

## Headteacher's Update – 20.10.23

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy but rewarding half term and we are looking forward to a restful break to re-charge our batteries.

Here are some updates from the week and some reminders for the return to school after half term.

### Football Team

Well done to the boy's football team who are back in action. Just a massive well done to all the children that took part in an extremely tough tournament at Haddenham at the weekend. They should be proud of their efforts and especially being the only team to score against the eventual winners, Ashmead. A big thank you for all the parents support as well. This week also saw the first league match of the season. Although we lost 2-0 I was very proud of our energy and willingness to play on to the final whistle. We were also gracious in defeat and will try our best next time. Thank you to those parents and staff who came to cheer the boys on and to Mr Wassell and Mr Jones for arranging these events.

### Be Bright Be Seen

Well done to everyone who wore something bright on Monday to remind us of the importance of being seen as the dark evenings draw in.



### Stone Age Day – Year 3

Following on from the interactive Great Fire of London workshop last week for Year 2, we had another great hands on day for Year 3 on Tuesday. The children looked amazing in their outfits and they learnt a lot from the expert whilst also having fun.



### Winter Uniform

Please note that everyone should be wearing their winter uniform when we return to school after half term. I have also still seen some children wearing black trainers instead of school shoes. On non-PE days please make sure children are in school shoes (and not boots or trainers). Also, PE leggings and jogging bottoms should be black. Thank you for helping to keep our pupils looking so smart.

### Online Homework

There is lots of research into how much impact homework has on pupil outcomes and the results are mixed. We think it is important for our pupils to have time outside school to practice key skills but also have time to pursue other interests and hobbies and have some down time. For this reason, we focus much of our homework on reading, phonics, spelling and maths skills. By regularly practising these areas, the children will improve their fluency and confidence and can apply this to the rest of their learning.

Spellings are set through Purple Mash but can be practised on paper, with maths online. We use My Maths for several reasons. Firstly there are worked examples which are really helpful for the children, but also for you if you are helping, as they model the methods used in class. Secondly, the questions are marked immediately providing feedback in the moment to children and providing opportunities for them to have another go. Times Table Rock Stars is the other online platform we use. This is a quick, fun way to practise the key skill of learning multiplication tables which are key to developing fluency in maths. We also know that most secondary schools use technology heavily throughout their curriculum, and by setting some homework online we are preparing our pupils for this approach when they move on.

We did an audit of our pupils' access to technology at home during lockdown, but we realise circumstances may have changed since then. **If you have any difficulties with your child accessing online homework, especially if your child is eligible for pupil premium, then please let the office know in confidence so we can follow this up with you.**

Although we limit the amount of official homework we set, we are always pleased to hear about pupils learning more about their school topics at home. I was delighted this week to be shown an incredible cardboard replica model of the Roman Colosseum that Theo W in 5S created at home. He enjoyed explaining to the class what the Colosseum was used for all those years ago!



## Poppy Appeal

As we return to school in November, it will be time for us to support the Poppy appeal as we do each year. Items are offered for suggested donations of between 50p to £1.50. Each child will have the opportunity to purchase one item each in the first instance and the school councillors will bring the items round to each class.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term. Remember all children are due back on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**.

Best wishes,

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis  
Reception



We have been learning: about baptism. Mrs Dodd came to visit us and she showed us what happens when a child is baptised.

You can help at home by: asking your child what they can remember from our learning time. If your child has been baptised you may want to discuss and look at photos you may have.

Year 1

We have been learning: about Baptism in RE.

You can help at home by: talking to your child about their lesson with Mrs Dodd on baptism. If your child has made their baptism, you could discuss this with them too.

Year 2

We have been learning: about printing in art.

You can help at home by: speaking to your child about how they made a print of a house in the Great Fire of London.

Year 3

We have been learning: about Stone Age during our topic day.

You can help at home by: asking your child what they learnt during the day.

Year 4

We have been learning: about fractions of amounts in maths.

You can help at home by: asking your child how to solve fractions of amounts using the method shown in class.

Year 5

We have been learning: about square and cube numbers in maths.

You can help at home by: asking your child what it means to be a squared or cubed number and how many of each can they name.

Year 6

We have been learning: about racism and stereotyping. We had visitors in school to help us with our understanding.

You can help at home by: asking your child what is meant by 'stereotyping'.