's fantastic art work with you in the coming weeks — watch this space!

Mrs Hodson—Art Lead



WATERWISE

Last week year 2 had a visit from Katie who talked to them about how we get our water. We learnt about the water cycle, where our water comes from, how it is cleaned and how it gets to our homes.



We also talked about how important water is and what we can do to save water and not be wasteful.

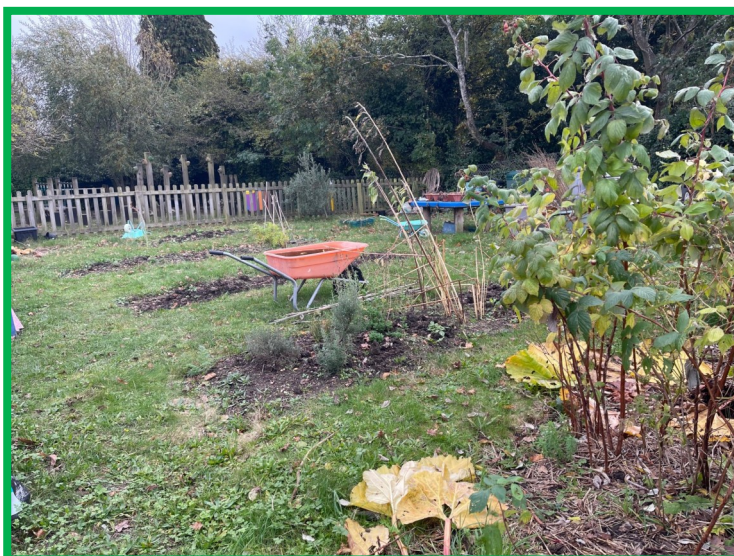
THE ALLOTMENT AND GREENHOUSE

What a transformation!!

Our allotment area has changed so much since these photos were taken in 2021.

We are so grateful for the teamwork which has enabled this to happen. Hours of weeding, digging, construction, planting..... The list goes on.

Transformation Team —
you know who you are!
We want to say a huge
THANK YOU to you all.



These are the 'BEFORE'
photos—scroll to the
next page for the
'AFTER' photos...

THE ALLOTMENT AND GREENHOUSE



Donations of both time and money have enabled us to create a fabulous allotment space!

These lovely raised beds have been planted up, and our crops are already growing!



We knew Mr Warriner can do most jobs, but now we can add 'Greenhouse Builder' to his list!



DESIGN AN ALIEN!

Upton
Country Park

ALIEN DESIGN COMPETITION

Open to all
ages, groups
and
individuals

COMPETITION RULES

Help Upton Country Park design their Halloween 2026 Trail characters. We are looking for unique and creative alien designs for our four alien characters– Astra, Estelle, Izar and Dara. Design just one or all four with the winning designs chosen by the Upton Country Park Team and used in our Halloween 2026 trail out in the Country Park!

Submissions to be returned no
later than

JULY 17 2026

For completed submissions please email these to uptoncountrypark@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or post them to The Visitor Services Team at Upton Country Park, Poole Road, Poole BH17 7BJ



SUPPORTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY



Parent Workshop with the Mental Health in School Team
15/06/26 @2.30pm

This is for Year 2 parents to support children with any fears and worries around transition to Year 3. Come along on the day to this drop-in session.

The children will also access workshop sessions with the team in their class groups on 9th June. They will learn about 'The Emotional Rollercoaster' and preparing for change.

Understanding that all emotions are normal to experience, some can feel comfortable, some can feel uncomfortable. They will also learn how to support themselves when they have uncomfortable feelings by using coping statements and grounding techniques to help bring them back to the 'now'.

Please remember that our Family Support Worker, **Mrs Parker**, is happy to help if you have any concerns that may affect your child in school. Small things, like changes in routine or illness in the family, can often impact on children, so it's good to share with us in order that we can offer our support and understanding.

