



Micklem Primary School

Newsletter w/e 11th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where did that half term go? This term has been challenging for all, with many of us - staff and children having to isolate due to COVID. I want to say a huge thank you to all the staff for being such a great team and pulling together when staff absences were at their peak. This has meant we have been able to keep everything as normal as possible for the children and continue with our core purpose of supporting the children to learn and make progress. Thank you to all our parents who have been so supportive of the measures that we have had to implement to keep our school running. Schools have been advised to maintain their outbreak management plans for the first week back after half term. I am hoping after that there will be a better sense of normality. We have planned for normality so please take a look at the events that will be coming up going forward. We have missed having parents in school and want to address that.

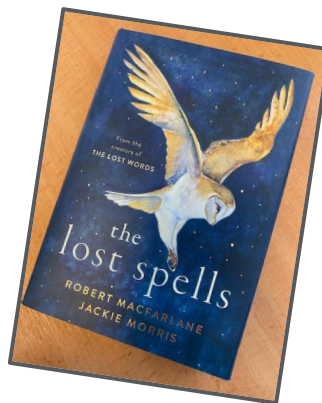
Once all restrictions and expectations to isolate end we want to return our school attendance to what it should be - over 96%. Attendance is one of our highest priorities, if your child isn't in school, they are missing their opportunity to learn. Our current attendance is **93.8%** for the year. Our target is to be over **96%** so we have a long way to go. Everyday your child is not in school, is a day of lost learning. All children who are isolating, if well enough are expected to continue to learn from home. This means they are not further disadvantaged from their absence. Teachers are putting in lots of effort to provide appropriate learning for children so they can keep up with their class. We have and will continue to provide devices and resources where needed. I also want to remind parents that we do everything we can to support parents and children with attendance. As stated in our Attendance Policy, we do request the local authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to parents who will not engage with us to prevent unauthorised absence.

I hope you enjoy the rest of our newsletter - it is a snapshot of the events and learning the children have experience over the last few weeks.

Wishing everyone a lovely break.

We will look forward to seeing all the children back in school, on time, on Monday 21st February. Best wishes

Miss Ormonde



We started our term exploring the beautiful poetry in our whole school text 'the lost spells'. The children produced some lovely poems of their own. It also provided a great opportunity to develop our painting and drawing skills.

Learning around our school this half term



SCIENCE AND ART IN YEAR 5

Our year 5 children learning about and exploring with print making skills in art. In science year 5 were investigation how levers can increase forces - by the look on their faces they may just have observed something unexpected.



TALKING ABOUT TEETH IN EYFS

Children in our nursery and reception classes were lucky enough to have a visit from a dental hygienist. She explained how important it is to look after your teeth and showed the children how to make teeth cleaning fun



Lunch time fun in Forest School - don't forget your wellies!

A message from Hertfordshire County Council

SEND is everybody's business

"SEND is everybody's business" – being ambitious about support for pupils with SEND

Happy New Year! Wishing you a great start to the new school term. At Hertfordshire County Council we excitedly enter 2022 with a set of new year's resolutions about how we will support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their families. 1 in 5 people have a special educational need or disability, and we will all come across someone in our lives who can benefit from our support and understanding. That's why the tagline to our Strategy is 'SEND is everybody's business'. We have 5 ambitions, which cover the support provided by education, health and social care, that underpin our new SEND Strategy 2022 – 2025.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDstrategy

Launch of Plan for Children and Young People 2021-26

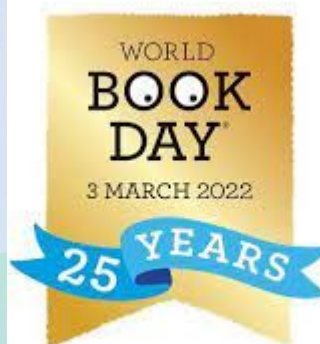
Launch of Our Way Forward – Plan for Children and Young People 2021-26

In addition to informing school staff, please communicate this message to parents / carers:

Hertfordshire County Council's Children's Services is pleased to announce the publication of 'Our Way Forward - Plan for Children and Young People 2021-26'. It sets out the ambitions to improve outcomes for children, young people and families within Hertfordshire to support them to get their lives back on track following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is supported by the Strategic Priorities, which will be updated annually, and will contribute to the achievement of the ambitions outlined within the plan.

To view the Plan, Strategic Priorities and an animation of the ambitions visit [here](#).

Many of our strategies contained within this Plan and other key Children's Services strategies are publicly available at [here](#).



World Book day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday March 3rd. This will be part of a whole week of activities to promote reading for pleasure. Our dress up theme will be 'choose your favourite book character or your favourite clothes for reading a bedtime story. Ideas for simple home made costumes can be found on this link

<https://www.worldbookday.com/dress-up-ideas/>

Need to access online resources?

Free reliable online resources with Hertfordshire Libraries

Knowing where to find free and reliable information resources is an important part of education. The library offers a gateway to such resources and Hertfordshire Libraries can help.

The Reference Library Online (www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/orlib) has a range of resources that library members (it's free to join the library) can use for free at home, or anywhere. Perfect for helping with homework, research, study, or just for fun. All the resources are reliable and from trusted and established publishers.

Here's a quick introduction to just some of the online resources you as may find most useful:

Britannica Online - the online version of the complete Encyclopaedia Britannica., There are three versions are available depending on students' level: junior (suitable for Key stage 1 & 2), student (suitable for Key stage 3 & 4) and adult (Key stage 4 & 6th Form)

Credo Reference – this is like having your own reference library, ideal for research projects and homework. Search or browse over 1400 subject-specific titles from reputable publishers. This is more suitable for older students, but it also includes 66 titles from DK Eyewitness collection, suitable for younger students.

Oxford English Dictionary and Oxford Dictionaries Pro – dictionaries from Oxford University Press, to explore the English language with expert guidance on style, usage, grammar and spelling. This also includes French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Portuguese dual language dictionaries

Archive newspapers – search or browse digital version of newspapers (the Times 1785-2014, the Sunday Times 1822-2006, Illustrated London News 1842-2003). This would be most suitable for older students, particularly to see how past events were reported. This resource could be used, for example, for History, Media Studies, English, Social Studies.

Calendar

Monday 21st February	Children return
Wednesday 23rd February	Year 2 Athletics
W/c 28th February	Reading for Pleasure Week - library open for parents and children after school
Tuesday 1st March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zones of regulation information session 3:30pm and 6pm• Year 5/6 girls football tournament at Watford FC training ground
Wednesday 2nd March	Years 5&6 KNEX challenge
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Wednesday 9th March	No After School Club - staff safeguarding training KS2 girls football tournament
Friday 11th March	Football Match - Greenway School
Monday 14th March	Some students attending the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey Year 1 Sports Taster Day
Wednesday 16th March	Y3&4 rugby festival
Friday 18th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd March	Parents Evening