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Head Teacher: Mrs K Barkley



NEWSLETTER: October 21st 2021

HALF TERM REFLECTION

We have had a very busy start to the term and myself and all the staff are very proud of how well the children have started the new academic year.

Whilst some Covid protective measures remain in place across school, it has been wonderful to feel a sense of normality to school life and we look forward to being able to continue to increase and develop this over next half term.

Thank you too for your engagement this half term and we look forward to welcoming you into the academy after the half term holiday.

As always, if you have any feedback, concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to member of staff or contact us through the school office.

Best Wishes

Mrs Barkley

Headteacher

HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKS

Thank you so much for all your generous donations towards our harvest festival collection.

The harvest collection has been given to Tees Valley Together, a local charity, so they can continue to help those less fortunate at this time of year.

In addition to the collection, we had a lovely Harvest assembly in school. The reception children led the event, accompanied by beautiful singing from our choir and Harvest poetry from KS2 children.

You can find photos of the event on facebook and I will send email links of videos to you for you to enjoy.

STAFFING

After 3 years as a Dinner Supervisor, Mrs Smith is leaving us tomorrow to start a new career path.

On behalf of the staff and children, I would like to thank her for all her hard work, support and kindness towards our Viewley Hill children and wish her much luck for the future.

Thank you Mrs Smith and good luck!

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

The children are off next week for half term. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 1st November.

PHOTOGRAPH DAY ORDERS

We hope that you all liked the school photographs taken of your children last week. These should be ordered online.

If you have difficulty accessing the online system at home, please come into the school office to let us know and we will be happy to help you through the process.

REMINDER OF COVID RULES

We are very grateful to those of you who have kept us up to date with members of your family who have Covid symptoms or are having a test.

Please ensure that, even over the holidays, if you or your child has symptoms of Covid-19, or have been close contact with someone who tests positive that you arrange to have a PCR test.

Thank you for your support.

FIREWORK SAFETY

Whilst many of you and our children look forward to Bonfire Night, we must ensure that our children stay safe during this time.

Fireworks are lovely to watch but can also be very dangerous.

Tomorrow the Fire Service are coming into school to talk to the children about firework safety, as well as allow them time to see the fire engine and safety equipment.

We look forward to sharing pictures with you tomorrow of our safety event.



READING REVIEW: PARENT ANALYSIS

Thank you very much for your feedback to our approach to reading and home reading. Below are some of the parent results of our review, as well as comments you have made.

We had 99 responses, that reflected 106 children across school.

- 100% of parents said they enjoyed reading with their child.
- 96% of parents said they knew how often they are expected to read with their child at home.
- 89% of parents found the expectation of reading at home manageable.
- 96% of parents like the reading record system.



Parent preferences for support with reading:

Face to face	Live Online	Newsletter	In class with children	Seesaw	Website
22	11	41	40	25	23
Other:	Marvellous Me (1) Note in Reading Record from Teachers (1)				

Some of your positive comments:

We love it! Reading is part of our bedtime routine.

I love listening to my child read as she has a lovely reading voice. I love her expression.

We like to read as a family and enjoy taking the time to sit together.

It is lovely to see the improvements in my child's reading.

I enjoy listening to my child read and how she tries to learn new words.



Things you would like us to consider for improvement:

Please can you give parents more ideas about how we can help with reading at home.

Please can you share with parent some links to help us with phonics at home.

It would be nice to see more rewards for reading in school and know when they read in school too.



All year group will be holding a reading meeting for parents after the half term holiday and so we hope to start to address these points during that time.

Questions and Answers:

How many times does my child have to read at home each week?

The more your child reads at home the better, but we ask that all children from Nursery to Y4 share a book / read at least 3 times per week.

Children in Y5 & 6 are asked to read 5 times a week, which includes over the weekend. As our older children are more independent readers, these reading times do not always have to be to a parent / family member. The children can read independently and write a comment in their reading record book.

When will my child's book be changed, and how often?

In EYFS and KS1 your child's book will be changed on a Thursday or a Friday so that children have a new book to read over the weekend, when we appreciate parents may have more time to read with their child.

Across KS2 children's books are changed as they complete their book and show confident understanding of what they have read. This is checked through teacher discussion and an online comprehension.

To see further analysis of our reading review with parents, please visit the school website.

Thank you again for your engagement in this review—your support is much appreciated.