

With **kindness** in our hearts,
we find **enjoyment** in our learning and
seek **challenge** in all that we do.



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NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Whole School Update



Despite the rain, we have managed some 'outside' time at school and we are even beginning to see signs of Spring including the annual visit of some local ducks. Children in Years 1 and 6 enjoyed Forest School sessions in Windmill Woods – Y6 even had an RE lesson there. PE this term has focused on tennis skills – we have had to use the playground though as the grass is still too wet! Year 4 children enjoyed a science lesson by the school vegetable patch where they investigated different soil types.



A highlight of this term was the fantastic Book Week, which was planned to coincide with World Book Day. During this time, we ran a book fair, built story tents, shared stories across the school and enjoyed a fabulous day of dressing up as our favourite characters.



In the last few weeks, Year 6 children have been out and about in the village, completing the Bikeability programme and have just enjoyed a three-day residential visit to Bewl Water. Year 5 children have joined other local schools at the Easter Rewind event in Hawkhurst. Darwin Class visited Great Dixter to learn more about plants and the outside

environment. Potter Class have enjoyed the experience of hatching and raising a batch of chicks in their classroom.



Looking forwards, we have already started plans for sports day and the school fete. Please keep Friday 24th May free if you can.



Have a restful Easter holiday – enjoy the sunshine, if we have any, and we'll see you next term, ready for another busy few weeks of activities and assessments.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 15th April. Happy Easter!

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Potter Class Update



What an incredible Term 4 Potter Class has had! We have thoroughly enjoyed immersing ourselves in all things 'Spring' with both our indoor and outdoor learning. We embarked on a spring walk around the school grounds and hunted for signs of Spring. We noticed some blossom on the trees, the daffodils in the fields and even some bees buzzing in the hedgerows.

We were lucky to welcome our 'Living Eggs' into class and spent two weeks watching six chicks hatch and grow. We certainly will miss their excited chirping each day!

We have made fantastic progress this term with our Early Learning Goals. We have continued to work on our whole school phonics scheme, 'Read, Write Inc', and we have excelled in both our reading and writing. Some of us are even writing short sentences with capital letters and full stops!

In maths, we have enjoyed doubling numbers and measuring. We have become experts at comparing lengths and weights using the correct mathematical language.

In PE, we have been developing our gross motor skills and we have been working hard on our ball skills for six weeks. We have learnt how to throw with one hand and catch with two and so many of us have become increasingly more accurate at hitting a target.

We wish you all a fabulous Easter holiday - stay safe!



Nightingale Class Update



Wow! What a wonderful term we have had in Nightingale Class! The children have amazed me with their knowledge of London and, in particular, The Great Fire of London. We have delved deep into the stages of the event and learnt what an impact it had on the city. We have used story maps to help support our writing which was fantastic. We also used the same process to write instructions on 'How to make a Tudor house', which we then constructed!

In maths, we have been working very hard to secure our knowledge of place value up to 50. The children can now confidently talk about the number of 'tens' and 'ones' in two digit numbers. After Easter, we will be counting up to 100 so plenty of counting over the holidays would be great!

In science, we have been investigating the seasons and observing the different weather as we transitioned from Winter to Spring. We measured the wind using the Beaufort scale and the hours of sunlight.

We have, of course, thoroughly enjoyed our time down in Windmill Woods. I loved hearing about how the children challenged themselves to try new activities.

A HUGE thank you for your support with reading at home—we have seen some fantastic progress in reading and phonics so, I promise, 10 minutes a day really is worthwhile!

Happy Easter from Mrs Player and Mrs Manser!



Darwin Class Update

Darwin have had an extremely busy, but fun term!

This term saw Pam, a volunteer for the RNLI, come in and talk to Darwin all about the role of the RNLI and water safety. She was very impressed with our knowledge as a class before she had even begun her session! The children got to dress up, watch videos and ask any questions they had.



The children thoroughly enjoyed “Coastline” as a topic – so much so, we chose our class assembly theme around it. The children were fantastic in their summer clothing, chanting a pirate sea shanty and telling the school and parents all about the coastline. Well done, Darwin!

