


Dear Parents and Carers

Hello! 

What a mixed week we have had in the schools! Firstly our new **Year R** children have completed their first full week full time - what a joy they are! **Mrs Eagle** and her team are very impressed with them and often I pop in and see a lot of Involved Iguanas. Elsewhere the children in **Year 1** and **Year 2** braved the cooler weather and walked to Huntingdon as part of our 'Park Life' Sparky Start. Thank you to all the parents that accompanied us on the riverside walk, engaged with the children in their art work and enjoyed the park on the ring road. We know the children enjoy this annual trip out into the community where they recognise and talk about their own experiences in this environment. It was also wonderful to have such a good turn out last night for our **Year 6 Kingswood Residential Talk**, some fabulous questions from the children!

The rain damaged the **Junior School hall** ceiling and floor on Wednesday night and there was a lot of mopping up to be done at 7.00am on Thursday to ensure the school hall was accessible! A HUGE thank you to our resident caretaker **Mrs Leach** and the team for making everywhere safe and tidy!

You may have noticed that we have 2 new **wooden cupboards** out on the front playground by the Kitchen Pod, these will be used for our '**Bring if You Can and Take if You Need**' donations for families to access. We will also have a **pre loved uniform cupboard** next door. Please do donate or take what you need.

Our annual **PATHS Meeting [AGM]** is fast approaching on **Thursday 5th October** please come along if you can to support the schools in anyway. We are currently looking at spending some of the funding on playground equipment and furnishings across the schools. We will be in the **Infant School** from **2.00pm**.

Next week **all** our Staff will receive **First Aid Training** with a particular focus on asthma, as more children are being issued inhalers. This training is organised for **Monday 25th September** and a follow up on **Monday 9th October**, please note staff need to attend promptly at 3.30pm so will not be available to talk at length at the end of the school day. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Next week our **Year 5** children who have signed up for **Bikeability** are invited to bring their bikes to school for their sessions from **Monday 25th September**. This will take place on the front playground and children will need suitable PE kits [jogging bottoms and sweaters and a waterproof coat]. We wish them all the best in their training.

**Thank you to everyone** who has supported our **uniform policy**, it has been wonderful to see all the children dressed in the school colours of **dark blue** and white and **grey** each day, including for PE Sessions. Please remember not to send children in football strips even for Clubs after school, it causes a lot of frustrations around team support. **Thank you for your continued support.**

Have a lovely weekend.

I do hope the weather is warm still and there is less rain!

Best wishes

Rae Lee [Headteacher]



## Preschool

This week, **preschool** children enjoyed their core story of 'Dear Zoo'. We played a matching game, recognising the concept 'same' by making the animal sounds to link back to our story and we also developed 'taking turns', a key social skill. We introduced our 'Walking to the Zoo' song box, recognising the animals from the story by tuning into the sound the adults made of the animals. We have also practised our 'choose it, use it and put it away' rule by remembering to put toys away when we are finished with them! **Next week**, we will continue listening to animal sounds with a CD game, tuning in closely to the sounds and using our 'listening ears'.

## Reception

This week in **Class 1 and 2**, we have started our phonics and have been learning the phonemes s, a and t. We have also been practising blending sounds together. In maths we have been thinking about numbers 2 and 3 and counting objects accurately. The children also enjoyed their first P.E and Forest School sessions. **Next week**, we will be retelling the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and will be having a go at using an app on an iPad to draw a simple picture!

## Year 1

This week in **Class 3 and Class 4**, we began with our Sparky Start visit to Riverside Park where we all had fun. Once back in the classroom we used the classroom provision to show what human and physical features we saw on our walk. In our COOL time we have been investigating sunflower heads and were excited to begin our science lessons about plants. In English we have used the phonics we know to read and write words from our story 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. **Next week**, in maths, we will be ordering numbers on a number line and comparing groups.

## Year 2

This week, in **Class 5 and 6**, we had our Park Life walk, to Riverside and Nursery Road parks, to observe our local area! Thank you to all the parents who came along to help. Back in class, we identified and sorted human and physical features and studied an aerial map of the local area. In English we have been using our phonics to segment and spell words and using the suffixes -ed and -ing. In maths we have been recognising the value of each digit in 2 digit numbers and comparing 2 digit numbers. **Next week**, we will be looking at and using coordinating conjunctions, such as 'and' and 'but'. In maths we will focus on the place value of each digit in a two-digit number again but we will use coins. We will teach the children how to record a 2-digit number in a place value grid (see calculation policy on maths website).

