

NEWSLETTER and DIARY DATES MARCH 17



Tues 28 th March	GOVERNOR MEETING - FGB
Fri 31 st March 17	Priory Pride Fine Dining Grand Easter Egg Raffle. Break up for Easter
Tues 18 th April 17	Summer Term starts - please note we return on Tuesday as Monday is a bank holiday
Mon 24 th April Thurs 27 th April	Fashion Show PTA meeting
3,4 & 5 May 17	Year 4 Visit to PGL
8 th May 17	SATs Week for Year 6 - All children to be at school.
Fri 12 th May 17	Year 6 Visit to Cadbury World.
11 th / 12 th May 17	Year 3 Visit to Rand Farm
17 th -19 th May 17	Year 5 Visit to Bushcraft
Mon 29 th May 17	Half Term week
14/16 th June 17	Year 6 Visit to London
Fri 14 th July 17	INSET DAY
Tues 25 th July 17	End of Summer Term.

Exciting News!

Our congratulations to Mr and Mrs Barnham and Stanley..... a new baby is on the way! We are all so pleased for them. Mrs. Barnham will be with us through to the end of the summer term and will start her maternity leave in the autumn term.

Dogs

Please can I ask that dogs are not brought into our playground. As a dog lover I understand that where you go you want your dog to go, however many of our children are nervous of dogs, and we never know how a dog will react to lots of noisy, fast-moving children. If you need to come in to see staff feel free to use the front entrance and tie your dog up near the steps. Many thanks.

Sikh Mission

On Friday 3rd February, we were lucky enough to have some volunteers from Guru Nanak's Mission, a local organisation, as part of our RE week on Sikhism. They worked with all the children in school, building on their existing knowledge of Sikhism throughout the week and informing the children of the vital voluntary work that they do in our local community. They were so impressed by our children and were extremely grateful for the food and clothing donations that were given. The work they do relies on donations - both of food and people's time. One child even stopped them as they were leaving to give them her last 5p to donate to the cause!

Guru Nanak's mission source, prepare, cook and serve food every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, regardless of the time of year or the weather! They welcome volunteers of any age or religion - if you would be interested in doing so then please visit their Facebook page (Guru Nanak's Mission, Nottingham) or pop into school for more information.

Sleep

I have just been watching Sara Cox doing her 24hr Danceathon for Red Nose day - I am in awe of how she managed to stay awake for so long! I need my sleep just like every creature needs to rest. Giraffes, babies, elephants, dogs, cats, grandparents, mums, dads — they all sleep! Just like eating, sleep is necessary for survival.

Most children between the ages of 5 and 12 years old are somewhere in between, needing 10 to 11 hours of sleep. Some might need more and some need less. However, we are experiencing more and more children who are not getting this. They are sleepy in school, struggling to keep their eyes open in class, yawning - to be this tired means they are definitely not learning. They are also weepy, unable to be as resilient and then get upset easily.

Our children have busy days. There's school, taking care of pets, running around with friends, going to after school activities, and doing homework. By the end of the day, your body needs a break. Sleep allows your body to rest for the next day. Sleep also gives your **brain** a chance to sort things out. Scientists aren't exactly sure what kinds of organizing your brain does while you sleep, but they think that sleep might be the time when the brain sorts and stores.

I know as a parent how debilitating it is to have a child who does not sleep well. Feel free to ask for support from our PSW (Parent Support Worker) who has lots of ideas and who can refer you onto other support if necessary.

How you can help your child sleep: Turn off screens and electronics (at least 2 hours before you want them to sleep as they stimulate the brain)

- A darkened room
- A warm bath or shower before bed
- Getting tucked in by a parent
- A bedtime story

1 night's poor sleep makes a person over-sensitive and clumsy. After 2 nights of poor sleep, a person will have problems thinking and doing things; his or her brain and body can't do their normal tasks nearly as well.

Homework

Thank you for your continued support with homework especially reading.

To hear your child read 3-5 times a week has such an impact on their development and progress in school. Phoenix are amazing at teaching your child to read, we continue that work and then use those reading skills to 'read to learn'. To watch the moment as children 'click' and begin to transition from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn' is a privilege. However some of our children are struggling to reach this part of their learning journey. In school we:

Have daily guided reading in every class (please ask if you would like to see one of these in action!)

- Have daily English lessons which incorporate some form of reading
- Intervention groups - where the teacher or TA leads extra focus led workshops
- Adult helpers in most afternoons to listen to readers including Storm the dog
- Reading raffle - drawn weekly for those children achieving 5 reads in a week and PTA Kindle awarded termly
- Library visits for each class
- Reading video (on our website) to give extra information to parents
- English topics based around texts e.g. Mr. Stink, Water Babies
- Use of digitexts in lessons
- Theatre visits to encourage children to read more e.g. George's Marvellous Medicine
- Book Weeks - this term we used The Fox, and Book Week activities to support the National Campaign

Please could you try to find a 10min slot every evening to enjoy a book with your child, listen to them read and ask them a few questions about the text. The impact is incredible and provides them with such an important set of skills for the future.

Hopefully by working together your child will develop a love of books and the ability to 'read to learn'.

Headteacher/Teacher Appointments

As you are aware, we try whenever possible to run an 'open door' policy. To ensure an appointment with me, please contact the office. Please note emails and texts received outside working hours will not be picked up until the office re-opens. Similarly, if you wish to speak to a teacher or a TA, the office will help where possible or take a few details and get a member of staff to ring you back.

Regards,

Mrs S Curson.