



# FEBRUARY 2020



## 14th February 2020 Newsletter

### Diary Dates Week Commencing 24th February 2020

- Monday 24th February - Ebworth Merlin & Kestrel Classes  
- Board Games & Risk after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 25th February - Whole school sport Bentham pick-up 3:15  
- After school Sports Club Bentham pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 26th February - After school clubs Chess & Arty Crafty pick-up 4:15  
- After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 27th February - After school clubs STEM & Knitting pick-up 4:15
- Friday 28th February - Celebration Assembly 9:00 In Eagle Classroom  
- After school clubs Reading & Stay and Play pick-up 4:15

### Diary Dates Week Commencing 2nd March 2020

- Monday 2nd March - Ebworth Eagle Class  
- Tag rugby tournament Painswick RFC 12:00 - 16:00  
- Board Games & Risk after school club pick-up 4:15
- Tuesday 3rd March - Whole school sport Bentham pick-up 3:15  
- After school Sports Club Bentham pick-up 4:15
- Wednesday 4th March - Quicksticks Hockey Stratford Park 12:45 - 4:45  
- After school clubs Chess & Arty Crafty pick-up 4:15  
- After school club Sewing pick-up 4:30
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day  
- After school clubs STEM & Knitting pick-up 4:15
- Friday 6th March - Celebration Assembly 9:00 In Eagle Classroom  
- After school clubs Reading & Stay and Play pick-up 4:15

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another two weeks have flown by and here we are at half term! This week we have had two governor visits to look at our Early Years provision and at our PSHE curriculum. The governors spent time in school speaking to the teaching staff, visiting lessons, talking with pupils and looking at books. Having different Governors overseeing different aspects of the curriculum works really well as they are able to develop an understanding of how their area of the curriculum is working at any given time. They give up their time and expertise voluntarily and are an integral part of the Sheepscombe team.

We are delighted to have discovered that 22 of our children have been selected to perform at the Criterion Theatre in London at the end of March as part of the 'I know, I wish, I will' National Poetry Project. We were expecting around 8 children to get through to this event so if you've noticed myself or Mrs Powell looking a bit frazzled in the past two days it's because we've been chasing round for permission slips, coach travel and extra staff from our team to come in that day if it's not their regular work day. To be honest all of our children who took part in this project were worthy of a place so we also extend our congratulations to everyone who took part. A huge achievement for a small school! We are also enormously grateful to the Cheltenham Literature Festival team for selecting our school to take part originally and for contributing to the cost of coach travel.

In sport over the past fortnight we've taken part in two 'high fives' netball tournaments. As usual our children played well and enjoyed themselves. Next year we are going to really upskill our teams further with support from several committed parents - if you fancy helping out in any area of sport then let us know! Many thanks to the parents who helped with transport to and at the event, your help is always appreciated.

As our attendance is lower than schools around us last week I attended an Attendance Network meeting led by the Attendance team from Gloucestershire County Council. One of the aspects covered in this session outlined what schools should be doing in terms of issuing penalties to parents through their legal process for persistent non-attendance at school (90% or less). Schools are beginning to need to justify why they are not doing this for persistent absentees. I really don't want to go down this route so once again please do send your children to school on every day possible and please avoid taking holidays during term time. Also, having to attend such meetings takes me out of school for a whole morning and is not a good use of my time as it is better spent in school. Our target for attendance is 97% and as you can see from the figure at the bottom of the page we are well below this. Many children are attending very well but currently the figures for around 14 children are bringing the school's percentage down.

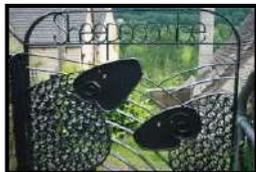
Thank you for supporting with break time snacks since the last newsletter. For the most part children are now bringing in suitable snacks. However, this week we've had several children bringing in throat sweets or cough sweets unbeknown to us. All medication MUST be given to Mrs Powell and this includes any kind of throat or cough lozenge which should be administered sparingly and ideally not during the school day. Children are not permitted to keep any kind of medication themselves during school time nor to self administer. Parents must hand over medication including these items to Mrs Powell, who will record the dosage instructions.

Yesterday we were lucky enough for our children in years 2-6 to attend a concert at St Mary's Church in Painswick as I mentioned in the last newsletter. They heard a live performance by the Carducci String Quartet with guest guitarist Craig Ogden as part of Gloucestershire Music School Recital Series. Such opportunities don't come along very often and it was a pleasure to take part. The children and staff tell me it was excellent.

Miss Jasmine Hall, our PGCE student, has made a good start to her teaching placement in Kestrel class and the children are working well for her alongside the regular teaching team. After half term we will be welcoming another student, this time from the School's Direct programme, also from the University of Gloucestershire. To confuse things (although I am assured this was not done on purpose!) her name is Mrs Cath Halls (so we have a Miss Hall and a Mrs Halls) - she will join the teaching team in Merlin Class for a 6 week placement. I am a big believer in supporting trainee teachers on their journey. Many placements take place in large schools with huge entry numbers and I think it is really important that students get to see a small, rural school in action, especially one such as ours! After Easter Eagle class will be having a PGCE student - I have yet to find out their name!

To give you some advance notice, in case you should be booking tickets over the holiday, we have once again been able to book tickets for the whole school to go to Gifford's Circus at Fennell's Farm on the first day back after the Easter break in April. I've also managed to book tickets for the Cheltenham Science Festival. More news on both events to follow next term as they are a while away.

An inspirational setting where all children flourish' what more could we say? Kind regards, Vicky Barron Head teacher



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Carducci String Quartet featuring guitarist Craig Ogden



Risk after school club.



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Kestrel Class - Garage Band with Salo and Mr Ringer

