

# Nursteed Community Primary School



## Newsletter 14 Friday 19th January 2024

### Message From Mrs Vousden

I hope you have been keeping warm on these cold and bright days. I have been enjoying seeing the sunrise round the back of the school in the mornings – we are so lucky to have that view!

As you may know, this year our main curriculum development focus is looking at ways to develop the teaching of reading across the school. The teachers have all had training in the key reading skills they need to teach the children and have been implementing a rigorous planning regime to ensure our teaching of reading is the best it can be. We will continue to develop this going forward.

We have also been looking at how we can ensure our children have a love of reading and have invested in new books for the class libraries, introduced 'Hot Chocolate with Mrs Vousden' for those making a great effort with their reading and have arranged trips for each class to visit the Devizes library, with the hope this will start a good reading habit. All these are keeping the focus on books! We have been pleased to receive some excellent donations of books from parents and always find a good home for them, thanks for this.

The one thing that makes the biggest difference to a child's progress in reading is how often they read and are read to at home. I would ask all of you to think about how you can plan reading time into your child's day so that your child gets the best start to reading possible. We know this gets harder as children get older, but the longer you can stay engaged in your child's reading, the better.

For some guidance on how to listen to your KS1 read, see the videos on our website Pluto page [here](#). For information on what our phonics lesson look like click [here](#) and [here](#).

Thank you for helping your child in so many ways.

Kay Vousden  
Headteacher

PS – this week I spoke to the children in assembly about Martin Luther King Jr day (15th January). You may want to chat to them about this.

### Volunteers

Following on from the above information on reading, we are always looking for more volunteers to help with reading in school. If you or a friend/family member would be able to offer a regular time each week to help with this, please get in touch. All volunteers in school need to have a full DBS check and must provide two references, but we can assure you a warm welcome when you join us!

### School Uniform

We expect children to be wearing the correct school uniform including the correct colour of top. If your child does not have a Nursteed jumper or cardigan, you can contact the office to see if we have any in our pre-loved clothing. If we do not have the appropriate size you will need to purchase one from Scholars or Ohm Clothing in Devizes. We will be speaking with children who are seen not wearing the correct jumpers/cardigans to find out why, so if you have a temporary problem, please let us know that this issue is in hand.

*Through kindness, teamwork and determination we thrive.*

## Staff Illness

We are currently experiencing high staff absences due to illness and are sorry for the disruption this causes the children. We will try to keep you informed of who will be teaching the class, but we ask for your understanding, as this is often a changing picture. We ask teachers to keep you informed via Dojo when they are out of school for training or PPA release, but this is not always possible when the member of staff is ill. Currently Mrs Dunstone (Y6) and Miss Kennedy (Y5) will be out of class next week, we will update parents via Dojo as soon as possible with the cover in place.

## Swimming – Last session

The final swimming lesson of the year for Y4+5 will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – this has been carried over from the cancelled lesson on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## Cars

We have once again had the issue raised of parents leaving their cars running while they drop off or wait for their children. Please be aware that this behaviour has a big impact on the environment and is not acceptable in or around schools, where young children breathe in the fumes. To find out more about the impact click [here](#) and remember to turn off your engine while you wait.

## Star of the week

At the end of last week the following people were awarded their class cup for showing our school values of: **Kindness**, **Teamwork** and **Determination** and for showing that they were **Thriving** in some way. If your child was chosen, please congratulate them on their efforts and achievements.

## W/C 15/11/24

Pluto: Milo, Mars: Ripley, Neptune: Isla, Mercury: Joshua, Venus: Lucy, Jupiter: Rosie, Saturn: Dylan.

## W/C 15/11/24

Pluto: Lacey, Mars: Jack, Neptune: Penny, Mercury: Samuel, Venus: Niamh, Jupiter: Rhys, Saturn: Amelia H.

If children are achieving special things outside of school we love to hear about it. Please let us know so we can celebrate with them in school.

## Dates for Diary –

### Term 3+4

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February -  | Last Day of Term 3 and Break the Rules Day (please see attached poster) |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February - | First day of Term 4   |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March -    | Easter Bunny Bingo - School Fund Raiser                                 |

## You are invited to attend your child's class assembly at 2.40pm on the following dates

### Term 3:

- Saturn Class - New date to be set due to staff sickness
- Jupiter Class - New date to be set due to swimming - Y5
- Venus Class - New date to be set due to swimming - Y4
- Mercury Class - 09.02.24 – Y3

### Term 4:

- Neptune Class - 01.03.24 – Y2
- Mars Class - 15.03.24 – Y1
- Pluto Class - 22.03.24 – YR

## **Attachments**

- Break the Rules Day
- Netball Poster
- Anxiety Course