

January Newsletter



January 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

The children were very excited to see the snow this week. There was just enough to play briefly with but not quite enough for a snowman competition; a sledge race is always fun though! I am sorry for any



inconvenience caused with the reduced access around the site, but safety has been our priority in ensuring that the paths used were safe and not slippery.

I have been relieved to see that 2019 has brought the return of the builders – the end is finally in sight! The staff car park and play ground space should be finished after half-term and we may even lose the puddle / ice rink outside play group. We can finally begin to plan an official 'opening'.

We have only been back a few weeks but a lot has happened in that time...

Foundation Stage Bedtime Story

It was lovely to see so many eager faces appear back at school one evening, wrapped up in their pyjamas cuddling teddy bears ready for an evening of bedtime stories. The children got to enjoy listening to some stories in front of a roaring fire (film!) before snuggling up to share some stories with their families whilst enjoying a hot chocolate and marshmallows. We hope everyone enjoyed the evening and it helped to inspire children to love reading even more.

Foundation Stage Inspiration Day

On Tuesday 29th January, the children arrived at school to find the Foundation Stage classrooms had been transformed into Melbourn airport. After checking in and going through security, the children waited patiently in the lounge before boarding the plane bound for China. After watching our in-flight safety video, we took off to the skies, enjoying some light refreshments from the trolley! Once in China, the children learnt some basic greetings and how to count in Mandarin, wrote their names and numbers in Chinese and tried some different Chinese foods. We then re-boarded the plane and managed to make it back to Melbourn in time for lunch! What a busy but exciting day! We can't wait to continue learning about Baku Chinese New Year now.

Year 1 Inspiration Day: Animal Magic

On a cold January morning, Melbourn Primary School was awash with different animals. We saw lions, sharks, butterflies, zebras, horses and even a few unicorns! It was great to see so many varied costumes and animals that the children (and adults) had chosen to dress as. The children started their day by watching a magician show, where a real rabbit was pulled from the hat. We then developed our D.T. skills by using tools to cut fruit into animals. In the afternoon, we answered one of the main questions that the children wanted to know about animals: what do they eat?



Year 2 Inspiration Day

Year 2 held an inspiration day to launch their new topic: Mission Possible. We had great fun coming to school in disguise, making spy

identities, writing and deciphering secret codes and taking finger prints. We then became 'imagineers' and took part in a 'Wallace and Gromit' style invention challenge to make a new gadget with a moving feature. The teachers were all really impressed with how ingenious and creative the designs were. Our future is in good hands :-).

Year 3 & 4 Inspiration Day

Year 3 and 4 had a fun inspiration day to begin their topic 'Wonderful World'. The children looked great dressed in the colours of a flag. During the day we enjoyed sketching chalk drawings of rainforest animals and re-creating music and dance from South America. We also learnt about deforestation linked to rainforests and thought about what we could do to help look after the environment. Finally, the children enjoyed using the iPads to research rainforest animals and made the information into a fact file.

Year 5 Inspiration Day

Year 5 held their book themed inspiration day to coincide with our visit from author Mark Lowery. The children in Kingfisher and Robin classes came to school dressed as a book character of their choice, from Gangsta Granny to Harry Potter! We spent the day using our class book 'Floodland' as a starting point for our activities. Miss Rimmer and Mrs Crane came dressed as the main character, Zoe, from the story - and it was great to see that the children were able to recognise this character using the clue of the compass that Zoe carries.

Year 6

It has been an exciting start to the term in Year 6 as we 'launched' our new topic, 'The Dark Side of the Moon'. Over the coming weeks, the children will be delving deep into the realms of our Solar System in order to develop their understanding of the Earth and other planets and how these are all relative to the sun. We are also hoping to have a visit from the Cambridge Science Centre to teach us even more!

In addition to our topic, it has been great to see the Year 6 children thoroughly enjoying their Hockey PE lessons. They have developed excellent sportsmanship and teamwork skills and we look forward to improving their knowledge and skill of this sport over the half term.

Parenting Course

I am delighted to announce that we have secured the lovely Pat Nash, Family Worker, to run a ten week parenting course for you. Being a parent is one of the hardest but also one of the most rewarding jobs. Unfortunately, children do not come with an instruction manual! The 'Raising Children' programme is aimed at offering parents of children aged 3-12 years a supportive, informal environment in which to gain information, knowledge and skills around parenting. The course covers identifying needs, understanding challenging behaviour, effective discipline, listening and encouragement. 'Raising Children' will be on a Monday morning between 9:30 and 11:30 in school. Sorrel Hawkins will be supporting Pat and of course there will be tea and coffee too. If you would like to attend, please email the school office or let Miss Hawkins know.

PTFA News

Our PTFA has historically raised a significant amount of money which makes a huge difference to the experience of our children at school. For example, the adventure playground adds enjoyment to playtime and the computers in the ICT room are used daily – all paid for with money raised by the PTFA. For some time, the KS2 children have been asking for new toilets. Unfortunately, the income we receive from the government just doesn't stretch to toilets. I am very excited that this week the PTFA have agreed to pay for the installation of new toilets for the year four children. We are hoping to raise enough money to replace the year five and six ones as quickly as possible. This will not be achievable though, if the PTFA do not have enough helpers to run their events. Please do volunteer – they really need you. The events are great fun

and the money raised is going to such a good cause. Please email ptfa@melbourn.cambs.sch.uk if you could help.

And finally

Reading is key to a child's success. We have been impressed to see how many children have increased the amount of reading they are doing at home as part of our Reading Rockets campaign. I am not really one for New Year's resolutions (probably because I am not very good at keeping them!) but this renewed motivation for reading is worth sustaining – please help your children by hearing them read at least four times a week; it will pay dividends for their future success.

Mrs Stephanie Wilcox
Headteacher

Dates for February

- Friday 1st – Bluebell Parents Class Assembly 9.10am
- Tuesday 5th – National Internet Safety Day
- Thursday 7th – Fundraising Day for the Allyance Counselling Service
- Thursday 7th - PSHCE Day
- Thursday 12th – Year 2 Parent Workshop (PM)
- Wednesday 13th – Year 6 Parent Workshop (PM)
- Monday 18th – Friday 22nd – School Closed Half Term
- Monday 25th – Friday 1st March – Spelling week
- Thursday 28th – Year 6 Inspiration day



Dates for the diary

Friday 8th March – Quiz Night
Friday 22nd March - Discos

Easyfundraising.org.uk

A reminder that you can help us every time you shop online by selecting your chosen outlet, holiday company or internet shop via easyfundraising.org.uk

Find us on FACEBOOK for further information and details about events
<https://www.facebook.com/mpsptfa/>