Mental Health Support Team in Schools focus our work on the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

You can look out our social media channels for ideas, tips and activities to keep you busy and feeling good. Please keep in touch with us and send us your comments, pictures, photos and ideas either by emailing dhc.MHSTDorset@nhs.net or by direct messaging us through Instagram, Facebook or Twitter.



**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!**

FROM THE OFFICE TEAM...

If your child needs to be picked up during the day...

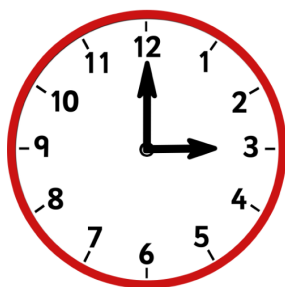
Please **let the office know** if you have to pick up your child during the school day for any reason (dentist, GP or other appointment).



If you arrive to collect your child and we are not expecting you, it might take us some time to locate them and this may delay you.

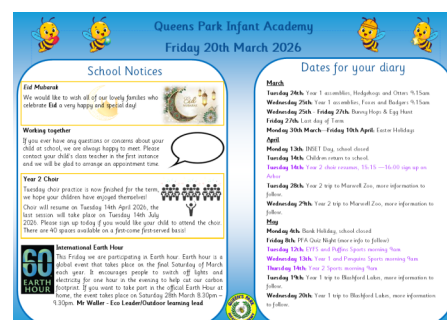
Class teachers are very busy in the mornings, and it is always easier to **come to the office and let us know** about appointments. We will make sure that the class teacher is aware..

Your Weekly Reminder!



At about 3pm every Friday, the **Weekly Reminder** pops into your inbox. Please open it over the weekend as it will give you all of the information you need for the week ahead!

If there are special events, changes to P.E. days, home learning ideas or important pieces of whole school information, you'll read about it in your **Weekly Reminder!**



FROM THE OFFICE TEAM...



The Late Book

If you arrive at school after the gates have been locked and enter through the main office please sign your child into school by completing the late book. We will take them to their classrooms.



Medication

If your child needs to take a dose of prescribed medicine during the school day, **(4 x a day only)** please come to the main office where you will need to fill in a form with one of our first aiders. Please do not send medicine into school in book bags.

Please be aware that we are unable to administer Calpol to children unless prescribed as part of a medical plan.

Bikes and Scooters

The school cannot accept liability for bicycles and scooters left on the school grounds. The gates and bike sheds are locked during the day between 9am and 3pm, but at all other times they may be insecure and unattended, so please take bikes and scooter home at the end of each day.

Please remember:



bikes and scooters are not allowed in the playground unless being carried by an adult.

Second Hand Uniform

There is lots of pre-loved uniform in the Community Corridor. You can get to this through the doors next to the studio in the playground. Just ask if you're not sure how to get to it!



Parking Outside School

To keep children safe & healthy, please **turn your engines off** when parked on the road outside school or when queuing in traffic.



Named Clothing

Please can all items of clothing including: School uniform, hats, coats, PE kit, lunch boxes, drink bottles etc be clearly named.

It makes it much easier to reunite them with the right person if they are lost.

Thank you!

Dates For Your Diary



MAY

Tuesday 12th: EYFS and Puffins Sports morning 9am

Wednesday 13th: Year 1 and Penguins Sports morning 9am

Thursday 14th: Year 2 Sports morning 9am

Thursday 14th: Teddy Bear Hospital, during the school day - EYFS and SEN bases

Tuesday 19th: Year 1 trip to Blashford Lakes, Otters and Foxes
(swapped from Weds 20th)

Wednesday 20th: Year 1 trip to Blashford Lakes, Badgers and Hedgehogs
(swapped from Tues 19th)

Thursday 21st: Year 2 'Wear It Wild' day.

(More information to follow)

Friday 22nd: INSET Day, school closed

Monday 25th – Friday 30th: Half Term

JUNE

Monday 1st: Children return to school

Thursday 4th: Class Photos

Thursday 11th: Reception trip to Longdown Activity Farm.

(More info to follow)