

March Newsletter



March 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

One of the things I love about working at Melbourn is the willingness of the teaching team to try new initiatives in an effort to give your children the best education possible. I have been very aware of two examples of this just this week. The first became apparent during our termly 'Pupil Progress' meetings. Across all year groups, teachers reported and were excited by the progress your children have made so far this year in maths. We believe this is a result of the introduction of teaching maths 'Mastery' which has generated a real love of maths, whilst providing children with a rich and deep understanding of concepts. Every week during 'Hot Chocolate' discussions, the children repeatedly share that maths is their favourite subject! The second example is our very first Year 3/4 production which happened this week. How fantastic for the children to have an opportunity to develop their confidence on the stage alongside their academic studies! I think this may have to become a regular event in our calendar – sorry Mrs Smith!

Wow, March has been busy, we might need a holiday ...

Where's Wally?



We loved celebrating World Book Day. It was great to see so many children and adults dressed up for the day. In the morning, we held an assembly where we talked about all the different ways that we can 'share a story'. We discussed reading in the car, reading on the playground, reading to our pets and listening to others reading to us. We were really pleased to have parents in at the end of the day to share books at school. We are aiming for all of our children to read at least 4 times a week out of school - please help to support your children with this!

Year 1 Parent Workshop

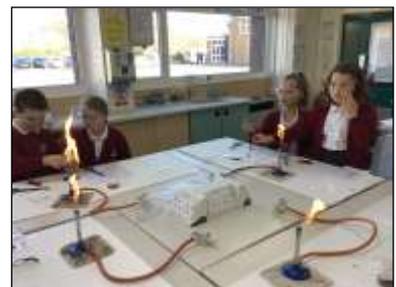
On Thursday 21st March, we were joined in class by a whole host of parents for our Easter workshop. Children had the opportunity to make Easter themed crafts including rabbits, egg wreaths and to decorate their own eggs. The children could also use the computers to decorate an egg on the Purplemash website. Thank you to all the parents who attended.

Year 2 Trip to Cambridge Science Centre

On Wednesday 20th March, year 2 headed to the Cambridge Science Centre to complete another Mission: Possible. We had a wonderful time exploring the hands-on exhibits. Some favourites were working together to make a giant marble run, making seeds and seeing how they flew in a wind tower and discovering how our voice box works. We also took part in a workshop where we made land yachts. We designed the sail to see how fast and far our land yacht would go. It was huge fun racing them in front of a giant fan!

Year 4 Visit to MVC

On Monday 11th March, Year 4 enjoyed visiting MVC to take part in some science activities as part of 'Science Week'. There were eight activities for the children to try and they enjoyed every single one. Some of the learning included discovering static using a balloon; testing which solutions were acid or alkaline using litmus paper; making a fire extinguisher; learning about sound and seeing what colour different



chemicals would go when held into the flame of a bunsen burner. Thanks to MVC for hosting the session. It was lovely to see the children animated about their learning and excited to use equipment that we don't have in a primary school.

Year 3 and 4 Parent Workshop

On Monday 18th March, Year 3 and 4 enjoyed welcoming their parents into school to help them complete some weaving. We had painted a design on a plate and our parents helped us thread the wool across the plate like a spider web and then weave in between these threads. We had some fantastic results which will look lovely on display. Many children have enjoyed continuing with their weaving since the workshop. Thanks to all the parents who came and helped, it really supported the children in learning this skill.

Science Week

What a fantastic time we had during science week! The topic this year was 'Journeys' and we started our week off by making an unusual one. We had an assembly on Monday in which two brave volunteers were willing to walk across four dozen eggs! The majority of the children predicted that the eggs would break, but to their surprise, they didn't. Through this experiment we learnt that the shape of an egg makes it very strong. The children enjoyed all the experiments we did throughout the week.



We came together at the end of science week to celebrate and share our findings. Year 1 enthusiastically explained to us how they created shadow puppets and experimented with bubbles. Children in Year 2 designed the best nappy for an alien and created a working marble run. In Year 3, children had a blast making volcanoes erupt or investigating how sound waves travel. Year 4 had an exciting day at MVC experimenting with 'real fire.' Children in Year 5 carefully designed and made parachutes for eggs with the help of their parents at a parent workshop. Finally, the Year 6 children learnt about saturated solutions and how a base and an acid react. The week gave children the opportunity to explore the world around them and develop their scientific skills.

PE news

This month, both our A and B netball teams have taken part in the second round of their High 5 netball tournaments. The children worked well as members of a team, developing their skills within different positions during these matches. Both teams are now through to the finals next month.

