



NEWSLETTER NO 7 - Monday 24th January 2022

	Term Begins	Finish		Return	Term Ends
Spring 2022	Wednesday 5 January	Friday 18 February	Term Half	Tuesday 1 March	Friday 8 April
Summer 2022	Monday 25 April	Friday 27 May		Tuesday 7 June	Wednesday 20 July
Autumn 2022	Monday 5 September	Friday 21 October		Tuesday 1 November	Tuesday 20 December

Inset Days: 28 February 2022, 6 June 2022, 31 October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

What a difference a weekend makes! I had hoped this newsletter could be Covid-free after the last few updates, however circumstances have taken a turn over the past few days.

To date we have:

- 5 pupil cases
- 3 staff cases
- 3 staff absences with other health concerns
- 7 chicken pox cases (EYFS & Year 1)

As all teachers are in good health, Learning Discussions will be proceeding as planned, however we will update you if anything changes. Several parents are now also affected by Covid and therefore we will make arrangements to hold Learning Discussions appointments for them at alternative times. We are unfortunately unable to offer the option of video appointments at this stage in the booking process. If further families and parents are unable to attend booked appointments as a result of changing circumstances, please do let us know as soon as possible so we can update staff and make other arrangements.

Please refer to our previous updates for specific guidance and do continue to inform the school office of any absences or Covid cases in a timely fashion so that we can re-organise provision as appropriate - especially with the current staff shortages we want to minimise the impact on the children and their learning.

Online Behaviour and Social Media

We have been made aware of a number of incidents where pupils have been communicating online using inappropriate and hateful language. Whilst the ultimate responsibility remains with parents to allow access and monitor your children's use of technology and social media at home, the school has a responsibility to educate the children about protecting themselves and others; unfortunately, what the children think about in practice and in reality often differ. At the point behaviours or concerns at home continue into the school day, these will be managed under school policy. If you have any specific concerns or wish to seek advice, please contact the school or make use of the following link: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Special Visit - Antarctic Marine Biologist

We were extremely lucky to have Nadia Frontier (a marine biologist) from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) to come and talk to our school about her interesting job and what it is like living in Antarctica. Firstly, she presented an assembly to the whole school via TEAMS where she showed some brilliant pictures of her doing her job and some of the wonderful wildlife she is lucky enough to experience every day of her working life. Interesting questions were asked by pupils from all year groups. Later on, she did another outstanding presentation to Year 6. This was a more in-depth PowerPoint with informative videos about the long travel to Antarctica, the wildlife (especially penguins) and how she carries out her job on a daily basis. Year 6 asked amazing questions and she explained all the answers very clearly. After her visit, every pupil in our school wrote a thoughtful thank you letter to send to her so that she knew how grateful we were for her absorbing visit; we wanted her to feel appreciated. Three days after her visit, Nadia was on a military flight back to BAS. Presently, she is isolating on the Falkland Islands (for two weeks) to ensure that she helps Antarctica remain 100% covid-free.

(Emily and Abigail Year 6)

Warner Bros. Studio Tours Trip - Years 3 & 4

The first event of our fantastic trip was the VIP workshop. We climbed up hundreds of stairs to our secret VIP room where Julia (Script Teacher) told us how scripts were turned into movies. I found this interesting and I learnt a lot. I was given the professional role of Sketcher with Libby, I had to sketch Hagrid's hut. *(Celyn Year 4)*

After the workshop, we entered the entrance of Warner Brothers and I froze to the spot. My nostrils flared at the sight of 'The Dragon'. I couldn't prevent myself from waving my arms everywhere. The Dragon was so immense it didn't fit in my eyesight! *(Finn Year 4)*

The next activity was the green screen broomsticks. I had a go, it was easy. All we had to do was put our left arm in front and smile at the camera. Then we had to reach for the snitch and pose for the camera. *(Emily Year 4)*

Next it was wand casting where we learnt how to cast a wand and there was a man on the screen showing us, then we went to get out wands. I obviously chose Harry's wand, it was hilarious but fun, it was like a real wand. *(Teddy Year 4)*

World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March

To celebrate World Book Day 2022, the children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character. The Roving Bookshop will be returning to school the week before half term and we look forward to sharing other activities taking place on the day soon.

Mr M Tomson
Headteacher

DATES FOR THE DIARY (New items or amendments in bold)

25 & 26 Jan	Learning Discussions, 3.30 – 6.30pm
9 Feb	Young Voices Club starts, 3.15 – 4.15pm
21 -25 Feb	Half Term
28 Feb	Inset Day
1 Mar	Children return to school
