



6TH MAY 2022

NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday, 26th May

Primary School Celebration for
Queen's Platinum Jubilee -
details to follow

Friday 27th May - 3rd June 2022

SUMMER HALF TERM

(incorporating Bank Holiday for
the Queen's Platinum Jubilee)

Monday, 6th June

**INSET TRAINING DAY -
STAFF ONLY**

Thursday, 16th June

**Careers Event - details to
follow**

Tuesday, 28th June

**Secondary School Sports Day -
details to follow**

Thursday, 30th June

**Primary School Sports Day -
details to follow**

Monday, 18th July

Secondary Leavers' Ceremony

Wednesday, 20th July

Primary Leavers' Ceremony

Friday, 22nd July

**End of the Academic Year -
early closure for pupils**

As the clock got nearer to home time today, you could almost feel the excitement rising as everyone was preparing for The Link Association Discos.

It is wonderful that at long last we are able to hold these social events.

A lot of work goes into the organisation of occasions like this and we must thank all the staff and parents who volunteered to help, giving their own time to do so. Huge thanks must also go to Claire Hartland, the Chair of the Link Association who has spearheaded everything and we must never forget Sean Scanlon, an ex primary parent who turns up year after year to provide his DJ skills.

This week, our main focus is on Literacy. Catherine Lannuzel explains about the primary Literacy curriculum and Sian Jones gives an update on Literacy developments at the secondary school.

As always, we hope you find it interesting.

Have a lovely weekend.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL?

In Literacy this year we have been focusing on updating three areas – the Literacy schemes of work, reading books and story sacks.

Literacy Schemes of Work

This year we have updated the Link Primary Literacy scheme of work to include the Link Cognitive Cohort descriptors - Engagers, Discovers, Explorers and Investigators (see below).



Our schemes are linked to the classes' main topic. This term the classes are looking at:

Acorns: Animals & Plants

Willow & Beech: Toys & Games

Maple & Oak: a) Growing Up
b) In the Garden

Pine & Hazel: a) How are You?
b) Paint me a Picture.

In Literacy the classes will be looking at lots of fiction, non-fiction and poetry about their topic.

Reading Books



We felt that our reading books needed updating to include more motivating and age appropriate books at the levels needed by our current children. We are currently researching some new reading schemes to ensure we have a good selection of reading books available, appropriate to the level, age and interests of our pupils.



Story Sacks

We also feel that it would be beneficial to have more story sacks in school as they are such an effective tool for promoting reading, language and storytelling.

A story sack is a large bag containing a book and associated props and prompts to retell the story and promote engagement and discussion.



They stimulate language development, make reading more memorable and support children with their own storytelling.



As a school we will be working on creating a range of story sacks—if any parents or carers would be willing to help please do let us know!

As you are aware, our School Council instigated a 'Cool Crazy Clothes Day' to bring the week to a close in their bid to raise funds for the Ukraine.



The whole school pulled together to support them and you will be pleased to learn that the donations from a cake sale and our Cool Crazy Clothes Day amounted to [£162.96.](#)

This money has already been sent directly to the Ukraine by Olha, where it will be used to buy emergency supplies for the people in the war torn cities.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL?

Literacy Developments at The Link Secondary

It's been a jam-packed and exciting year so far concerning all things reading and literacy. Not only did some of our students recently enter a nationwide poetry writing competition, those who did, went on to compete against over 5000 entries and successfully had their work selected to be published. In the words of the judges, "Having all your students' work chosen is something to be very proud of, it doesn't happen every day! I was impressed with their writing and it's clear that you've really inspired them with *Empowered* - such a privilege to read and every piece will make a fantastic addition to *Empowered 2022 - Words Unbroken!*"

There's a real buzz about our new Library plans and of course new books! This is a project endorsed by our recent Ofsted inspection and we are all very excited about it. Adjacent to the Library will be a reading/study zone, where students will be able to find a quiet space to read and complete classwork when a more discreet environment might be needed. We will have new online reading

platforms and students will be given library lessons, which will help them to browse books by things like genre, authors and interest. With the support of a small group of SSAs, we will establish an organised and well-resourced space that students are keen to visit. We will also create a book tree; giving students an opportunity to write book reviews for their peers which will be hung on the tree as book review 'leaves'. If students have any books at home which they would like to donate to the Library, we would be very grateful to receive them.

What can I do to help my child read at home?

In these technological times we appreciate it can be difficult to encourage young people to read. We would encourage independent reading for just 20 minutes a day. Another suggestion is to use audiobooks. Some research suggests that having a book read out loud has the same benefits as independent silent reading (if not more if a student finds reading independently a challenge).

Website and book recommendations:
<https://freerice.com/categories/english-vocabulary> Vocabulary knowledge has a brilliant impact on reading ability and confidence. Try out freerice.com which tests

vocabulary knowledge and donates rice in the process!

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

The Book Trust has a range of reading recommendations and strategies for anyone needing advice and allows access to an enormous range of books for young people. Book Trust aims to transform lives by getting children and families reading by providing children across the UK with books, resources and support.

WHAT HAPPENING AROUND AND ABOUT?

A couple of family festivals are happening locally over the next few weeks. So if you fancy a day out whilst supporting the local community!



AND FINALLY

Spare a thought for three members of the primary staff (Nic, Emma and Sue R) who on the 14th May, whilst everyone else is thinking of dropping off to sleep, will be pounding the streets of London, taking part in Walk the Walk, raising money and awareness for breast cancer - a disease which affects both men and women.

If you would like to make a small donation to help them along their way, "The Linkies" would really appreciate it.

<https://walkthewalk.enthuse.com/pf/nicola-andrews>

<https://walkthewalk.enthuse.com/pf/emma-moore>

<https://walkthewalk.enthuse.com/pf/susan-ramm>