



# Parent Link

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's a busy time of year as spring threatens to break through the near constant deluge. As I write this it's World Book Day and costumes galore are on show – the importance of reading, stories and communication is so relevant to our children. Hopefully in the next issue I'll have some photos from the day's activities.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that one of our children's parents – Iza Walters, mum of Mati – is bravely taking on the Brighton marathon. She is raising funds for additional OT equipment within the school, and having just checked her site, has already nearly made it halfway to the £500 goal. You can donate via the justgiving website; there's an easy link to Iza's page via the Friends Facebook page, or find details here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/izabela-walters-1>

There are a few staff members attempting one of the spring marathons in April – Siobhan Allinson, Rachel Woodruff, Kat Sparkes ... and me! Good luck to all with their training. A special mention to Emerald class this week, who are based in The Downley School next door to us. Following some great work building their own pyramid as part of the Egyptian themed work, they were awarded a special certificate by The Downley School's Headteacher. They have been developing their links with their buddy class from next door too, and are hoping to feature in the end of year performance – great work.

On a sadder note, a pupil from Emerald class – Bradley Jackson – is currently recovering from a serious operation in hospital. Bradley has shown tremendous resilience and courage throughout his ongoing medical challenges and we send him and his family our thoughts and best wishes, hoping for a speedy recovery. Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

## Spring Term 2020 dates

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### Other dates for Parents:

Community café starts – every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Science Fayre – 9.30am - 10.30am – Gemstones Department

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Parents of Coppice and Treetops students invited in to buy mini – Enterprise – details to follow

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Forum – 9.30am Cressex site, 11.00am Downley site - details to follow

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Happy Easter Coffee Morning with FACT and CHAT – 9.15am – 10.30am - Cressex site

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Egyptian Day – Gemstones details to follow

### Little Wings – Farm Visit



### Treetops & Coppice –

#### Working Together in Buddy Week



## Parent Survey



A ParentMail link has been sent out for access to the Parents Survey. Please could you complete this by **30<sup>th</sup> March 2020**. If you encounter any problems, please contact the school.

## News from around the school

### Rainbow

We have had a busy couple of weeks in Rainbow with some of the highlights being our visit from the farm and 'World Book Day'. The children absolutely loved the farm and the company brought a range of animals for the children to meet and touch. We were all so proud of the children and how they coped with the change of routine and some really were taken out of their comfort zone to touch the different animals who had come to visit! Our book day event saw some of the children and staff dressing up and exploring jungle themed activities linked to our topic this half term. Have a lovely weekend, Hannah

### Little Wings

A big thank you to Declan the Donkey, Snowy the Duck, Coco the pig and all the other farm animals and farm staff that came to visit last week. It was a fantastic multi-sensory experience for the children with plenty of sights, sounds, texture and smells! It has brought our Farm theme to life. We will also be visiting Odds Farm on 31st March, so look out for letters in the children's bags. Payment will become available on ParentMail from Tuesday 3rd March. Claire

### Treetops & Coppice

This week Coppice and Treetops departments have been joining up to celebrate World Book Day!

The students in Kestrel and Red Kite have been enjoying listening to The Gruffalo and The Giant Sandwich and then made some jam sandwiches. Hawk joined Deer class and listened to a story as a whole group. Falcon and Owl class have paired up to read stories together daily. Squirrel class and Eagle class have been reading the Gingerbread Man and are making gingerbread men in Friday. It has been lovely to see children dressed up as their favourite characters or bring in their favourite toy or story!

David and Salma

### Woodlands

You should have received a invitation to our Music and Mayhem event on Thursday 19th March at 10am. We have been having lots of fun rehearsing for this event with Emma, the music therapist. Please let your child's class teacher know if you haven't received an invitation or if you have any questions about the event. Please remember to send your child to school wearing brightly coloured clothes for the Music and Mayhem parade. Amanda

### Gemstones

How wonderful to see all the children come into school in their costumes! I was greeted at the door by 2 Oompa Loompas! Batman read me a story while a pirate swashed through the room with Mary Poppins.

The children are all enjoying activities in their classes around the department.

It is going to be a busy few weeks in Gemstones with Science week and Sports Relief activities. These events provide us with wonderful opportunities for learning and personal development as well as being lots of fun! Sarah

### Support Staff

Half term holiday was a very busy time for Andrew he managed to decorate two classrooms and clear the back of flat 8. Fantastic job! Andrew makes such a difference to the pupils and staff when the classrooms receive a fresh coat of paint.

Karen is doing a sterling job of processing all the end of year orders and invoices. She is lost under the volume of paper at the moment. Thank you Karen for all your hard work.

Vicki attended a Sims to SAP seminar earlier this week which will help to align the processing of HR starters, leavers and changes to contract with the local authority system. There was also useful information provided on deadlines that relate to the change over to the Unitary Council from the 1st April.

The kitchen staff have received the new allergen report from Millbrook school that informs staff of the dietary content of the menu for the summer Term. Vicky

## A note from your Parent Ambassador

**Parent Forum – Sex & Relationships Parent Consultation, Friday 27 March: 9.30am – 10.30am**

Come and share your ideas and suggestions, ask questions and be involved in the consultation on the new Sex and Relationships Education policy. This will be our legal consultation with parents and your opportunity to have your voice heard. We will share the draft policy and proposed curriculum plan alongside the resources which have been developed to be appropriate for each department. More details will be shared in a separate letter.

**Happy Easter Coffee Morning with CHAT, FACTBucks & Talkback, Cressex, Wednesday 1 April: 9.15am-10.30am**

Need respite but don't have a social worker? **CHAT Charity** can help with funding for short term breaks.

Having difficulty making your voice heard or getting the help you need? **FACTBucks** can represent your views to decision makers who plan and manage services for children with special needs and disabilities. This helps ensure they have access to the support and facilities which improve their well-being.

Want to find out more about opportunities for employment, further education and life skills for your child. **Talkback** has a range of programmes and works with each individual young person with learning needs to develop skills for employment, enable greater independence, and encourage a healthier life by participating in sport, engaging in creative and practical activities, or socialising in outdoor groups.

Come and learn more and talk informally with these 3 organisations at the Coffee Morning.

**Stepping Stones Triple P, 30 April – 25 June, Maple Dean Family Centre: 9.30am – 11.30am**

Bucks Family Support Service are organising a Stepping Stones Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme), course for parents of SEND children in High Wycombe starting at the end of April on a Thursday morning. There are 8 sessions planned and you need to commit to all dates to get the most out of it. This is a really great course which is designed to be relaxed and informal and benefits both parents and children. It provides a range of strategies and skills which help to:-

- Set routines that everyone can respect and follow

- Manage challenging behaviour

- Reduce stress so all family members enjoy life more

Details about the course have already been sent out on a separate Parentmail along with the application form. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis so if you want to attend don't delay in signing up. For more information you can also contact:

[parentinggroups@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:parentinggroups@buckscc.gov.uk)

### SMILE SUNDAYS

Did you know Absolutely Together in Maidenhead are providing free bowling and softplay every Sunday morning for families with children / young people who have special needs? Book your session in advance by emailing: [L.Murphy@absolutely-group.co.uk](mailto:L.Murphy@absolutely-group.co.uk).

## Taking a Paws to reflect...



We have been lucky enough to have had another successful visit from our friends Doug and Billie from pets as therapy on both the Cressex and Downley site. More classes had the opportunity to experience the unconditional love from Doug and Billie who provided a friendly paw to hold or an ear to listen.

All the pupils simply seemed to enjoy the cuddles, talking and singing to them, some of our pupils just found comfort and joy lying next to our friends.

