



Smarden Newsletter 3rd March 2023

Dear Parents,

Wow! What an action packed and thrilling week we have had at Smarden! Last Friday, the PCSOs came in to school to talk to the children about keeping safe. They talked about stranger danger and always staying near an adult when out and about.

This week, we have celebrated World Book Day in style and I would like to thank parents and staff for all your hard work in producing wonderful costumes. See later in the newsletter for some lovely photos.

Today, Blyton, Austen and Dickens class attended a planetarium event in the village hall as part of their science topics.

Please may we ask parents to pay all debts for lunches, wraparound and swimming in ParentPay before the Easter break? This is especially important for any debts for lunches, as Chartwells will end their contract with the school on 31st March. We do understand that times are hard for everyone at the moment, so do speak to me in confidence if you are finding it hard to settle your account.

May we also politely ask parents not to smoke just outside the gates at drop off and pick up time? We understand that this is a public place and that you are therefore at liberty to smoke there. However, we have had several requests from parents to mention this. Thank you for your understanding.

Thank you also to the wonderful Mrs Frow for organising the FOSP breakfast on World Book Day and to the valiant team of helpers who gave up their Saturday morning last week to help improve our school (more coming up later in this newsletter.)

Mrs M



Important Announcements



Save the dates:

Friday 17th March: Donaldson Trip to London

Monday 20th March: Sassoon, Dickens and Rowling Trip to Rochester (letters to parents out on Monday)

Friday 24th March at 2pm: Spring Concert

Friday 24th March: Data reports home

Monday 27th March: Clubs for next term announced

Tuesday 28th March: Booking for parent consultations opens

Wednesday 29th March 2.30pm: Open classroom and exhibition of learning in school for parents

Thursday 30th March 7pm: Clubs' booking goes live on dojo

Friday 31st Parents informed of places for Clubs

Friday 31st 3.15pm: End of term

Parent consultations: week beginning 17th April

New Catering Company

Dear Parents, just to let you know that from the beginning of Term 5 we will start working with a new catering company, Caterlink. If your child have any dietary needs you will need to fill in new forms for your child.

Ned Nose Day

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 17 March 2023. You can buy your red noses from parent pay now. Our stocks are limited so please buy early to avoid disappointment,

Red Nose Day is an annual fundraising campaign to end the cycle of child poverty and ensure a healthy future for all children.

Science - Bright Ideas Time



Science

This week's question:

What is a rainbow and where do they come from?



Woodland Warriors



Dear Parents, Carers

For Term 4 we are thinking of **Recycle and Reuse** as our Woodland Warrior initiative. We have an empty art and design cupboard and we would love to fill it with recycled items that we could use for our art and design lessons. This could be literally anything. Some examples of things you might have at home and recycle for us are yogurt pots, foam packaging, buttons, ribbons, bottle tops, fabric remnants, cardboard tubes, interesting packaging, jam jars, and straws. We would appreciate it if you'd collect a set of items rather than send in one or two at a time. You can hand these to your child's class teacher or deliver to the office.

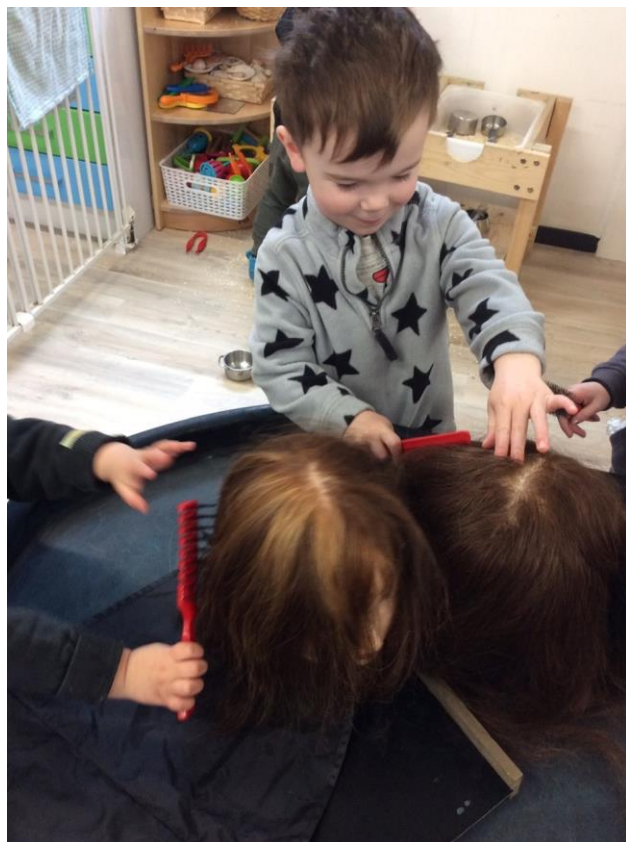
Thank you in advance for any donations.

