

## Headteacher's Update 2.2.24

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of February. I can already see some signs of spring on its way in my garden as some of the bulbs begin to show their heads. It is still cold outside though, so we will continue to remind children to wear their coats at lunch and breaktimes.

### Candlemas

Today we have celebrated Candlemas, a day that commemorates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple when he was a baby, with a liturgy led by our team of pupils. Each class also took a new candle back to their class for use on their prayer tables throughout the rest of the year.



### Science Week

Mrs Hamshere is busy organising Science week which will take place the week beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> March, and she would love it if any parents or carers who work in the world of science would like to come in and give a short presentation to some children. You could share what your role entails and possibly bring in some props or pictures to share. We have been really lucky to have had a positive response in the past, so if you think you would like to take part please email the school office and Mrs Hamshere will get in touch.

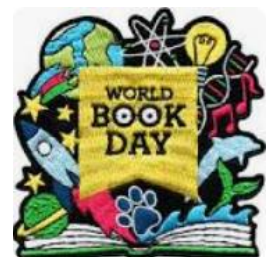
### Safer Internet Day – 6<sup>th</sup> February

Next Tuesday is National Safer Internet Day. Each year we promote this day as regular reminders about how to keep safe online are crucial for pupils. This year, a big focus will be on how being online can affect how we feel. The resources we use are age appropriate, and there will be a focus on what to do if something we see has a negative impact on us. KS2 will be learning to understand that online content can change people's thoughts, feelings and behaviour both positively and negatively. They will also be learning how to think creatively about words and actions that can make the internet a more positive place. We know that, even with age restrictions on social media that our pupils are interacting online. It is vital that they understand the impact of their words, comments and images on others. They also need to understand that there is the same expectation from a school perspective that they should behave online as they would in the 'real world' and that there are consequences if it is brought to our attention that they are not. Please support this work at home. Our Wakeup Wednesday emails from National Online Safety have great tips for parents so please do make sure you read them.



### Advance Notice – World Book Day, Parents Evening and Book Look

I know as a parent I appreciated as much notice of events as possible, and we try to do the same for you. As such, I am letting you know that we will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We always celebrate on a Friday as we feel it is easier to manage the excitement when the next day is a weekend! We will be encouraging children (and staff) to dress as their favourite characters as we take part in book related activities throughout the day, including a parade of the whole school in their costumes.



Ahead of parents' evenings which will take place online on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, we will have the in-person drop in session on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February from 3.10pm to 4.30pm. This will give you a chance to look at your child's work alongside them, have a look in the classrooms and speak to the teachers who will be present throughout the evening. Any

specific issues are best discussed at the parents evening, but you can talk about what the children are learning and general questions about the year group. We find that offering this hybrid approach provides the best of both worlds – a quiet and private parents evening meeting that runs to time, and a more informal look at where your child spends most of their day with the teacher on hand.

Some parents have fed back that they want more than 10 minute appointments. 10 minutes has always been the length of parent evening appointments, long before I arrived or we moved to online. One of the problems with in-person meetings was that it was difficult keeping to time despite our best efforts and this caused inconvenience for others. As has always been the case, if you need longer to discuss any specific issues regarding your child, you can contact the school office to make an appointment with the class teacher.

### **PTA Mufti Day**

There will be a PTA Mufti Day on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. This means children can attend school wearing their own clothes for a donation of £1. All funds raised go towards resources for all the children.

### **Pupil Achievements**

Congratulations to Shanelle in 1S, Andrea in 2L, Shanael in 3L and Alphonsa in 3S who won second prize in a regional UK Malayali (South Indian) cultural competition held at Salisbury. The competition was organised by UKMA (Union of South West UK Malayalee Associations). The girls won the prize for cinematic dance at regional level.

You should be very proud of yourselves girls!



## Sports Festivals

It has been another busy week for Mr Wassell as he has taken selected pupils to more sports festivals.

Well done to all the girls who took part during the football festival at Mandeville School. They had their footballing skills put to the test in a series of challenges. The girl's teamwork and attitude during the festival was exemplary and they seemed to really enjoy the morning. Thank you to the parents who supported the staff on this trip.

On Wednesday (after school), a small group of year 5 children competed in a futsal (indoor football) tournament against other schools in the area. The St Louis team were triumphant in the group stage winning their group and progressing through to the final. Unfortunately, the team lost in the final to Bierton Junior School. They played magnificently throughout the competition and should be proud of their efforts. Thank you to the parents support during this event. I am sure that you would agree that the St Louis Team did exceptionally well.



Next week, we are looking forward to the return of Darren, the sports coach, who will be leading Years 2, 4 and 6 in games of Glow in the Dark dodgeball and Years 1, 3, and 5 in archery. We are able to provide these experiences using Sports Premium funding from the Government, and Darren does a great job of getting all the children involved in a fun but controlled manner. You never know, we may discover some future Olympians!

I wish you all a very pleasant weekend,

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis



## Reception

**We have been learning:** about different dances. We have practised simple steps for a cha cha dance.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to show you how to do the cha cha dance.

## Year 1

**We have been learning:** about 3D shapes.

**You can help at home by:** going on a hunt around your home and identifying and naming 3D shapes.

## Year 2

**We have been learning:** about the country Kenya.

**You can help at home by:** looking at Kenya on a map with your child to see if they can remember what the capital is and which continent it belongs to.

## Year 3

**We have been learning:** about fossils in science.

**You can help at home by:** asking the children to tell you all the facts they have learnt about fossils.

## Year 4

**We have been learning:** about Henry VIII and his wives.

**You can help at home by:** asking your children to recall some of the facts they learned about the wives.

## Year 5

**We have been learning:** how to perform cartwheels in PE.

**You can help at home by:** asking your child to safely perform a cartwheel using the techniques we have learnt.

## Year 6

**We have been learning:** to solve algebra problems.

**You can help at home by:** asking what methods they have used to find the value of letters in problems.