

## Welcome

It was lovely to see parents at the Year 2 Welcome, Information evening on Tuesday. All the presentations and information have been uploaded to the class pages on the website. We will hold the Year 1 Welcome, Information Meeting on Wednesday 11th October at 6:30pm.

Year 6 had a fantastic workshop by Marcus from the Shakespeare Schools Festival on Thursday - all the children are working incredibly hard and getting excited about their performances on 9th November.

Please see the information from Friends below. If you're available to attend on Tuesday 3rd October at 6:30, I know the committee would love to welcome you and get involved in a range of planned events.

We have a week or two of staff absence - cough, colds, tonsillitis, and other ailments. Please bear with us as staff absence is having an impact at the moment.

Please note that the Year 6 gate will be closed on Wednesday as we will be having new fencing installed from next week.

**Michael Dillon - Headteacher**

## Year 3

This week we held our first oracy assembly of the year. We are focussing this term on giving reasons to support views, listening actively and responding appropriately. Our discussion topic was, "I would rather be a cheetah than a monkey." We had a lively debate over whether a cheetah's ability to move and hunt for food at speed was better than a monkey's ability to swing great distances through the trees and forage for food.

The children were all able to contribute some interesting ideas that they could back up with reasons.

By the conclusion of our discussion, we had not been able to reach a shared agreement. The majority of the year group were in favour of monkeys, however there were still many who would prefer to be cheetahs! We had lots of fun and can't wait for our next discussion topic! Well done Year 3!



## Year 4

In recent weeks, Year 4 have been working on their computer skills within the world of creating animations.

The children have enjoyed using specific tools to help them create videos where an object appears to be moving by making very subtle changes to its original format.

Through their progression, the children were able to develop their very own scene of a 'hippopotatomus' moving in its natural habitat.

That's a hippo and potato combined in case you were wondering!





### Year 3 Cookery Club

Five children from Year 4, who have consistently followed the golden rules were invited to go into the school kitchen, with Kelly, the Catering Manager to create food for the following day.





## Children's Achievements

During the summer break Taksh in Year 5 participated in 'Sprint with the Stars' at the London Aquatics Centre Olympic swimming pool. He competed in a field of over 600 athletes from across the UK for a chance to race with Olympic champions and world record holders like Adam Peaty and David Popovici.

Taksh successfully qualified for the finals in all four events and got a chance to meet his idols up close, chat with them and also take photographs with all of them! Despite being super tired he was buzzing at the end of the day.

Apart from this, following his recent Swimathon 2023 Taksh has taken up another charitable initiative - swim 26 miles (42 km) over a 12-week period starting 1st Aug to raise money for Wateraid.

He has almost completed the challenge in less than 6 weeks and will continue to swim for the cause until 24th Oct. He has set a target contribution of £100 and is almost there through support from family and friends.

You can support Taksh and make a difference to some of the most underprivileged parts of the world via this link:

<https://wateraid.enthuse.com/pf/taksh-chopdekar>



Theo in Year 4 completed the challenge of climbing to the top of Ben Nevis, UK's highest peak in August alongside the support from his Mum, Danni, in aid of Dementia UK.

The hike has raised money for the charity and helps to make a difference for people with dementia.

Residents at the Ascot Grange Care Home receive visits from Theo where his Mum works as a Dementia Care Assistant.

She said that he spends his time making memories, playing games, listening, talking and laughing with the homes' residents in what they call 'Theo Therapy'.

His Mum said "He's been smashing mountains since he was 3 years old, completing Brecon Beacons circular, Snowdon four times (one night hike) Gyderys and Y Garn circular twice, Scafell Pike and a few others.



# **FRIENDS OF BIRCH HILL NEED YOU!**

## **What is Friends of Birch Hill?**

This is the parent/staff association for the school. The group raises money to enhance provision for the children by organising events like the summer fair, school discos, dress up days, events for parents. Last year the group raised enough money to pay for a new climbing frame for the playground and now fundraising is ongoing to upgrade the school library.