Miss Judge

Caterpillar Class



The Caterpillars have been learning about shop workers as part of our People Who Help Us topic this week. Our home corner has been turned into the Smarden Shop and the children have acted out the role of shop keeper and customer. The children have been remembering their previous numbers learnt 1, 2 and 3 when it comes to reading different price tags and we introduced number 4 as number of the week! Our phonic has been i for insect and the preschoolers have been making i from playdough and hearing it at the start of different words. The children really enjoyed learning about hairdressing on Wednesday where we were lucky enough to have a visit from Caitlin the hairdresser (also known as Ophelia's Mum!) They learnt what a hairdresser does and even had a go at styling a hairdressing doll themselves. A big thank you to Caitlin from all of us in Nursery!





Blyton Class



This has been a really fun week. We have explored the rain as part of our weather and poetry, used instruments and made instruments to recreate weather sounds and also learned about doubling in maths.

For World Book Day we got to dress up and created bookmarks, as well as go on a hunt around our school for lots of different characters.

On Friday we visited Space when the planetarium came to Charter Hall. All very exciting!

We have been hugely impressed by how sensible most of the children have been with all the exciting events going on.

Donaldson Class



This week we have been focusing on using different strategies to add numbers within 20. In English we have been developing our knowledge of nouns, verbs and adjectives. In RE we have been exploring different places of worship. We also explored different types of trees on a Science walk around the school. This is all supporting our Fabulous Finish that we can't wait to share with you at the end of Term 4.

What a great World Book Day! All of the children looked amazing even Leah who sent a picture in from home!

Donald - India for her attitude towards her reading and blending words.











Austen Class

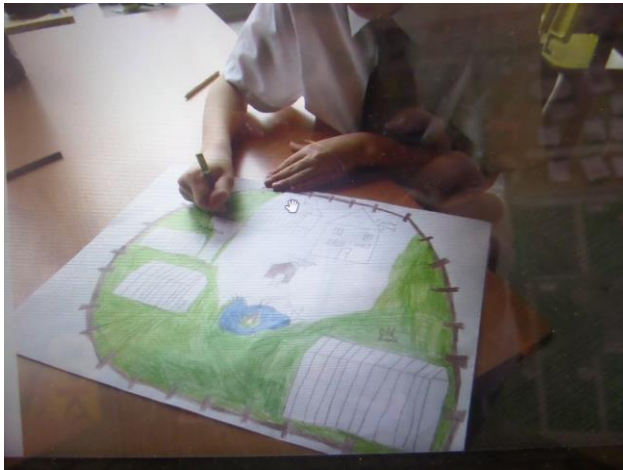


Austen Class had a wonderful time during World Book Day. Thank you for all of their brilliant costumes - they all looked fantastic! The children have learnt an amazing rap to the story of the 3 Little Pigs, enjoyed a scavenger hunt throughout the school looking for well-known book characters and listened beautifully whilst our brilliant Year 6's shared stories with them all. In Geography, the children have learnt the names of the seven continents and found them on a world map. Can they tell you what they are? We have also identified how to find a fraction of a number in Maths and discovered how to use similes effectively in their writing. Finally, we had an amazing visit from the Planetarium, where we were able to consolidate some of our learning from Term 1 about Neil Armstrong.

Sassoon Class



It has been a very busy week in Sassoon, which included our spectacular World Book Day events. We hope you enjoy looking at all of the photos in this newsletter and hearing about the special activities from your children. For our other subjects, we continued to read 'Llama Out Loud' in English and have been drafting letters of complaint in the role of the main character because she is very dissatisfied with the toy llama she purchased. In maths, Year 4 finished the unit on time and began to think about decimals, while Year 3 continued to measure in minutes and seconds. Mrs Taylor led our geography learning this week and she was very impressed with our knowledge on key terminology for rivers - even though we had only had one lesson previously! In science we were exploring forces. We experimented with Magdeburg Spheres and used our force to try and separate the two halves. In PE we have continued to work hard and this week we focused on shape and developing a shape sequence with our group.





Dickens Class



This week we had a superb World Book Day and the class enjoyed lots of reading and book related activities. We wrote informative book reviews of our favourite story books and created magical mythical maps of places that authors create in our minds when we read.

In maths we have been exploring angles and working out how to solve problems when angle information is missing, by subtracting what we do know from 180 and 360 degrees.

