



# Spring 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a fantastic half term in school full of many productive learning opportunities and the children have been working hard to develop their fluency and automaticity in key essential and connected knowledge.

We have made it to February and the days are starting to lighten and the signs of spring are finally appearing. A good well-being tip I have found is to watch how many minutes daylight we gain each week. Since last Friday we have fourteen extra minutes. The marginal gains all add up and it has meant that my morning run starts in the dark but now ends in the light!

I would encourage you to take the time to read and digest all that is written in this half termly newsletter.

Wishing you a wonder filled half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back into school on Monday the 20th February.

Mr Whitehead

Headteacher

## **Mnemonic**

Thirty days hath September,

April, June and November.

Unless a leap year is its fate,

February hath twenty-eight.

All the rest hath three days more,

Excepting January,

Which hath six thousand,

One hundred and eighty-four.

**Brian Bilston**

## **Governing Body Update**

Please follow the [link](#) to read the latest news on the work of the governing body this half term.

## Inclusion at Kildwick CE VC School

This is a half term round up of information regarding SEN and inclusion which has previously been sent out to parents. Please don't stop reading if your child does not have SEN as there is information which may be relevant and useful to lots of parents and carers in our school.

### Our Intervention Team

Mrs Kingham, Mrs Mathews and Mrs Wilkinson have been working incredibly hard this half term to support a number of children in our school to make sure that we meet the needs of all children in our school. This includes any number of things from keeping up with phonics through to managing anxiety, friendships and improving self esteem.



### SNAP (Special Needs Assessment Profile)

To help us better understand the nature and extent of any underlying difficulties which may be affecting some children's learning we will be assessing some children using the SNAP. If we think it would be beneficial to assess your child, your child's Class Teacher will contact you to gain consent and ask you to complete a questionnaire. This does not mean that your child is on the SEN register, this is just a way for us to understand any barriers your child may have to accessing the curriculum. If your child's Class Teacher has not been in touch but you would like your child to have this assessment please make contact with them and discuss this further.

**Skipton Adopters Support Group** will be meeting at Venue sports bar in Skipton from 9:15am to 11:30am on the last Monday of each month. Please contact [emmabishop22@yahoo.com](mailto:emmabishop22@yahoo.com) for more information.



Parents and carers of all children (**not just those with Special Educational Needs**) in the Craven area are invited to join, 'The Incredible Years Programme'. This is a 13 week course which will be held at Sutton in Craven C of E Primary School. The course will start on Wednesday 22nd February 9:30am to 12pm.

The aim of the course is to strengthen the parent-child bond, share and try out techniques to try and shape positive behaviour, promote children's social, emotional and language development and reduce challenging behaviours.

Please let Miss Akrigg know if you would like to be referred or you can self refer. Telephone 07525 872287, email [Ymhst@bdct.nhs.uk](mailto:Ymhst@bdct.nhs.uk)

The Incredible Years is an internationally recognised programme. Please see their website for further information [www.incredibleyears.com](http://www.incredibleyears.com).

We know that there is a lot of jargon around SEN. Have a look at our [jargon buster](#) section on the website to help you with this.

If you are concerned about anything around SEND and/or inclusion please contact Miss Akrigg at [d.akrigg@kildwickce.uk](mailto:d.akrigg@kildwickce.uk) Equally if you have any positive comments or compliments please do let us know, it is always helpful to hear what we are doing right so that we can make sure we keep doing it!

# Loving to Learn

## Robins

It is difficult to believe just how much learning we have fit in this half term! The children have worked incredibly hard and I am very proud of their approach to school life and progress. The Reception children are delighted to see that we have now got through all the graphemes on our wall and year ones have continued to work hard with Mrs Carpenter in their phonic lessons.

We have been learning about lots of significant people from the past in Art, Science and History. The children produced some amazing Picasso style self portraits/portraits and really impressed Mr. Whitehead with their paintings. They are proudly displayed on the beams in our classroom. Their use of new vocabulary in Art really has been very impressive with lots of children talking about 'abstract art'.



