

## Newsletter 22 - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Families,

Another action-packed week full of lots of learning and fun, read all about it below!

**World Book Day:** Thank you so much for all your efforts with World Book Day this year, we had lots of exciting and colourful costumes from Harry Potter to dragons and Alice in Wonderland. Both staff and children had a great time! We all had the chance to show each other our costumes in assembly and then we learnt all about 'Share a Million Stories'. Information about this came home yesterday and there is more on the World Book Day website:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/share-a-story/> It reiterates how important it is for children to read and listen to stories. The idea of the campaign is that children will read or listen to a story every day. They have a little chart to keep record of how many stories they enjoy and then this feeds into our whole school total which we upload to the World Book Day website. So to let us know your child's weekly total, please **write it in their Reading Diary each Monday** and the staff will transfer this to the class total and then we will collate these to give our whole school total. Together with all other schools and organisations, we are hoping to share one million stories by the end of March!

Reception Class came home with their World Book Day voucher yesterday but unfortunately, they only sent us enough for one class. Therefore, Mrs Dennis (aka Gangster Granny) has already put a phone call into World Book Day to request some more, so these should be here next week and we will give them out to Year One as soon as they arrive.

**Coronavirus:** Please take the time to read the information that was emailed to you earlier this week. We are currently receiving daily email updates from the Department of Education as well as our Head of Health & Safety for REAch2 so we will keep you updated with any new information. The main message for schools at this time, is good hand washing routines to prevent the spread of infection. Please see attached flyer that reiterates the key messages from the newsletter sent earlier in the week and do your very best to support it, especially getting the children to wash their hands before leaving the house. Mrs Bradbury and Mr Parker, our cleaning staff, have been working additional hours to disinfect throughout the school, including laptops, ipads and curriculum resources to ensure the highest level of hygiene.

**Community Partnership (Parent Teacher Association - PTA):** We had a very positive meeting on Tuesday evening and finalised plans for our Spring Disco. Information about this will be coming out shortly from the Community Partnership. There was also a suggestion of holding a Family Bingo night in May which will be great! Again, more details to follow. The committee was elected and so I am pleased to announce that Laura Hill (Fleur & Archie's Mum in Reception Class) is the Chairperson, Sarah Youssef (Leanne & Youssef's Mum in Reception) is Treasurer and Asma Parveen (Isa's Mum in Class One) is the Secretary. Thank you in advance to these parents for taking up these positions. It is very much appreciated by us all. Thank you also to the parents that came to the meeting on Tuesday. It was great to have such enthusiasm and great ideas shared! The next meeting is on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2:30pm**. This seemed the best time for the parents that attended the meeting. As Sports Club is on, it means that parents can stay after school to continue with the meeting if necessary. If your child doesn't normally stay for the club but you would like to join the meeting, please see Mrs Hopkins or Mrs Dennis about arranging for them to stay. The minutes of meetings will be available on our website for any parents who can't attend but wish to know what happened and what's coming up. There will also be a Facebook page for the Community Partnership for parents to follow and keep up to date with events. Watch this space!

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**NSPCC PANTS campaign:** Many of you will have heard of this initiative which is a simple, age appropriate way to talk to your child about staying safe from sexual abuse. It is a topic that we as parents find harrowing and one that we often don't know how to approach but the NSPCC have produced a brilliant child-friendly way of doing this. Today your child has brought home a parent booklet all about it so that you can read and familiarise yourself with it. You can also view the PANTS song and meet the main character, Pantosaurus at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/underwear-rule/>

As part of our safeguarding duty, we will be launching this during the week beginning the 16<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any questions about the content, please do come and see me but I think we will all agree, that keeping our children safe from such things is absolutely paramount.

**Year 1 Reading under the Stars - 11B411 Adventure:** We are very excited that our Year 1 children will be coming back to school this evening at 5:30pm in their pyjamas or onesies to experience Reading Under the Stars. Please use the main entrance by the school office to drop off and collect at the end of the session. Refreshments will be provided in a separate room for any parents that would like to stay on site while the children are enjoying the activities. It's going to be a great event - Mr Parker has the next pin badge at the ready and Miss Lester has a whole host of activities planned! Can't wait! Follow us on Twitter to see the adventure unfold!

**Year 1 Adopt a Houseplant:** Thank you to all the families that have adopted a houseplant already from Year 1. There's still time for anyone that hasn't yet done so.

**Our Sports Relief Mile is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** and you should have now received a sponsorship form. As previously mentioned, please do not worry about getting lots of sponsors or collecting lots of money. Any amount is great and will be very much appreciated by the charity. All children need to come into school on Friday in sportswear (please consider the weather when deciding what your child will wear) and trainers (or they can wear their school pumps) and bring in their sponsor form together with any money collected. To walk our mile we will do four laps of the field, probably singing a few songs as we go and having a great time! Again, follow us on Twitter to see the action unfold!

**Science Week:** Next week is also Science Week so on Thursday afternoon we will be getting stuck in to lots of exciting Science investigations with the help of William's Dad. Again, watch this space!

**Harrier Award:** This week Miss Jack and Mrs Carlile have chosen Zakr because he is always so keen to learn and use new vocabulary. He is very curious about definitions and he has a great memory to remember them all! Well done Zakr! This week Miss Lester and Mrs Morgan have chosen Caitlyn for her writing innovation. She has used some really great ideas and challenged herself, particularly in what the characters are saying and using 'show don't tell' in her writing. Well done Caitlyn!

**Another new baby!** Congratulations to Duaa's family in Reception who have welcomed a baby girl this week. Duaa is over the moon! Both Mum and baby are doing well.

Have a great weekend, with very best wishes,

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family

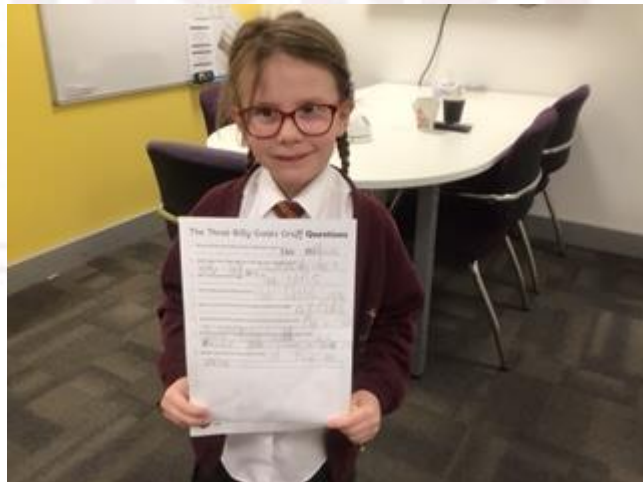
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Here we all are! Dressed to impress! Happy World Book Day! Gangster Granny is looking a bit dangerous with that walking stick!



Picture 1 - Two Ladybirds from the 'What the Ladybird Heard'. Mrs Hopkins had wing envy!



Picture 2 - Brilliant reading comprehension completed by Emily this week, all done independently! Wow Emily you really are doing great!!