We had a wonderful trip to the Zion Chapel where they gave us access to special places like the baptism pool. Another highlight of the week was computing, where we created our own paper databases to understand how information can be stored and retrieved.

Rowling Class



I've been blown away by Rowling class this week. They have been great and put so much effort into their work. We have been looking at measures in maths. In English we are becoming journalists and writing newspaper reports which we have all enjoyed - we had great fun interviewing eye-witnesses and deciding whether to use direct or reported speech.

Book day was a great success and Year 6 took a leading role in sharing stories with the younger children - they were articulate and read beautifully!

Headteachers' Awards



Blyton:

Sonny- For amazing us this week with his wonderful writing! Such lovely letter shapes emerging.

Hugo - For clever listening and involvement in class discussions and during Rich Reading in particular.

Donaldson:

Ruby for her resilience in English.

Millie for her fantastic attitude towards her English work.

Austen:

Melisa - for her brilliant perseverance and ambition to identify a fraction of a number.

Chloe - for her fantastic musicianship when learning and performing our class rap.

Sassoon:

Sam - aiming high to demonstrate his mathematical skills

George W - being committed to developing his physical health

Dickens:

Kathryn - for hard work in maths this week

Isabel S - for working hard to edit and improve english work.

Rowling:

Charles for taking a leading role in planning and organising World Book Day

Madi for really working hard on her resilience and sheer determination.

Jigsaw Awards



Blyton:

Freddie for making healthy choices and being super active

Donaldson:

Isaac for his knowledge of healthy eating.

Dickens:

Indigo

Rowling:

The whole class for really being mature about the topics we have been discussing in Jigsaw.

Nominations from staff for children demonstrating our values this week



Nominations this week were for:

George Green for his compassion to others when they are upset.

Pearl, Edith, Olivia and Ferne in Blyton Class for their willingness to learn.

Harriet Wilks for helping a class friend with her buttons and patiently showing her how to do them herself; those little buttons are so tricky!

Isobel Demery, for showing ambition and making huge amounts of progress in all aspects of school this term.

Lily in Austen Class for showing kindness when she offered to help a member of staff clear the path of bark at lunchtime play.

Riley for having a kind heart.

The certificate this week was presented to Elsa, who gave up her lunchtime to stay with a younger pupil who was still eating her lunch so that she wasn't on her own. Elsa's kindness shines through in everything she does.

You may be interested to know that we also nominate staff! This week, Mrs Turner has been nominated for always trying to help another member of staff. 'Even if she doesn't know the answer herself, she will still try and help me.' *(editor's comment - I second that....I think Mrs Turner works incredibly hard and is pretty superb!).*

Mrs Leeks has also been nominated for being such a joy come rain or shine at lunch time play. *(I agree too!)*

Thank you to all the children nominated this week for making us proud, and to all the wonderful team of staff who work so hard.

Attendance



This week, our whole school attendance was 97.3%.

Blyton: 98.4 %

Donaldson: 96%

Austen: 98.4%

Sassoon: 96.8%

Dickens: 97.3%

Rowling: 97.1%

We are above national average and doing really well! Let's keep this up!

Thank you FOSP! *Look what a difference you have made to our school!*











World Book Day!











You may be interested in...



Drama Workshops with
East Sutton Community Youth Theatre

The Smerden Drama Class

Is held in the
Charter Hall

On Mondays from 3.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Restarts on Monday January 9th 2023

Years 2 to 6

Drama with Mike Dyer-Ball,
Professional actor, who trained at the Central School of Drama,
appearing at many Repertory Theatres, including the Marlowe,
The Vaudeville Theatre in the West End, and in T.V. drama,
such as Casualty. Formed ESCYT in 1993.

Productions, Scenes, Drama Exercises such as *Outdoor Survival*,
Hotel Fabuloso, *Haunted House*, *Rabbits and Ferrets*, *Dancing*,
Singing and a host of other activities.

COST for Ten weeks, only £55.00

☺ It is loads of fun ☺ Why not give it a try

N.B. CHILDREN COLLECTED FROM THE SCHOOL BY MIKE

Joining E.S.C.Y.T means access to:-

Our Fantastic Summer Fun Camp in August 2023 (28th Year),
Theatre trips to London to see shows including *Lion King*, *Matilda*,
Annie, *Mary Poppins* etcetera.

Please don't miss this golden opportunity!

Brochure and Enquiries, please 'phone/email:

Mike Dyer-Ball on

01622 844321 / 07885 790 781/mike@escyt.co.uk

And finally,



Don't forget to rate us on Ofsted's parent view site:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We are always here to listen

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Mrs Miller