

Morton Newsletter



January 2025

And so another year begins – where did the last one go?

Welcome back to a new school term, one that I am sure will be filled with lots of learning opportunities, new experiences and fun for our children.

😊 Miss Jackson

HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

play nice work hard
stay kind find
accept responsibility JOY
TAKE OWNERSHIP

Writing

This year, one of our school improvement priorities is to improve the way that we teach writing. KS1 and KS2 teaching staff attended a course in September with Teresa Heathcote that focused on the writing sequence. Children are following a structured process in writing lessons including immersion, skills and writing lessons. The immerse stage involves children having lots of different opportunities to develop vocabulary through books, videos, drama, trips and experiences.

We have already seen amazing improvements in the language children are using in their writing. KS1 have been focusing on dictated sentences to make sure they are using their phonics knowledge accurately in their sentences. We have been using quality texts and media to support the teaching of writing. The focus this term for each class is:

Willow – current book of the week is 'Penguin Small'

Sycamore – Paddington – The original story of the bear from Peru.

Maple – The Story of Tutankhamum

Hazel – The Arrival

Please talk to your children about these texts and then have a look at their writing when you come on parent's evening.

OPAL – Field update

Work will start on the fence around the field next Tuesday. Once it is finished we will then be able to start taking the children out on the field at lunchtime.

In order to do this we will need to make sure that the children have appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather. Mr Elliott has made storage for Wellies so we now have space to keep them safe and dry whilst they're not being used. We do have some wellies in school, but not nearly enough for all the children that we have. Please send in a pair of wellies (pegged together) for your child that they can keep in school and use every day.

Children will also need waterproof coats (and possibly waterproof trousers) that are able to get muddy. These can be bought in on a day to day basis, or, again, could be kept in school.

Please make sure that all items are labelled with your child's name and class.



World Book Day

World book day is on Thursday 6th March – this seems like a long way off but I know that it will come round quickly!

For the day, we are asking the children to come in ready for a bedtime story (pyjamas, slippers, teddy..).

We will also be having a stay and read across school as well as a crafty reading activity for parents to stay and join in (9.30-10.30).

We will send out more details nearer the time but I wanted you to have advance notice so that you can arrange time if you wish.

Diary Dates

Tues 7th Jan - School starts

Wed 5th/Thurs 6th Feb - Bikeability Hazel

Fri 7th Feb - Number Day

Mon 10th Feb - Safer Internet Day

Thurs 13th Feb - Teams Day (children to wear team colours)

Fri 14th Feb - Young Voices

Fri 21st Feb - School closes

Next Half Term

Mon 24th Feb - School Starts

Thurs 6th March - World Book Day

Mon 10th March - Hazel trip to Cromford Mills

Tues 18th and Thurs 20th March - Parents Evening

Fri 4th April - Easter Egg Competition

Fri 4th April - School closes



Curriculum

We continue to work on developing our school curriculum to ensure that our children get the very best offer.

Thank you for all your continued work that supports what we teach in school - as we know, if learning is discussed and reinforced out of school then it is much more likely that it will be retained.

Willow Class - will continue their learning through the seasons with a focus on hot and cold seasonal change.

Sycamore Class - *Weird and Wonderful Weather* This is a geography theme in which the children will be comparing and contrasting a non-European country with the UK. This topic will focus on Peru - the home of Paddington Bear.

Maple Class - *Roaming in the Rainforest*. In this theme children learn about life in the rainforest and their importance to world climate.

Hazel Class - *Arkwright's Legacy*. This is a local History unit in which the children will be learning about the industrial revolution and the impact that it had on the people of Derbyshire.

For more details please see class pages on the website.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the parent survey before Christmas. It's really great to know that everyone that responded would recommend the school to another parent. 94% of those that responded felt that their child was happy and safe at school. 85% thought their children were making good progress at school. These results are really positive 😊 As you know, we are always trying to make our school even better. Please remember that we are here, and if you do have anything that you want to come and talk to us about, we're always ready to listen.

Picture Gallery