The children also enjoyed learning about Charles Macintosh and his invention of waterproof fabric. The year one children worked really hard to make their own waterproof fabric and then carried out a fair test to see which was the best way to make fabric waterproof. The Reception children became experts in classifying materials, experimented with making changes to materials and thought about how things happen and how things work.

Our History topic has been very popular and the children have loved learning all about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. They were not impressed with how dirty hospitals were in the past and are very glad that people don't have to eat mouldy food in smelly hospitals now. We used the timeline in the playground and walked back in time to see when Florence and Mary were alive.



We enjoyed our visit from North Yorkshire Police when Emma and Lee came to visit. This was part of our 'Keeping Safe' topic in PSHE. It is very important that the children know who to go to if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable and Emma and Lee reminded them that the Police are there to help and protect them.

I am running out of room and I haven't yet mentioned our Chinese New Year dance or the visit from Yorkshire Rotters when parents and carers got the gift of a wormery at the end of the day! Next half term promises to be even more exciting and busy (if that is possible) with a school trip, some hatching eggs and lots more learning. I am sure the children are more than ready for the half term break.

Thank you, as always, for your support and kindness. See you in Spring 2! Miss Akrigg



# Loving to Learn

## Swallows

This half term has whizzed by and the children continue to impress me with their work ethic and positive attitude. We have welcomed Miss Aziz into Swallows class. She is completing her teacher training through Leeds Beckett University and has enjoyed getting to know our fabulous school and children.

The children have looked at the famous scientist Charles Macintosh and carried out an experiment to see how we could make a cloth waterproof. We made sandwiches of cloth with either; PVA, glue stick, oil or nothing in between the layers. We poured 100 ml of water on each of the cloths and waited to see how much water could get through into the beaker. We found that PVA created the best waterproof layer.

In History this half term we have learnt about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We compared the two nurses and thought about how hospitals are much better now. Swallows class have a good memory for facts and sorted facts about both nurses with confidence!

It has been nice to spend some time on the Peggy Wilson field this half term. The children have fabulous imaginations and have built three storey bug hotels, set up shops, built dens and burnt off some energy!

In writing this half term, we have used the book Grandads Island. We completed the unit by retelling the story in our own words. I could not believe how much detail the children could remember and included in their own stories. They did a fantastic job and were all proud of their stories!

In art we learnt about Pablo Picasso and portraits. We created abstract portraits, drew self portraits and portraits of our friends. The children took great care with their sketching and are beginning to use different pencils to create varying effects. We also explored hot and cold colours and experimented mixing and adding black and white to create new shades.

Have a fabulous half term and hopefully we will have some sunshine to enjoy. Thank you for your continued support with home learning.

Mrs Carpenter and the Swallows team.



## Kingfishers

Another busy half term finished and yet again the Kingfishers have amazed me with all of their super achievements. The children have loved writing our suspense stories about animals hiding in the walls in English and I have loved reading them. The creativity and imagination in the stories was excellent. As part of this, we also had lots of fun having a “wolf party”.

In History, we have learnt lots about the Romans in Britain. This was enhanced greatly by our trip to Craven Museum. We had a brilliant time and we were all amazed to learn about all of the Roman remains that surround us in our local area, including a settlement found in Gargrave. We also learnt about the Iron Age tribe that lived in Craven and fought with the Romans. It really brought the local history to life and the enthusiasm from the children was lovely to see. We have also enjoyed handling Roman artefacts, both at the museum and in school, and we know the importance of artefacts as well as written sources in historians’ work.

We have had lots of fun making electric circuits in Science lessons. The children were very quick to spot when a circuit was incomplete and enjoyed trialling different switches in their circuits. We then used this knowledge in our DT project to make a torch or nightlight. It was great to see all of the different designs that the children came up with.

