

November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful break with your families and the children are ready for another exciting half term.

### **Non – uniform day to raise funds for Y4 Visit to Verulamium**

Thank you once again to all of the Parents and Carers who supported our non-uniform day to raise money for the Y4 visit. As you know, thanks to the incredible generosity of all those who donated, the visit will now be able to go ahead.

### **Book Fair**

Thank you to those of you who visited the Book Fair and made some purchases. The amount raised for the school was £663 which will be used to purchase new books for the children to enjoy.

### **Black History Month**

During October, we proudly celebrated Black History Month with a focus on significant black individuals who have shaped history and contributed to society in profound ways. The school aimed to bring these inspiring figures to life for pupils, highlighting their achievements, struggles, and legacies.

The children had the opportunity to research the life of a significant individual and carry out a presentation about them. By exploring the lives and contributions of these remarkable individuals, pupils gained a deeper understanding of Black history and its ongoing impact on the world.

### **Sport Events**

We have taken part in a number of sporting events this half term and are very proud of how well the children represented the school:

- KS2 took part in cross country
- Year 5/6 Football League
- Year 5/6 Football tournament with local schools
- Kommando Kids Y3/4 and Y5/6 to develop **confidence and self-esteem**. The children took part in a range of problem-solving challenges and had the opportunity to use some of the gymnastics equipment.
- Year 2 have taken part in Bikeability (Balance and Learn to ride)

### **OPAL resources – we are still desperately in need of more resources**

As you know we implement the OPAL project for our playtimes. We have purchased lots of resources for the children to play with, however we need to supplement these with loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined, and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples):

- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, work tables, wooden spoons, chopping boards

- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and brooms
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and thick ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/webcams/cameras that are no longer working
- Foam sheets/bodyboards/camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Cable drums
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Pegs (to help to set up dens)
- Wellies

Please bring any donated items into school next week, they will be very much appreciated.

**Upcoming events:** Please see the diary dates below – new additions are highlighted in yellow.

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November Y1 Phonics Learn alongside**

We invite all Y1 parents to join us for a really valuable afternoon. This will consist of a presentation in the hall at 2.00pm with our Phonics and Reading Leads where you will learn all about how we teach Phonics. This will be followed by an opportunity to see Phonics in action in the Y1 classrooms.

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance**

We would like to invite you to join us and St. Joseph's at 10.30am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. We will meet at the entrance to the school, before taking a short walk to the mound for 10.45am. Where Rev Ben will lead us in a short service of remembrance, before we observe a 2-minute silence.

### **Writing Competition - Y2-6**

Miss Williams will be launching a writing competition in November – with a spooky theme. More information will be sent out soon.

### **Y4 TT Rockstars Day – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

In preparation for the National Times Tables Test in June, Year 4 will be relaunching our Rock Stars learning platform and holding a Rock Stars day on Tuesday 10th December.

All the children in Year 4 are encouraged to dress up as a rock star on the day, rocking their air guitars! They will be competing against each other and the other classes within Year 4. We will aim to have an overall individual winner across the year group as well as a winning class.

### **Residential**

Residential are fast approaching.

Information evenings for these have been held already, please note that payment plans are available for these visits. If you have any questions regarding these visits, please contact the school office.

### **Year 4 – The Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

A two-night residential that includes outdoor and adventurous activities at the centre which is situated on the banks of the River Nene in Northamptonshire.

[Frontier Centre - Rock UK](#)

### **Year 5 – Ghyll Head Centre, Windermere, Cumbria - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**

A four-night residential that includes outdoor and adventurous activities in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

<https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/south-lakeland/ghyll-head>

### **Year 6 – The Isle of Wight Experience, Isle of Wight - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

A four-night residential that includes cultural experiences, day trips and explorations around the beautiful island.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