As part of our science unit, “plant survival”, Darwin had the opportunity to go to Great Dixter for their school trip. The children made flatbreads, picked wild garlic and did some beautiful printing of flowers they liked all around the gardens. The children also went into the wooded area where they made dens, sang songs around the campfire and cooked their flatbreads! It was a fantastic day.



Darwin have worked hard on their beach huts in DT during term 4. First, the children designed their beach huts. Then, they made their beach huts and finally, the children evaluated them.

In English, the children became confident with using text maps to retell stories. They loved reading and retelling the story of “The Lighthouse Keeper’s Lunch” where they could change small details if they wanted to. The children used words such as “brazen”, “scavenging” and “pesky” to describe the cheeky seagulls who kept stealing people’s lunch!

Judaism was our unit in RE this term and the children really embraced their learning throughout their RE lessons. The children enjoyed learning all about the Menorah candles, the story of Hanukkah and trying traditional Jewish snacks called latkes.



Pankhurst Class Update



It really has been an action-packed term in Pankhurst class!

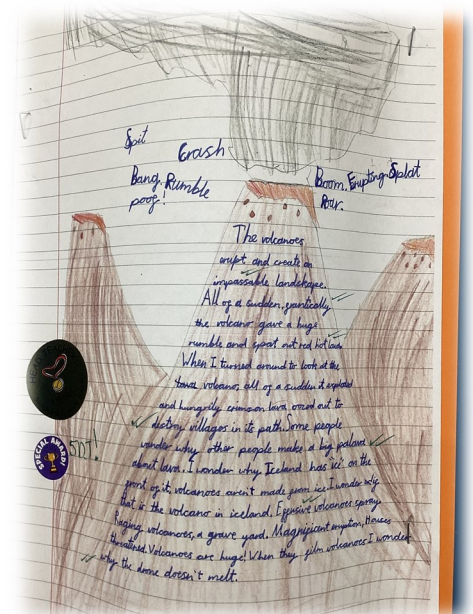
We have been active investigators in science, where we discovered which materials are magnetic. Once we had learnt about the magnetic Earth, we even made our own compasses.

With all the fun activities during Book Week, one of the highlights was making dens to read our books to Nightingale Class in.

During our design technology sessions, we have been looking at mechanisms in machines. Collaboration was key when making a trolley in pairs, and even more so when making an automaton toy with a cam.

The class wrote some amazing volcano shape poems, using ambitious vocabulary from our topic work. It has been so rewarding to see the children being thoroughly engaged in our "Rocks, Relics and Rumbles" topic. I hope they enjoy our next topic as much!

Have a wonderful Easter break and we wish Hannah all the best in her new home and school.



Shakespeare Class Update

Hello from Shakespeare Class!

We have had another great term of working really hard.

For the first three weeks, we continued with our English book, 'King of the Cloud Forest', and wrote diary entries as the character, Ashley. We then moved on to writing a newspaper article about a bottle-nosed whale that was stranded in the River Thames in 2006. This tied in with our topic of 'Mountains and Rivers', learning about the rivers in the UK and worldwide. We made our own 3-D models of mountains and rivers, labelling all of the main features, and did a fantastic job of adding amazing detail!

In maths, the Year 4s have been becoming masters of everything to do with fractions – you name it, we can do it! They also enjoyed moving on to our new topic of decimals. Year 5 have worked their socks off, completing modules on decimals, fractions and perimeter. They have just begun learning about statistics.

Along with all the other classes, we really enjoyed Book Week. We used Alice in Wonderland as a focus and wrote our own Wonderland adventure, imagining ourselves as Alice on an adventure in our own Wonderlands!

In DT, we have learnt all about the work of William Morris and created our own prints based on his designs – they look really impressive. Our Year 5s celebrated Easter at Hawkhurst where they enjoyed making crosses and planting cress seeds. They then led our school Easter assembly – I was very impressed with their reading!

Shakespeare Class would like to wish you all a Happy Easter!



Churchill Class Update



To say it has been an action-packed term is an understatement. What a busy but brilliant term Churchill Class has had! We have continued our fabulous Forest School sessions with Miss Abel on Wednesday mornings.

