



# stockbridge

## Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 22

26 February 2021

### There's light at the end of the tunnel

For the first time in many months, I felt a hint of optimism after hearing the Government's roadmap out of the current situation on Monday but it will undoubtedly still be a journey to go on together.

Of course, children coming back to school is the first step on this journey and I am pleased we have 5 weeks after 8<sup>th</sup> March until more opens up so that we can work together to make sure we all stay healthy and clear of COVID for as long as possible.

The teachers and I are all very pleased to have the children coming back into school – we won't be sad to see the back of home learning as I'm sure many of you may agree!! For some families, I know you have thrived with children at home and for others, I know that it's been more of a trial. I know for many of you whose children have been learning at home, you will be thinking about how your child/ren will transition back into school. I hope the information on p.2 helps explain this a bit more.

It would be all too easy to think that the children who are in school will carry on as they were but they too will need a period of transition and adjustment which we are taking into consideration in our planning too.

We are already beginning the new topics for this term and still need children to really engage with the learning both in school and online in the next week so that we are all in a good place for 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Emma Jefferies

### TALENT SHOW

What a talented bunch of children we have! It's been great to see the talent show entries rolling in this week – so many variations from ice cream making (delicious – I was given a secret pot!!) to future Ed Sheeran's, Charlie Dimmocks and Beth Tweddle's; we have unearthed a huge raft of talent across our school population.

We use the talent show as an annual demonstration to the children of resilience, responsibility and most importantly, pride. We want them to produce something they are proud of and I know from talking to children at book swaps and in school that they have been proud to share things they are passionate about.

Thank you for taking time to video (many times I think!) these entries and submit them. Miss T has organized them into family groups with some from each child's class in too – we hope you enjoyed watching them too.

**WELL DONE CHILDREN – YOU'RE SIMPLY BRILLIANT!**

### Coming Up!

Book swap and resource pick up is **ALL ON MONDAY** next week so that you can pick up resources for World Book Day

	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Surnames A – G	Because of live lessons and reading 1:1 sessions, please come at any time that suits you between 9.10am and 12.15pm.
Surnames H – O	
Surnames P – Z	Come to the school car park into the school hall. If there is a family in already, please wait by the noticeboard in the car park.

#### Other dates in the wider term:

*All of these are new dates please make sure they're on your calendars!*

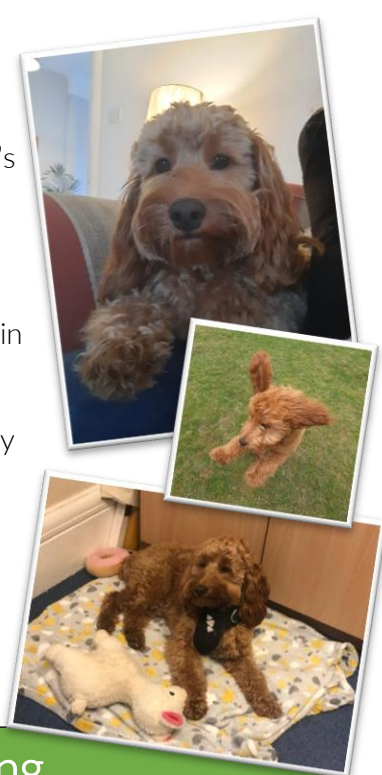
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> March	All day	World Book Day
w/b 8 <sup>th</sup> March	All week	Science week -
	08:45	All children return to school
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Am	School office on training – please call in the afternoon if you need us
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> March	All day	Comic Relief
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March	08:30	Bags2School – drop any textiles in bin bags in the car park to help raise money for school & clear our your cupboards on a spring clean
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April	All day	INSET day – training for staff – children at home
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> April – EASTER holidays		
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April	08:45	Return to school for summer term

## Meet Fudge!

We have been exploring the idea of a school dog for quite a while now and Mrs Holdich's puppy cockapoo, Fudge, fits our ticklist perfectly! School dogs are becoming a more common occurrence and schools that have dogs report huge benefits for the whole school community.

Used as reading dogs, emotional regulation and calming dogs as well as interpreting Makaton signs and supporting children with specific learning needs, dogs can be trained in a number of ways to bring their calming, kind influence to bear with children and adults. We are not entering into this lightly and would really like your views on us having Fudge in school so we'd really appreciate you taking 5 mins of your time to complete this survey please: [SCHOOL DOG NEWSLETTER](#)

We are working with a company called 'Canine Assisted Learning' who are specialists at introducing dogs into schools and ensuring schools, and their stakeholders understand a dog's needs, how they best interact with children and will be on hand every step of the way to support us in making Fudge accessible and safe for children with allergies, those with phobias and how best to manage Fudge in school safely for the benefit of all involved. I look forward to hearing your views.



## Transition back to normal

As children begin to return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March, we know that they will be coming back having experienced all sorts of different home learning styles during this lockdown. We know that we will have 20 children in each of our younger classes and 30 in the older ones, all at different places in their learning and possible gaps and different stages of learning behaviours.

### *Never fear!*

Our staffing ratios have been kept high so that the pupil:adult ratio means children have ready and speedy access to an adult – this is a proven strategy with high success rates in catch up. Essentially, we are in the same situation that we were in in September. We have purposefully chosen a strategy of having experienced teachers in post which paid off in the autumn term and will now. We will do informal assessments with all children, just as we did in September so we know exactly what learning they've retained and where there are gaps.

