

SMSJ News

7th January 2022 – Issue 13



Good afternoon everyone,

Happy New Year and welcome back to our weekly newsletters, which are our primary means of communication and sharing information with you.

We have all settled quickly back into our daily routines here at school and it feels good to be back!

As a teaching team we have looked at the teaching and learning of reading across the school this week. At the end of last term, the KS2 children did reading assessments and the KS1 children are doing them now. These comprehension tests give a reading age for each child and a further useful question level analysis of their understanding of areas of comprehension – the ability to summarise, ability to infer, etc.

From this data and looking at the engagement at home on the digital reading record 'Go Read', the pattern that has emerged, perhaps unsurprisingly, is that the children who we know are NOT reading regularly and widely with an adult at home are behind. As a child goes up through the school they fall farther behind as this gap widens. I explained at length last term the importance of children being able to read well to be able to access the curriculum and learning at their age expected level. Reading is key to unlocking all learning and is a vital life skill. We hope to foster a love of reading in all children so that they can immerse themselves in imaginary worlds and experience and soak up a rich, creative language, as well as learn about things and absorb knowledge from non-fiction books.

Reading is a daily homework for all children. Reading is far more than being able to read and decode the words on the page! To this end, we are making a short instructional video on how to support your child with reading at home, starting with phonics through to our Year 6s.

We hear children read at school, whether that is individually, as part of a group or within the whole class scenario. We are grateful to any volunteers who will come into school and hear children read, sharing books with them. Older children are also given time for independent reading and they use our wonderful school library to change their own books. Are you a good reading role model at home? Do you talk to the children about what you read?

Moving forward, we are setting up an online parent survey on reading with your child, which should come out shortly. Please take the time to complete this.

I would also like to trial volunteers reading on Teams with children. The volunteer could be anyone, grandparents, people with half an hour to spare anywhere in the world! They would have a copy of the same book as the child and be able to listen and interact with them. What do you think? Would you like to volunteer or do you know someone who would? It's a COVID friendly social interaction. Please do let me know;

Fiona.wilce@northluffenham.rutland.sch.uk

So, I'm going to wish you a lovely winter weekend of snuggling in and sharing a book or two with your children!



Head Teachers Awards



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU ON GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS.

In **Reception** the Head Teacher award goes to **Thea Askham** for sounding and writing short words during the phonics sessions this week. Thea listened to the word and then wrote it beautifully using her sound knowledge. Well done Thea.

This week in **Year 1** the Head Teacher award goes to **Florence Gingell** for her super maths work. She learned the shape names for both 2D and 3D shapes and some of their properties and then she enthusiastically carried out some problem solving activities, showing excellent understanding. Keep it up Florence!

In **Year 2** the Head Teacher award goes to



James Foster. James has demonstrated an exceptional amount of kindness, helpfulness and responsibility this week. He has been a brilliant friend in helping Oliver get used to his new school and class family, has been incredibly responsible in always ensuring the classroom is tidy and has been particularly helpful and kind to Miss Buxton when the whiteboard leg fell off in the middle of the lesson. Thank you, James for being a superstar this week and letting your light shine brightly! You are setting a wonderful example to others.

And



Oliver Gay for a fantastic first week at his new school! Oliver has shown such kindness and patience with his new class family and has made a fantastic effort to get involved in all of the learning activities. We are really proud of you Ollie.

In **Year 3** the Head Teacher award goes to **Anouk Emery**. Anouk's New Year's resolution was to be more resilient, which she has worked really hard at this week. She has attempted all of her work with a can-do attitude and when she has found things tricky, she has taken Mrs Thorntons feedback well and had another go, often leading her to success. Keep this up Anouk.

In **Year 4** there are 2 recipients of the Head Teacher award this week.



Blake Hunter for being a responsible member of Year 4. Blake has been a supportive and caring friend this week, helping others while continuing to work hard himself.

Josh Adams for an amazing first week back to school after the Christmas break. Josh was very focused in Science and produced some brilliant work. Well done Josh.

The Head Teacher award in **Year 5** goes to **Amelia Fox** for the wonderful piece of art she created this week. Year 5 have been learning 'the Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes and created a piece of flash art to show the opening scene. Amelia used water colour paints to create a very effective and textured picture.



In **Year 6** the Head Teacher award goes to **Izzie Housden**. Izzie receives the award this week for her fantastic efforts in our lessons on 'Parliaments and Government'. Izzie was able to extend herself onto different challenges and really thought carefully about the 'circle of power' when it comes to decision making. Izzie also really enjoyed the 'MP for a Week' game on the government website where she held press conferences, dealt with complaints in her constituent and raised her profile in her party group! A great week all-round.





A very Happy Birthday to all those celebrating birthdays over the coming week.

Sat 8 Jan	Oscar Pauls Isobel Pauls
Tue 12 Jan	Sammy Connolly
Fri 14 th Jan	Ethan Watts

**After School Clubs
10th – 14th January**

**Mon – Gymnastics – invited children only
Tues – KS2 Tag Rugby
Wed – Boccia - Invited children only**

Piano and singing lessons are available in school. Please contact the office for more details.



**KALEIDOSCOPE
IN ACTION**

KIA AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

KIA offer afterschool child care provision from 3.30pm – 5.50pm daily.

To book contact Harriet on 07393 310220
harrietmoodykia@gmail.com

The childrens Flu nasal vaccinations will take place on Friday 14th January.