In topic and English lessons, the children have completely embraced our “Frozen Kingdom” project and produced some sensational pieces of work. In addition, they have let their creativity flow when writing their own Antarctic adventure narrative.

Churchill’s engineering ingenuity has also been in full force this term: the children competed in teams to design and build a range of bridge prototypes in design and technology, and burglar alarms in science.



Last week, Year 6 completed their Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 courses; all the cyclists were brilliant and the instructors were very impressed, especially with their behaviour.



Finally, this fantastically busy but brilliant term culminated in the highly anticipated Year 6 Bewl Water residential trip. We had three incredible days and the children had so much fun. Canoeing, sailing, archery, rock climbing, challenge course, axe throwing and orienteering were all on the activity schedule. The food was delicious and plentiful, and in the evenings, the fun in the park and games room was beyond entertaining! Again, the instructors and staff at Bewl commended the conduct of all the children – Year 6 were an absolute credit!



Whilst we were at Bewl Water, we were exceptionally proud of our year 5 members of Churchill Class who read brilliantly, along with their year 5 peers, as part of our Easter Service. Churchill Year 5 children also enjoyed their own Forest School session and made some very lovely Easter goodies!



Thank you so much to all the staff, both at school and on the Bewl Water trip, for all of your hard work in enabling us to provide Year 6 with the opportunity to go Bewl! Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter.



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Attendance

Attendance is at 94% at the end of this term. A little down on last term. This is mainly due to unauthorised holidays, unfortunately.

Children had a fun bounce again last term and there will be another bounce next term.



Pankhurst Class have won the termly treat as they are the best attenders with 95.9%! The class have chosen to have a pyjama and film treat! Well done Pankhurst Class.

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Diary Dates so far 2023-24

Diary Dates 2023-24

29 th – 12 th Apr	Easter Holiday
15 th Apr	Term 5 Begins
23 rd Apr	Year 6 Safety in Action Trip
2 nd May	Pankhurst Trip to Living Land
13 th -17 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
27 th May	Holiday
3 rd Jun	Term 6 Begins



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Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Term Dates 2023 - 2024

Sandhurst Primary School Term Dates 2023/2024

Term 1

INSET Friday 1st September 2023
Starts Monday 4th September 2023
Ends Friday 20th October 2023
Holiday Monday 23rd October 2023 – Friday 27th October 2023

Term 2

INSET Monday 30th October 2023
Starts Tuesday 31st October 2023
Ends Friday 15th December 2024
Holiday Monday 18th December 2024 – Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Term 3

INSET Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Starts Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Ends Friday 9th February 2024
Holiday Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February 2024

Term 4

Starts Monday 19th February 2024
Ends Thursday 28th March 2024
Holiday Friday 29th March 2024 – Friday 12th April 2024

Term 5

Starts Monday 15th April 2024
Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024
Ends Friday 24th May 2024
Holiday Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024

Term 6

Starts Monday 3th June 2024
INSET Monday 22nd and 23rd July 2024
Ends Friday 19th July 2024

INSET DAYS

1st September 2023, 30th October 2023, 2nd January 2024, 22nd July 2024, 23rd July 2024

Term Dates 2024-25

Sandhurst Primary School Term Dates 2024/25

Term 1

INSET Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Starts Wednesday 4th September 2024

Ends Friday 25th October 2024

Holiday Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2024

Term 2

Starts Monday 4th November 2024

Ends Thursday 19th December 2024

INSET Friday 20th December 2024

Holiday Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2025

Term 3

Starts Monday 6th January 2025

Ends Friday 14th February 2025

Holiday Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2025

Term 4

Starts Monday 24th February 2025

Ends Friday 4th April 2025

Holiday Monday 7th April– Monday 21st April 2025

Term 5

Starts Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025

Ends Friday 23rd May 2025

Holiday Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025

Term 6

Starts Monday 2nd June 2025

Ends Friday 18th July 2025

INSET Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025

INSET DAYS

2nd and 3rd September 2024

20th December 2024

21st and 22nd July 2025