We have a very practical week planned for the w/b 8<sup>th</sup> March so that children can settle back into routines.

Our focus in the first few weeks will be reading with children on a 1:1 basis, getting them engrossed in a new topic, lots of short bursts of play so that they can engage with friends again who I know they've all missed and a heavy focus on PSHE so that we can deal with the rollercoaster of emotions all children will be experiencing.

Parents evenings after Easter holidays will be a good time to catch up with how your child is doing in school.

## Playing & gathering

We know that the thing most children have found most challenging this lockdown is not seeing their friends. Whether they've been in school or been at home, friendships that were rekindled in the autumn term have been sorely missed.

We also know how tempting it will be to arrange playdates and 'meet ups' in the park. We're hearing that an awful lot of that is going on now!

I must ask you as parents to please refrain from these gatherings as much as possible please until things settle down a little more – we are still under national restrictions and working really hard to maintain bubbles in school.

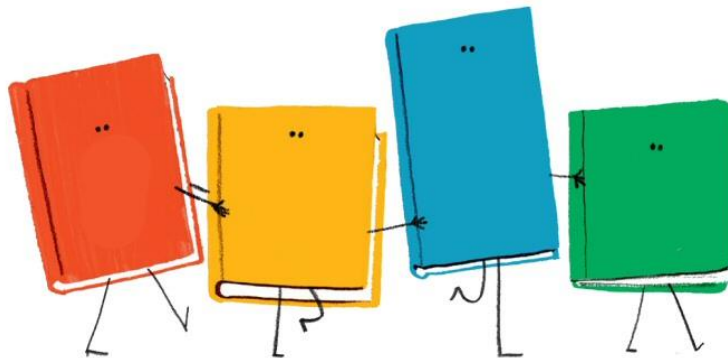
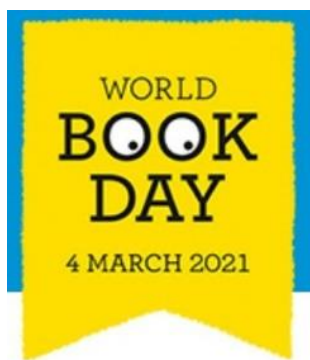
I have had several complaints from local residents and members of the community about school groups gathering after school without wearing masks or playing in local churchyard and car parks. I fear that this will only increase when more children return to school. I can only ask that you don't engage with these – children will have plenty of time to play with friends in school time in the coming weeks.

We should all still be in the situation that children are being dropped off at school and collected with the same respect to social distancing and immediately going home as we should have been adhering to in the last weeks and months.

Thanks for your help in this, we'll be back to being able to play in the playground after school before you know it!

Our favourite parent support adviser, Lorraine Lee, is running an online workshop for just £11 on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March all about how to support your child after lockdown. She's absolutely brilliant and this workshop comes highly recommended.

**See the attached flyer for booking info.**



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March (next Thursday) is World Book Day and, as we usually celebrate in school, we want to celebrate during lockdown too!

Thursday's Google Classroom activities will all be focused on a book theme and we'll be having lots of fun!

## DRESSING UP

Yes, all staff will be dressing up – this year, as a character from a Roald Dahl book of our choice – we considered all being Oompah Loompas but didn't think we'd find enough orange face paint during a lockdown! If your child is dressing up at home, please take a photo and post it on their Dojo or GC. If your child is in school, they can come dressed up that day.

Please make sure, whether at home or school, they bring the book that relates to their character either to the photo or into school as we'll be using these for an activity on the day.

## DRESS A WINDOW

We know children are missing their friends so we thought we'd create a friendship trail with your help. On Monday, there will be an opportunity to come and collect creative resources from school. We'd like children to make a window to show their favourite book or author – a little like the advent windows that popped up in towns around the country. If you post a photo of your window or let us know if you are taking part, we can create a map of the houses taking part for you to go on walks to in compliance with the 'daily exercise' over next Friday and next weekend, giving children opportunities to at least wave at their friends!

Each day's register next week will have another activity (a lot more low key than these!) in the build up to world book day so children in school and at home will be checking in with the register and sharing stories,



and now the boring but necessary bits...

## Money

We're coming to the end of the financial year. Please make sure all dinner money bills are settled before 24<sup>th</sup> March.

If your child attends breakfast club (or will after 8<sup>th</sup> March), please pay in advance for sessions you would like them to attend. We cannot afford to sustain debt and the outstanding monies must be settled before the end of March.

Thanks from the office!

## Uniform

Wearing uniform is a fundamental part of feeling part of a community. We expect all children to be back in school uniform in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March so please use this next week to get uniforms and school shoes out and make sure they fit!

All children have been out of school uniform since mid-December and little people grow A LOT in this time!

[Click here to go to our school uniform website](#)

## Bags2School

Hardly boring, this might result in a spring clean! If you're anything like me, you're building up lots of these items for 31<sup>st</sup> March:

- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- covers
- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet)

Drop them in our car park between 8.30am – 10am on 31<sup>st</sup> and bask in the glory of helping others AND having a clear house!