



Pupil of the week:

Clara
Coly Class

Billy
Otter Class

Hazel
Yarty Class

Dear Parents

First week back and all is going very well indeed. The children have returned from their holiday refreshed and ready to learn. Hopefully the energy levels have risen, all the bugs have been killed off and we'll have a healthy term!

Thank you so much to all those who brought in gifts for the staff, but also to those who wished us all a happy holiday, your support to the school really is appreciated and is testament to the ethos of our wonderful school.

READING

As I explained last term, I have been monitoring the children's home reading. We decided last term to have a focus on reading as homework and stipulated that children read at home, every day. Each morning I have been going into the classrooms before the children arrive and seen how many children haven't even taken their books home- they clearly have not read that book or written down what other reading they might have done. I have also been visiting classes and looking in the reading diaries – there is evidence here that more than just a few children have not been reading at home.

While I understand that some days children are tired or have extra things going on in the evening, we have set this as an expectation which is not being put into place for some children. Please use the reading diaries to record the sustained reading that has been done at home so that the teachers have an idea of what the children have been reading, alongside the reading they do in school. Please also write down what other things have been read - ALL reading is valid reading and we really do want to encourage children to read a wide variety of material – but to also record it in their reading diary.

From next week, I will be collecting the reading diaries from each class once a week to check what home-reading has been done and will be monitoring this across the term.

STAFF TRAINING

We enjoyed some interesting staff training on the INSET day – based on using 'Reasoning' in maths. The focus was on children 'working on' maths rather than simply 'working through' examples. While children need to learn basic maths concepts – number bonds, multiplication facts, how the number system works – good maths teaching relies on children "using what they know" to work out mathematical situations. We should teach the children to rely less on learning a 'traditional method' and more on figuring out a suitable method for calculating.

The teachers will be using this training to adapt and improve the children's learning – while still encouraging them to use the characteristics of effective learning as represented by our woodland creatures: Olive Owl, Wilbur Woodpecker, Samuel Squirrel and Betty Bee.

Further training scheduled for this term for members of staff will include First Aid Training updates, Language programmes, Funfit training, Mathematical Confidence & Growth Mindset and Assessment training. While each member of staff will not be able to access all of these training programmes it is fantastic that we do have staff who really want to improve their practice and will take on new ideas.

PTFA MEETING

PTFA meeting after school on Wednesday 16th January at 3.35pm in Yarty Class. Time to discuss this terms activities, if you'd like to help out or keep up to date with what we're up to please pop along. Children welcome too of course!

Lee White

Head of School

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School Diary Dates

Our forthcoming events and diary dates are on our website listed in the *News & Events* section.

Should your child be participating in a particular event or visit, then more specific details from your parent letter can be viewed online by clicking on the relevant event, this will then display the letter content.

www.kilmingtonprimary.co.uk/news/school-diary/

JANUARY	
Mon 14 th	Y3-Y4 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Mon 21 st	Y3-Y4 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Tues 22 nd	R-Y1 Dance Festival – PACKED LUNCH
Wed 23 rd	Y3 Gymnastics Festival – PACKED LUNCH
Fri 25 th	Kilmington Players Presents – Kilmington Cabaret (see website ‘School Diary’ for more information)
Sat 26 th	Kilmington Players Presents – Kilmington Cabaret (see website ‘School Diary’ for more information)
Mon 28 th	Y3-Y4 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Thurs 31 st	Y5-Y6 Sports Hall Athletics – East Devon Final (team event) 2.30pm-4.30pm – Parents to collect
FEBRUARY	
Mon 4 th	Y3-Y4 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Wed 6 th	Y4-Y6 Move Make Motivate (selected pupils) – PACKED LUNCH – Parents to transport
Mon 11 th	Y3-Y4 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Wed 13 th	Y5-Y6 Quicksticks Hockey (team event)
Fri 15 th	Y3-Y4 Federation Team Building Event (team event)
HALF TERM – 18TH – 22ND FEBRUARY inclusive	
Mon 25 th	Y1-Y2 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Tues 26 th	Y5/Y6 Quicksticks Hockey (team event) 2.30pm to 5.00pm – Parents to collect
Tues 26 th	R-Y4 Parents’ Evening (by appointment)
Wed 27 th	R-Y6 Parents’ Evening (by appointment)
Thurs 28 th	R-Y6 Parents’ Evening (by appointment)
MARCH	
Fri 1 st	Celebration Assembly 2.30pm Village Hall – Otter class to lead
Mon 4 th	Y1-Y2 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Tues 5 th	Y6 PE Academy (selected pupils) – parents to transport
Mon 11 th	Y1-Y2 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Mon 18 th	Y1-Y2 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Tues 19 th	Y5-Y6 Tag Rugby Festival – PACKED LUNCH
Wed 20 th	Y3-Y4 Swimming Gala (team event)
Tues 26 th	Y5-Y6 Go-Ride Cycling (team event) – parents to transport
Wed 27 th	Y3-Y4 Tag Rugby Festival (team event)
Mon 25 th	Y1-Y2 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
APRIL	
Mon 1 st	Y1-Y2 Swimming Lessons – parents to collect
Tues 2 nd	Reception Parachute Festival
Tues 2 nd	Y3-Y4 Gymnastics Celebration
SPRING HOLIDAYS 8th April – 22nd April	
TUESDAY 23RD APRIL – NON PUPIL DAY	