

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year and feel refreshed for the new term ahead. The staff had a very productive training day on Monday with training from Dr Julia Coop on different teaching methods and the launch of our new oracy strategy in the afternoon. We are having a big focus this year on developing our children's speaking and listening skills. To launch this, we took inspiration from the TV show, Taskmaster. The children completed lots of tasks throughout the day on Tuesday ranging from making pictures out of toilet rolls, trying to order a pizza without using the words pizza, cheese, tomato etc, drawing shapes whilst blindfolded following directions from a partner and going on a scavenger hunt to find things beginning with different letters. The teachers all commented on how much fun the children had as they worked collaboratively to find solutions to their tasks. As part of the strategy, we will be launching No Pens Days, the first of which is Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Look out for more details in future newsletters.



#### Nursery

The Nursery children have been learning all about the Arctic and the animals that live there. They also played with ice and snow during their sensory activities.



#### Reception

The children in Reception have been learning about floating and sinking. They took objects from around the classroom, predicted whether they would float or sink and then tested their predictions.



#### Year 1

As part of their Taskmaster activities, Year 1 had to find the most number of words beginning with the 's' sound, they also had to draw an upside-down selfie and see who could get the paper furthest across the room.



#### Year 2

Year 2 had to find the highest number of 3 letter words within 3 minutes, find as many things as possible with a point in the classroom and find items beginning with certain letters.



#### Year 3

The children in Year 3 had to make an outfit out of toilet paper, draw pictures based on different letters of the alphabet as chosen by their friends and throw a ball into a bucket from the furthest distance.



#### Year 4

Year 4 had to put the most interesting thing in an envelope. The most interesting thing was a locked diary! They also had to create their own alphabet soup by finding items around the class room representing each letter.



#### Year 5

For their tasks, Year 5 had to make a picture out of toilet roll, list as many 5 letter words as possible and stand up for exactly 100 seconds.



#### Year 6

Year 6 also had a variety of Taskmaster challenges. They had to draw a shape whilst blindfolded following their partner's instructions, re-created a famous scene from a film of their choosing and had to work out Miss Mulvany's age in minutes!

As it is a new term, children have been introduced to new books and topics. There have been a wide variety of hook lessons taking place to engage children in their learning.



#### Year 3

Year 3 are going to be learning about light and shadow. In their introductory lesson, they made shadow puppets and performed a puppet show.



#### Year 4

To introduce their English text for this term, Cloudbusting by Malorie Blackman, the Year 4 children made pictures of the sky using shaving foam, paint and cotton wool. They then made animals from the clouds.

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### Year 5

On Wednesday, Year 5 arrived to find a crime scene in the middle of the top hall. They had to work out what had happened.

Luckily, no-one had been murdered in real life and it was just to get them interested in The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes which they will be studying in English this term.



### Year 6

Year 6 will be reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone this half term.

Therefore, in science, they made their own wands which glowed at the end.



### Year 1 Teddy Bear Reading

Next Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Year 1 will be bringing in their teddies from home to read to them. Please make sure your child brings their favourite teddy to read to!



### Year 2 Book Tasting

Next Friday, Year 2 will be bringing their favourite book in to share with their classmates. The children will get to explain why it's their favourite book and to let other children have a read. Please make sure that your book is named.



### Snapchat

This week we have had some issues between children in group chats on Snapchat. Please be aware that the minimum age that children should be on Snapchat is 13. We would advise that, if your child has Snapchat, you delete it from their phone immediately. We would also recommend that you look at the age requirements for each app before letting your children download them. We will be holding a workshop about how to encourage your children to stay safe whilst using a mobile phone.

### 2 Opal collection

From Monday, 2 Opal will be collected from the doorway leading from the playground to the Lower Ground Hall.



### Donations Wanted!

Reception and Nursery are looking for donations of dolls or out-grown dressing up clothes for their role play areas. If you have any, please could you drop them off in the office. Thank you for your generosity.



### Dates for your diary

#### January

8<sup>th</sup> – School starts

16<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 to Acton Park

18<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 reading to teddies

18<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 story tasting

26<sup>th</sup> – National Storytelling Week

#### February

8<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Police Talk

12<sup>th</sup> – 6 Mercury computing with Kingston Grammar

15<sup>th</sup> – Year 5 Unicorn Theatre Trip

18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Half Term

26<sup>th</sup> – Back to School

26<sup>th</sup> – Parents evening 3.40 – 7.00pm

27<sup>th</sup> – Parents evening 3.40 – 5.30pm

#### March

4<sup>th</sup> – Book Week

7<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day

14<sup>th</sup> – Parent Forum

15<sup>th</sup> – Red Nose Day

26<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 trip to British Museum

29<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 trip to British Museum

#### April

5<sup>th</sup> – End of term. School closes 2pm

23<sup>rd</sup> – Back to School