



Learning and Caring Together,
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)

May Half Term 2022 letter to parents

27th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to wish you all a happy half term and to reflect on the first half of the summer term in school. Well, we certainly ended in style with our **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party!** The children have been so excited and I hope the memories made today last a lifetime. Our celebrations have been the culmination of teaching and learning about the decades of the Queen's reign. The children have enjoyed learning about toys, fashion, technology, music and much more. They also made bunting using their art knowledge and skills; please do take time to look at their amazing results! I am very thankful to Mrs Hordern and her working party for their planning and excellent organisation. I also thank our PTA who were, as ever, on hand to make things happen for our children and to the Chair and Vice Chair of our Parish Council for donating and presenting the children with commemorative mugs. Cllr Mike Worthington's visit was also much appreciated by all. An additional lovely touch has been patchwork banners made by Mrs Waddell and Mrs Abbott. Staff, children and school community have printed a jubilee patch and the results are stunning. Keep your eyes peeled to see the amazing results!

As well as teaching and learning linked to the jubilee this half term, the children have been very busy in other areas. The children in the **Butterflies and Bees** have been observing mini-beasts and thinking about why they choose the habitats they do. They have learned about Caroline Shotton and used her artwork as inspiration for their own and they have been subitising in maths. (Very clever!) I am also very impressed with how they are blending to read and how they apply their phonics in their writing.

The **Robins, Bats and Frogs** have enjoyed their learning in science this half term and can explain absorbent and non-absorbent; how impressive! I have seen them practising their throwing and catching in PE and it is pleasing to see them progressing year on year. It must also be said that I am so very proud of our Year 2 children. They have had their SATs (quizzes) over the past couple of weeks and have been so determined to do their very best. Well done to each and every one of them, to the staff and to you, as parents, for all your support with homework. It really does make a difference!

Our Year 4 children have been on their residential visit to **Standon Bowers** this half term. I visited for the day and it was lovely to see them co-operating and supporting each other as they experienced new activities and challenges. I was very impressed with their behaviour and it was commented on as exemplary by the staff at Standon Bowers. I am lucky to have staff who give up their family time to accompany the children and know that you appreciate this too (thank you for the messages).

Our Year 4 are now preparing for transition to their new schools in September; how fast their time with us has flown! The **Spiders, Squirrels and Foxes** have enjoyed sewing in DT this half term and I even had a beautiful glasses case made for me by a child who had a sewing machine for her birthday! The children also tell me they are enjoying learning about how the Greeks lived and have impressed me with their application of new skills in their persuasive letters in English and their improving fluency and rapid recall of their multiplication tables.

In other news...

Thank you for your donations for our **school garden**. It is looking full of colour once again and is being restored to its former glory. It is an excellent resource for the children to learn in!

We are thrilled that **after school clubs** are back up and running again! The School Council consulted with their classes to share which clubs the children would choose and thank you to those of you who sent in your child's preferences after discussing this at home. The most popular choices were the ones that were chosen to be introduced.

Celebration Assembly is always a highlight of the week. The smiles on the children's faces when they spot their grown up and receive their values awards is a joy each week. We politely remind everyone that, if you do attend, you must stay until the very end of the assembly and not leave whilst awards are still being celebrated. If it would be more convenient to save your child's award until a week when you have more time, we will happily accommodate this. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Since Christmas, my '**Mrs Machin's Missions**' have been linked to writing. This is an area of focus on our Academy Development Plan, as writing was an area of learning that had been most affected by the Covid-19 disruption to education. The children (and staff 😊) are responding really well to the missions and we are now seeing impact on catch up progress. Thank you for working on spellings at home; this really does help too!

I finish with a quick shout out for the **PTA**. They held their first nearly new **uniform sale** this week and there was an amazing take up! If your child has outgrown their uniform (including wellies and PE kit) or they are leaving us this year, and their uniform, PE kits and PE bags are still in very good condition, we would appreciate donations for future sales. Please drop any donations into the school entrance area.

Time for me to sign off now. Enjoy your week and the jubilee celebrations and I look forward to welcoming the children back for the final half term of 21-22 on Tuesday 7th June.

With very best wishes,



Mrs S. Machin
Principal

PS. Don't forget to visit our **royal scarecrows**! Our children have made the Queen and her corgis, to commemorate her platinum jubilee, and we also decided to learn about the monarchs of their future, so Prince Charles, Camilla, Prince William, Princess Kate and Prince George have also joined the Queen at the entrance to our school.

