



FEBRUARY 2020

Dates for the Diary:



31st January 2020 Newsletter

Diary Dates Week Commencing 3rd February 2020

- Monday 3rd February
 - 9:00 FOSS MEETING VILLAGE HALL
 - 11:30 - 15:30 NETBALL YR 5/6 STRATFORD PARK
 - Ebworth Merlin & Kestrel Classes
 - Board Games & Risk after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 4th February
 - Whole school sport Bentham pick-up 3:15
 - After school Sports Club Bentham pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 5th February
 - After school clubs Chess & Arty Crafty pick-up 4:15
 - After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 6th February
 - After school clubs STEM & Knitting pick-up 4:15
- Friday 7th February
 - Celebration Assembly 9:00 In Eagle Classroom
 - After school clubs Reading & Stay and Play pick-up 4:15

Diary Dates Week Commencing 10th February 2020

- Monday 10th February
 - Ebworth Eagle Class
 - Board Games & Risk after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 11th February
 - Whole school sport Bentham pick-up 3:15
 - After school Sports Club Bentham pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 12th February
 - After school clubs Chess & Arty Crafty pick-up 4:15
 - After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 13th February
 - After school clubs STEM & Knitting pick-up 4:15
- Friday 14th February
 - FOSS POT DAY - FREE DRESS FOR £1 DONATION
 - Celebration Assembly 9:00 In Eagle Classroom
 - After school clubs Reading & Stay and Play pick-up 4:15
 - FOSS DISCO 15:30 VILLAGE HALL £3 INCLUDES HOT DOG, DRINK & DISCO

Dear Parents & Carers,

This term feels like it will be over in a flash as time is flying by so quickly! I'm pleased to see children producing work to a really high standard and enjoying the 'Where on Earth' theme so far.

This week the children who took part in the Explore Learning Mathematics Challenge earlier this month received their medals for being the regional winners. They were disappointed not to get to the national finals, however only 5 regional winners go through so they did brilliantly well to win the regional event.

In sport we've participated in the Riddiford Shield football tournament, coming 10th overall out of 16 schools, and were then second in our group final. The children played really well and we showed a big improvement from last year. Today and on Monday we have the High Fives Netball competition for Year 3/4 and year 5/6. Coming up we have a cross country event, a rearranged tag rugby tournament, dodgeball event and a gymnastics event. Details to follow. Thank you to those parents who have supported with the transport to the netball events. The more we can move our small teams around with parent help, the more money is left in the ring-fenced Sports Premium budget and the more events they get to go to and sports they get to try.

With this in mind, at Bentham on Tuesday we welcomed the 'Dan the Skipping Man' team to help enthuse, inspire and teach all of our children to improve their basic skipping skills, learn alternative techniques and conquer a range of skipping tricks. It was really good to see the progress the children made, on their own, in pairs and in whole team skipping challenges. Some of our younger children who couldn't skip at all had mastered it by the end, much to their delight. We've purchased enough new skipping ropes for the whole school to have one each, including Little Lambs, some adults length ropes and 3 pairs of double dutch long ropes. We'll be using them at Bentham and school so if you know any cool skipping tricks and want to come and show the children, just let us know!

This week we've experimented with a changed playtime routine, opening up the Merlin outdoor area to Merlin class at all break and most lunch times (not Mondays as half the school go to Forest School). We've moved staff duties around to accommodate this so that we have supervision in every area. Children from Merlin class are still able to move in and out of their outdoor area over the playtime but are enjoying being able to dig in the sand, play with the water or play games on the decking in a less busy environment. Mrs Powell has been busy and ordered many more playground games to extend our playtime offer to all children. So far the new arrangements are proving popular with children and we will evaluate this at the end of our trial period.

A thank you now to you all for ensuring your children are in school on time in the mornings. We've noticed that children are generally in earlier and we've had less children in late. This means their school day can start on time and in a smooth way, so that's great for us all and good for your children as there is less disruption once registration time begins. Thank you!

Attendance wise overall, we're still lower than we need to be and much lower than other schools locally, so please keep your children coming to school on every day they are fit to do so. There are 39 weeks of school and 13 weeks of school holiday - keeping them home when they are not sick because they want a day off, or you've promised them a day at home is not ideal (other than children who are still 4 years old and have this right until they turn 5). They miss new learning and have to catch up as teaching (especially in Maths and English, which happen daily) is part of a planned sequence. Catching up takes either support staff or teachers away from the rest of the class which is unfair on everyone else. If they've been poorly, then of course we're more than happy to spend time catching up as that's a different matter. I'm not in favour of children missing other lessons such as music, sport, science or Forest School to catch up on missed Maths or English learning and so as a rule we don't do this. I'd like to keep it that way. Children are usually unswervingly honest (and rightly so) about why they haven't been in school - if they weren't really sick, they do tell us.

Once again to help us in our quest against headlice, please check your children's hair again this week as we're still not head lice free across the school. Many thanks.

Children should be bringing a fruit, vegetable or non sugary snack to school. Merlin class can bring a snack from home or have fruit or vegetables from the classroom as part of the free scheme for infants in schools. We did much better with this a while back but some less healthy snacks are finding their way in. It puts your child in a difficult situation if we have to tell them to put away their snack.

The Voice Collectives project has started really well for Eagle class, as has Garage band for Kestrel class. Feedback from the children is excellent and the Gloucestershire Music team are really impressed and love coming to our school. We're also delighted that we've been invited by Gloucestershire Music and the Painswick Music Society to take children to a concert at St Mary's Church in Painswick on 13th February during the school day. There is no charge for tickets as the cost has been covered by the Painswick Music Society, who are also very kindly funding 50% of our transport costs. Children from Years 2 to 6 will be seeing the Carducci String Quartet who will be joined by guitarist Craig Ogden to perform to children as part of Gloucestershire Music School Recital Series.

We have some super new chairs in school which have been very kindly donated to us to use in our staff room. This means our soft blue chairs in the staff room are needing a new home. If you can find a home for one (or several!) and can take them away before half term then please let Mrs Powell know.

Finally, next week the first of our students begins their seven week teaching placement. Miss Hall is a PGCE student and she will largely be working in Kestrel Class alongside Mrs Barron and Mr Ringer. Miss Hall is already known to the children and has been working with groups in Kestrel class as she has completed 6 weeks of familiarisation sessions, coming in for two days each week. From next week she will be in school full time and working towards teaching around 60% of the week by the end of the placement. An inspirational setting where all children flourish' what more could we say? Kind regards, Vicky Barron Head teacher

93.6% Attendance		Actual power: 029 kW
		Total energy: 8 105 kWh
		CO ₂ savings: 46 19 kg



Sheepscombe Primary School
01452 813852
 admin@sheepscombe.gloucs.sch.uk
 www.sheepscombeschool.co.uk



Dan the Skipping Man at Sports

FEBRUARY 2020 FEBRUARY 2020



Making slime in Science with Mr T aylour