We have also had some additional sports teaching within school this month. The Year 1 and 2 children were lucky to have a tennis roadshow hosted by Mr Ellis to teach them a range of basic skills. The Year 2 and 3 children have been having weekly cricket sessions, thanks to the Time to Shine cricket programme, developing their ability to master the basic skills and rules of the game.

High 5 Netball Tournament

On Monday 4th March 2019, we played netball at MVC. Our first game we lost to Harston A team, our second game we lost as well. However, our third game we won 4-0! To begin with we weren't as focused as we could be, but we changed our tactics and were much more prepared and focused in the last two games. When we scored our first goal, we were very happy and excited. It was a fantastic event and we all enjoyed it very much. By Lexi and Charlotte

Free school meal applications

This is a reminder that children who are already Free School Meals (FSM) at primary school will automatically keep their FSM entitlement when moving to Year 7 – parents **do not need to reapply** as the Educational Welfare Benefits team automatically transfers their current claim to the new school they are starting in September (unless this is outside of Cambridgeshire in which case parents need to apply to the relevant local council).

Therefore families do not reapply **unless** they have additional children to add (i.e younger siblings starting school) or if they need to amend their details i.e. legal surname/change of address.

A link to the FSM application is available on our website. Please ensure you have completed this in full before sending to the EWB team as they cannot process applications without parent's surname, date of birth and National Insurance number.

Parking around the school

We are very fortunate to be in a village where most families can walk their children to school. However, if you have to drop your children off or pick them up by car, please be mindful of the following:

- Do not park on double yellow lines or the zig zag school markings. They are there for a reason and parking on them restricts visibility to both pedestrians and motorists.
- Please watch children on bikes or scooters, especially at the crossing on Orchard Road.
- Whilst waiting in your car, please turn your engine off. We are constantly reminded of how harmful emissions from cars are to our environment and we need to consider our neighbours around the school.
- Finally, if you are a Blue Badge holder, please make sure it is clearly displayed on your dash board for others to see and park safely. We only have one disabled parking space, so please only use this space if the Blue Badge holder is with you.

The safety and wellbeing of our children is our paramount concern; please help us protect them.

Baggage Allowance!

Our Year 1 and 2 cloakroom areas have been bursting with bags this term! This is becoming a safety issue as the bags are too big and bulky for the size of school pegs so they fall off and become trip hazards. We ask that children use school book bags for their reading books and Silver Star spelling words etc. as these fit neatly in their trays in the classroom. PE kit should be in a drawstring bag to allow it to hang below a coat and stay stably on the peg. Forest School kit should only be in school on the appropriate day and in a small bag so that it fits neatly on the child's peg. We are sorry but we do not have space for the many rucksacks that keep falling on the floor, please support us by not sending your child with one.

Midday Supervisor & Cleaner Vacancies

We are looking to appoint Midday Supervisors to join our team. Duties will include assisting children in the dining hall along with leading and supervising play activities. If you are someone who enjoys being part of a team, has good communication skills and cares about the welfare of all children then we would love to hear from you. Playtime is a highlight of the day for the children and securing the very best people who are willing to give up an hour of their day to help supervise the children playing and help them develop healthy interactions always proves difficult. This is a crucial role to ensure child happiness and safety and gives valuable school experience if you are thinking about working in a school. The rate of pay is £8.62 per hour.

In addition, we are looking to recruit cleaning staff to work during both term time and school holidays. The rate of pay is £8.50 per hour. If you are interested in either post, please contact the school office for more information.

And finally ...

We endeavour to help your children recognise and celebrate their uniqueness alongside the uniqueness of their peers. The Year 3/4 production, Darwin Rocks, highlighted the value of human variation and diversity. There was a poignant line, "understand that nothing beats being you." I do hope that your children grow up believing that.

Have a lovely Easter break; don't eat too much chocolate! See you back in school on Tuesday 23rd April.

Mrs Stephanie Wilcox
Headteacher

Dates for March

- Monday 8th – Friday 19th April
- Monday 22nd – School closed Easter Monday
- Friday 26th – Year 1 Inspiration Day – Children invited to bring a toy vehicle
- Monday 29th – Year 2 Cake stall fundraising



Dates for the diary

Thursday 16th May – Movie Night

Wednesday 22nd May – PTFA Non-uniform for Summer Fayre donations

Friday 5th July – Summer Fayre

Friday 19th July - 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](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Find us on FACEBOOK for further information and details about events

<https://www.facebook.com/mpsptfa/>