I have been so impressed with the knowledge that the children have remembered about e-safety in computing. We learnt also about fact, opinion or belief, advertising online and how images can be altered.

Kingfishers have been making super progress with their swimming this half term, a very important life skill. They will continue building on their great progress next half term too.

The children have amazed me with their fantastic Spanish this half term. We have been listening to the story of La Caperucita Roja (Little Red Riding Hood) and they have remembered lots of key words and shown great understanding.

In PSHE with Mrs Fothergill, the children have been thinking about keeping safe. They have discussed lots of different dangers, risks and hazards and ways to keep themselves safe – a very important life skill! In RE with Mrs Fothergill, the children have been thinking about commitments in the journey of life and what this can mean in different religions, including looking at baptism, bat/bar mitzvah and marriage.

What an exciting and busy half term we have had! Thank you again for all of the support at home, especially with spelling, reading, times tables and the super e-safety selfie posters! I don’t doubt that next half term will be even busier with our Easter production. Look forward to seeing you all in Spring 2!



## Owls

Owls class have had a great start to 2023. We've been very busy learning about the Romans. We have learnt about the reasons they invaded Britain and how we know so much about Roman Britain. Much of our learning about this was done on our visit to the Craven Museum in Skipton. Chloe, from the museum, showed us real Roman artefacts that we could handle and discuss. There was also some role play to explain the battles the local Brigantes tribe had with the Romans in this area. Finally, everyone visited the museum and the gift shop!



This term's writing has also been linked to a wonderful short animation and subsequent book, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Morris Lessmore*. It was inspired by someone the author knew that set up a library after a hurricane to help heal the community. Owls class really enjoyed exploring the story and then writing their own stories in which a character uses their passion to help others.

In maths lessons, the class has worked through lessons about fractions before moving onto multiplication and division.

Science lessons have focused on electricity. We can now identify appliances as mains or battery powered; build a complete circuit and know whether one is incomplete; understand the role of different components, including switches; and say if a material is an insulator or conductor. Knowing all of this, we have therefore been able to design and build some electrical lamps and torches that really do work!

Reverend Mike joined us after he returned from the Holy Land to tell us about his reasons for his pilgrimage and the impact it has had on him. We then went on to find out more about how pilgrimages feature in other faiths.



Finally, we said hello and welcome to Miss Hussain who started her second teacher training placement with us after Christmas. We look forward to continuing to learn with her after half term.



## Eagles

Well done to Year Six on another busy half term. We've managed to fit so much into the last few weeks and, as usual, the children have risen to every challenge given to them.

We've all loved our writing unit based on the first chapter of 'A Monster Calls' and the work we did around writing a scary nightmare story. It's been great to see some children seeking the text out from our recommended reads as they wanted to read more! Year Six have come up with their own brilliant stories that naturally weave in their topic knowledge about Victorians. They are getting really good at showing off all of their grammatical knowledge in each piece.

In Maths, we've been covering some brand new topics which have certainly got us thinking. The children's algebra and ratio work really impressed me and it was great to see children applying their knowledge in assessments a few weeks later.

Our Victorian topic has taught us so much and we've specifically focused on what life was like for children during that era. We've had lots of great discussions about what education would look like today if the Victorians didn't put laws in place regarding schools. We've looked at how many things Victorians invented (including Jelly Babies!) and the children presented brilliant projects explaining how life would be different now if we didn't have the Victorians.

The children became fully immersed in the Victorian era with our visit to Bradford Industrial Museum, where we visited a Victorian classroom. The children dressed up in replica costumes and experienced a typical morning in a Victorian school. They wrote on slates and with dip pens. The children had to recite hymns, songs and times tables. Luckily, although the teacher was strict, no one was hit with the cane! We then spent some time looking around the museum and finding out more about transport, mills and the printing press.