### Dates for Diaries

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| <b>Tuesday 3rd September</b>                                      | <b>INSET day</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>                         | <b>INSET day</b>   |
| <b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>                          | Children return to school  |
| <b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b> | Y2 Bikeability   |
| <b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>                        | 2.00pm Reception Phonics learn alongside   |
| <b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>                         | 3.15pm – Y4 Residential Information Evening  |
| <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>                           | Culture day<br>3.00pm Macmillan cake sale  |
| <b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>                            | Y6 Residential Information Evening   |
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>                            | Westbury Artists Competition Exhibition<br>KS2 Cross Country Event - Emerson Valley<br>Rugby Club          |
| <b>Monday 14th October</b>  | 9.30am - Open morning – for new Reception<br>Sept 2025   |
| <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>                          | Parent/Carer consultation evening  |
| <b>Thursday 24th October</b>                                      | Individual and siblings School Photos<br>Parent/Carer consultation evening                                 |
| <b>Friday 25th October</b>  | <b>Break up for half term</b>  |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>                             | <b>Children return to school</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>                          | 2.00pm Y1 Phonics Learn alongside  |
| <b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b>                            | 10.30am meet at the school for Remembrance<br>Sunday event at the Mound with St Joseph's<br>and Vicar Ben. |
| <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>                            | World Nursery Rhyme week   |
| <b>Tuesday 12th November</b>                                      | 9.30am Open morning – for new Reception<br>Sept 2025   |
| <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>                          | 3.15pm KS2 Writing Information Evening   |
| <b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>                         | 9.30am Open morning – for new Reception<br>Sept 2025   |
| <b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29th November</b>           | Bikeability Y5   |
| <b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>                             | Choir visit to Lake View Care Home   |
| <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>                           | <b>Y4 TT Rockstars Day</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>                         | 3.15pm Christmas Carols  |
| <b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>                          | 2.00pm Y1 Christmas Singalong  |
| <b>Monday 16th December</b>                                       | 2.00pm EYFS Christmas Show to parents  |
| <b>Tuesday 17th December</b>                                      | 2.00pm Y2 Production to parents  |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>                         | 9.00am SMART Star award breakfast<br>Christmas Lunch   |
| <b>Friday 20th December</b>                                       | <b>Break up for Christmas holidays</b>   |
| <b>Monday 6th January 2025</b>                                    | <b>INSET day</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday 7th January 2025</b>                                   | <b>Children return to school</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>                          | Y2-Y6 Reading learn alongside  |
| <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31st</b>               | Y5 Residential Visit to Lake District  |

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| <b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>                          | Young Voices  |
| <b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>                       | Parent/Carer Consultation Evening                       |
| <b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>                        | Parent/Carer Consultation Evening                       |
| <b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>                          | <i>Break up for half term</i>                           |
| <b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>                          | <i>Children return to school</i>                        |
| <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b>                       | 2.15pm Reception- Reading for pleasure                  |
| <b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>                            | World Book Day  |
| <b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March-Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>     | Y4 Residential Visit to Irthlingborough                 |
| <b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>                             | Science Week  |
| <b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>                          | Y4 Anglo-Saxon/Viking Workshop                          |
| <b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>                           | Y1 Dinosaur Workshop                                    |
| <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>                           | 9.00am SMART Star award breakfast                       |
| <b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>                              | <i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>                     |
| <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>                             | <i>Bank Holiday</i>                                     |
| <b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>                            | <i>Children return to school</i>                        |
| <b>W/c 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                  | Y6 SATs week  |
| <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>                               | <i>Break up for half term</i>                           |
| <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>                               | <i>INSET day</i>  |
| <b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>                              | <i>Children return to school</i>                        |
| <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b>                           | EYFS/KS1 Sports Day                                     |
| <b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>                            | KS2 Sports Day  |
| <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>                              | 3.15 – 5.00 Summer Fayre                                |
| <b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b> | Y6 Residential Visit Isle of Wight                      |
| <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>                            | Transition afternoon<br>3.15 – 5.00pm Meet the Teacher  |
| <b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>                            | Y6 Production   |
| <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>                           | 9.00am SMART Star award breakfast                       |
| <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>                              | 9.00am Y6 Leavers Assembly<br>2.30pm Nursery Graduation |
| <b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>                             | <i>Break up for summer holidays</i>                     |
| <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>                           | <i>INSET day</i>  |