

Newsletter 17 - 25th January 2019

Dear Families,

Local Support: We welcomed the Branston Parish Council on Monday evening to our school for a tour and a cup of tea. It was lovely to show them round, they were very impressed and remarked how much schools have changed over the years! This is very true. When I first started teaching, we thought we were spoilt when we had whiteboards (and I don't mean the interactive ones) with different coloured pens - this was a step up from the chalk board with different coloured chalk! Now we don't need coloured pens or chalk, just fingers!

The Parish Council members were very supportive and pledged to help us in any way they can.

Eco -Harriers: On Monday, I also met with the 'Branston in Bloom' Coordinator as we are hoping to get involved with that this year too so look out for some wonderful floral creations springing up! In addition to this, our Eco Harrier Leaders met yesterday to put together their action plan based on the review they had carried out. Three main areas were identified:

- 1) Growing our own fruit and vegetables - so watch out for this in the Harrier Hub out in the Early Years play area
- 2) Banning plastic straws
- 3) Making new products out of recycled items

So we're going to be very busy over the next few months! This should clinch the Eco Schools Bronze status for us which we're all very excited about achieving. Please ask your child about all our Eco initiatives and see what you can do at home too. We're collecting plastic bottles to make a vertical garden so please send in any that you have finished with.

Catering: Preparations are well underway in our kitchen now to start cooking dinners from here. We are hoping this will be at the beginning of February, more details to follow. We are hoping to have our Mums in for our first parents' lunch in March. Date to be confirmed shortly once the kitchen is operational. We do hope you will join us for this.

Nursery: Plans are also well underway for the opening of our Nursery in September. We will be taking children aged three and above. We have 25 places available and would love to fill of them so please help us to spread the word and don't forget to get an application form from Mrs Dennis if you need a place for any younger siblings. Mrs Blackshaw will be managing the Nursery so we know it will be of the highest quality and are very much looking forward to opening our doors!

Reading books: Don't forget to return your child's reading book each Tuesday and Thursday so that we can change it. It's vital that we get the children into good reading habits at a young age. Please see the table overleaf to show what an impact reading for only 20 minutes a day can have. Reading impacts every area of the curriculum and really improves vocabulary. Please help us to help your child to reach their potential.

Why read for 20 minutes every day?

Student A reads	Student B reads	Student C reads
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Reception, by the end of Year 6 Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days and Student C will have read for 3.



Want to be a better reader? Simply read.

Harrier Award: This week's Harrier Award goes to Emily Hornsby for trying to use all the sounds she has learnt so far to spell new words. She has shown great perseverance and never gives up! Well done Emily - we are very proud of you!

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Hopkins

HENHURST
RIDGE

PRIMARY ACADEMY

PROVIDING THE ROOTS TO GROW AND THE WINGS TO FLY