## **What can you do to help?**

There are only a few parents on the group at the moment so Friends really need some new volunteers. If you choose to join the main jobs/tasks are:

- Coming up with fun ideas for future fundraising events which the kids will enjoy
- Attending meetings which are usually held every 2 months
- Reaching out to businesses to get people to attend the school fair & donate raffle prizes
- Attending events to help set up, run a stall, lend a hand, clear up
- Working with the school office to get communication sent out to parents
- Designing flyers and communication to raise awareness of events

The more volunteers we have, the less work for each person and the more fun for the kids!

If you are interested, please contact [friendsbirchhill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsbirchhill@gmail.com). The next Friends meeting is Tuesday 3rd October, 6.30-7.30pm in the school staff room





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## October 11<sup>th</sup> - October 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

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The LoveReading family — [LoveReading](https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk), [LoveReading4Kids](https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk) and [LoveReading4Schools](https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk) — exists because reading matters, and books change lives.

We know that reading for pleasure, and improving reading standards, has a huge impact on our children's wellbeing, academic achievements, and future success.

Alongside that, we also know that the current funding crisis has resulted in devastating cuts to budgets in our schools, which is why LoveReading is redressing that shortfall through creating an online bookstore with social purpose.

#### Buy books, change lives - how it works

When you buy any book from [LoveReading](https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk) or [LoveReading4Kids](https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk), 25% of the cover price will be given to a school of your choice, such as us!

Book prices are competitive with at least 10% off the RRP

After you've searched for the books you'd like to buy (after reading reviews and accessing opening extracts of highly recommended titles), at checkout, you'll be able to search for your school, by adding your school name or post-code, and you allocate that money to us. It will even tell you how much your purchase has donated to us!

We can then spend our allocated funds on LoveReading4Kids to get more books in our classrooms and library.

#### Buy books, change lives - what to do

LoveReading has a huge selection of books for all ages, across all genres, at competitive prices, so make LoveReading and LoveReading4Kids your go-to bookshops to give our school the chance to access more books.

Sounds like a win-win situation - you get great books, while we get funds for great books to encourage even more reading for pleasure in our children..

Like we said at the start, reading matters and books change lives - buying books through LoveReading will ensure that continues to happen for students at our school, and future generations.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

[www.lovereadingschools.co.uk](https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk)  
[www.lovereadingschools.co.uk](https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk)



LoveReading

4 KIDS BUY BOOKS CHANGE LIVES

## DATES FOR THE DIARY — AUTUMN TERM

Magic Pebbles Workshop for Reception	Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 5th October @ 9am
Friends Meeting	Tuesday 3rd October @ 6.30pm
Year 6 Height & Weight Check	Wednesday 11th October
Scholastic Book Fair	Wednesday 11th-Monday 16th October from 3.20pm
Welcome to Reception Meeting	Wednesday 11th October @ 6.30pm
Welcome to Year 1 Meeting	Wednesday 11th October @ 6.30pm
Year 1 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 17th October - 2.40-3.00pm
Parents Evening (virtual)	Tuesday 17th October - 4-7pm
Story Writing Sessions Workshop for Year 1	Thursday 19th & Friday 20th October @ 9am - details to follow
Year 3 Home Learning Exhibition	Thursday 19th October - 2.45-3.05pm
Parents Evening (virtual)	Thursday 19th October - 4-7pm
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 23RD —FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER</b>
Flu Immunisations	Friday 3rd November
Year 6 Shakespeare Performance @ The Exchange Theatre, Twickenham	Thursday 9th November @ 7.00pm
Year 5 Ufton Court Trip	Friday 24th November
Children's Christmas Fair	Friday 1st December
Nursery Nativity Play	Tuesday 5th December - 9.30-10.30am
KS1 Nativity Play	Wednesday 6th @ 9.30am & Thursday 7th December - 9.30am & 5.30pm
Year 5 Home Learning Exhibition	Thursday 7th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Reception Nativity Play	Friday 8th December @ 9.30am
Year 6 Home Learning Exhibition	Monday 11th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Year 2 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 12th December - 2.40-3.00pm
Year 4 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 12th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 13th December
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER</b>