Year Six have been working on a dance in PE which was inspired by the Industrial Revolution section of the London 2012 opening ceremony. It was great to see how these dances developed week on week as children added more skills to them. The children then dressed up again in their Victorian outfits to perform their dances to the rest of the class.

In DT, the children have researched creating an electrical board game for a child in Year Two. They interviewed the children to get an idea of what interests the children have, then planned and designed the game before creating it. The children applied their knowledge from their electricity unit in Science to create a circuit for the game. Year Two enjoyed testing the games and seeing the final product.



# Learning to Live

## E safety Workshop

The theme of our computing lessons this half term has been internet safety. Mr Horton led a workshop for parents about keeping children safe on the internet to coincide with Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7th February. In support of the event, National Online Safety have produced a special guide, with tips on how talking to your child about their digital life can help them avoid online safety threats. Download [here](#).

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

### MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

### BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

### REMIND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that they do view harmful content; then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

### KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

### DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

### TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

### CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

### Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of EASD (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.

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## Cross Country

We had another fantastic turnout for the third Keighley and Craven Schools' Cross Country event which took place at Cliffe Castle in Keighley. We had some excellent performances and results and positions can be seen via this [link](#). It is still all to run for, with one remaining event coming up in March. The final event is at Marley Playing Fields on Wednesday 1st March. Well done to everyone and thanks to parents for supporting these great events.



## The Yorkshire Rotters

We loved having a visit from the North Yorkshire Rotters at the start of this half term. The North Yorkshire Rotters, known as the Rotters, promote home composting and reducing waste, reusing and recycling. We discussed the importance of being more 'Eco friendly' and the Yorkshire rotters helped us learn even more by talking about reducing waste, saving money and helping the environment. The children had the opportunity to make a wormery, sing some songs and create a fruit smoothie using a bike.



# Living to Love

## Reverse Advent

Thank you for your kind donations before Christmas for the Reverse Advent donations in aid of Skipton Foodbank. We delivered the items in January and had a tour and discussion about the work of the foodbank. It is great for the children to see and hear what our donations are going to help.



## Help for Ukraine

On Friday 3rd February we held a non-uniform day and cake stall after school to raise money to support the Ukrainian families in our local area. Mrs Sharples (who previously taught in our school) coordinates support and activities for families in our area, this includes monthly coffee mornings held at our school. With your generous donations of cake and cash we have raised £241.88 to continue this amazing work. Mrs Sharples would like to express her heartfelt thanks.



# Loving to Learn

## Reading Café

It was brilliant to see the return of our reading cafe event which invited parents and carers into school to share a story with their child whilst enjoying a hot drink and biscuit. The turn out was excellent and it was lovely to see so many children reading to an adult. Adults also had the chance to get an insight into the type of questions children are asked in school when taking part in reading activities so that these can be applied at home. The event helped promote reading for pleasure - a key objective in the National Curriculum.



## PTA

Thank you for the hard work of the PTA and the generous donations from all parents at the Christmas Fair. This has meant that school could purchase an interactive screen for the hall. Learning takes place in the hall every day so it has been very well received.



# Spring Term 2023

*There will be other dates that will be added to the diary as the term progresses, please keep an eye on emails, Google Classroom and Newsletters.*

***Monday 27th February—Fairtrade fortnight begins***

***Tuesday 28th February—NEU proposed strike action day (tbc)***

***Thursday 23rd February—swimming for Kingfishers changes from Mon to Thurs***

***Wednesday 1st March—Cross Country event at Marley Playing Fields***

***Thursday 2nd March—World Book Day***

***Monday 6th March—Parent Consultations***

***Tuesday 7th March —Parent Consultations***

***Friday 10th March—British Science Week begins***

***Friday 24th March—Easter Lunch for Robins / Swallows parents followed by Easter Activities***

***Thursday 30th March—KS2 Easter Production –2pm and 6pm in Church***

***Friday 31st March—End of spring term***