## Year 3

This week in **Beech and Chestnut Classes**, we studied verbs, adverbs and prepositions. In maths, we focused on the number 100 and the ways we can divide it into equal groups. In science, we learned about human and animal skeletons and the children built their own human skeletons, working in groups. **Next week**, we will learn about how rivers get their water and how ancient Egypt changed over time in our humanities units. **A polite reminder that doors close at 8:45 to ensure a prompt start for learning.**

## Year 4

This week in **Holly and Willow Classes** we thoroughly enjoyed learning to play the bass line in music. We reacquainted ourselves with the glockenspiel and carefully read the musical score, identifying the different notes. Then our brilliant teamwork skills came into play as we supported our partner to play the walking bass line. The halls resounded in musical cacophony! In Maths, we are developing our understanding of column addition with regrouping, some children using Rekenrek and counters to support their understanding. Our recounts have been published – they illustrate the children's engagement with our text. Next week, we will be developing our understanding of subtraction and riddles...watch this space because we will test our riddles on YOU!

## Year 5

This week **Oak and Ash Classes** have been looking at Roman Numerals and place value in maths. Ask us some questions about reading and writing numbers up to one million! There has been some great writing in English using fronted adverbials in a description of a setting. **Next week**, is 'bikeability week' so our timetable is a little changed as groups go out. There will only be one session of PE; Ash on Wednesday and Oak on Thursday. If your child is taking part in bikeability please make sure they are wearing suitable clothing and footwear (school PE kits are ideal). A waterproof coat would be a good idea! **Please also send in the pictures of the children reading at home for our book areas.**

## Year 6

This week in **Pine and Sycamore Classes**, we made our own periscope to investigate how light reflects – hopefully we will be able to see round corners! In English we have been writing a character description, looking at how to make our writing exciting and including lots of different language techniques – for example expanded noun phrases and similes. **Next week**, in PE we will continue to create our dances using stamping and clapping to create a rhythm and in maths we will be starting the four operations.

Dates for the Diary!



Flu Immunisation	Junior School	Monday 25th September	Flu immunisation program for all Key Stage 2 [KS2] children in <b>Year 3, 4, 5 and 6</b>
Healthy Schools Team	Year 6	Monday 25th September	<b>Healthy Schools Team</b> are visiting the <b>Year 6</b> children in <b>Pine</b> and <b>Sycamore</b> to talk to them about healthy choices and the dangers of vaping and smoking
Bikeability	Year 5	Monday 25th - Friday 29th September	All <b>Year 5 children</b> who have registered for this exciting opportunity will be practising their skills.
PATHS AGM	All Schools	Thursday 5th October	<b>Everyone</b> is invited to attend our <b>AGM</b> to support both schools with those 'little extras' raised by events such as discos and fetes. Do come along as we need to be quorate. It doesn't mean you will be 'roped' into any roles, although we are happy to have a self nomination for roles on the committee. We would love your ideas for future events. There will be <b>refreshments</b> at this event held in the <b>Infant School Staffroom</b> from <b>2.00pm. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!</b>
Harvest Festival	All Schools	Wk beg Monday 9th October	We invite <b>all</b> families to contribute to our Harvest Festival.
Individual Photographs	All Schools	Monday 9th October	<b>All</b> children will have a photograph and the opportunity for family photographs with siblings.
Disco	All Schools	Thursday 19th October	Our PATHS [Parents and teachers of the Hartford Schools] will organise a disco in the school hall. <b>PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL BE A TICKETED EVENT.</b>
Half Term	All Schools	Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October	<b>All</b> children have earned a break from school, we only ask that you keep up the reading with them.
Kingswood	Year 6	Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November	Our <b>Year 6 [Pine and Sycamore Classes]</b> will be off to Kingswood in Norfolk for the week. Please look out for more information about Parent Meetings and forms to complete.
End of Term	All schools	Thursday 21st December	End of the Autumn Term from 3.15pm.
Spring Term	All schools	Friday <b>5th</b> January	<b>All</b> children in <b>Year R through to Year 6</b> start at 8.45am