



Friday 26th  
March

# WhatsUp @ EXETER

## Principal's award

### 24.3.21

FS2: Emily and Precious

Year 1: Callie and Beatrice

Year 2: Adrianna and SJ

Nurture: Daniel

Year 3: David B, Tudor and Bogdan

Year 4: Noah, Lucas and Anais

Year 5: Olga, Janaia and Millie

Year 6: Erin, Max and Markuss

Potter: Tyrese

Well done to all these children.

## Upcoming Dates

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 3:15pm – Last day of term

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March – start of summer term

## Message from the Headteachers

We could not be more proud of how our children have returned to school these last three weeks and settled into a new 'norm'. Their resilience and dedication has shone through. They have managed to rekindled friendships they missed during the last lockdown, but have also come back with a thirst to learn. Well done! The teachers would like to share more about this later on in the newsletter.

We also want to say a big thank you to all the parents / carers who have supported their children and the school during the latest lockdown and helped their children work through their anxieties of returning to school. This really is a great community which we are honoured to be a part of.

We hope you have a good break and everyone can get a rest, ready for next full summer term.

Thank you for all your continued support.

## Red Nose day

We raised £391.27 for Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who donated.



## Merit Badge

As part of our reward system, children can earn effort marks for model behaviour, excelling in their effort towards work etc. Twenty effort marks convert into a merit, with our aim being children should earn 20 merits by the end of the school year to receive their merit badge. Some children however have decided they did not want to wait until July and have already earned their 20 merits! Merit badges were handed out to these children during the Principal awards this week. A full list to celebrate will be in the next newsletter. We hope these children wear their badge with pride.



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## **Clap for unsung heroes!**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March marked one year since the country first went into national lockdown and we closed our doors to most children, only opening to key worker children. As part of the national recognition, our Trust (IFtL) asked all schools to note this historical moment by having a one minute silence followed by a clap for all the unsung heroes who worked in school throughout the last year and all those in the wider community who kept our country going. The children all wore super hero masks to help mark this day.



## **Parent's evening**

Most parents have now had their parent's evening meeting this term. We would really appreciate hearing from you regarding how you felt the meeting went, the use of the booking system etc. Please complete this short questionnaire so we can listen to your views and make improvements in the future. All entries are anonymous.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GmEK0exvIAGp6GF\\_YpYtzGT6Ruwpanf-jGP10UTkxwY](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GmEK0exvIAGp6GF_YpYtzGT6Ruwpanf-jGP10UTkxwY)



## **School Garden**

Can we please remind all parents that children should not be going into the school garden at the beginning or end of the school day. Can we please ask that all children are reminded of this and parents not to let them wander in. Thank you.



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## Message from each year group about this term

### Nursery

It has been an exciting term for Nursery. We are back in our own building, which is looking fresh and clean after the post-flood redecorations. Plus, we have seen the return of all our friends including Yoshi our bearded dragon, Barney the giant African snail and our new resident caterpillars. Our nursery pets open up so much discussion about caring for others. Potion-making and volcanoes are providing lots of excitement, and through this play the children have been exploring mathematical and scientific concepts in the water-tray and sand pits. We also have a cohort of artists, who love to explore a variety of media and we have created galleries to showcase their work.



### Foundation Stage Two

FS2 have settled back into school as if they had never been away. During the last two weeks we have embraced all things Easter! We have been learning about the life cycle of a chicken and have made some fantastic chicks using collage materials. We have enjoyed the story 'We're going on an Egg Hunt' and have learnt some actions to retell the story. We have been trying hard to extend our writing to include sentences. We became authors and thought of some new characters the rabbits could meet on their Easter Egg hunt. We have painted some Eggs using different patterns and created some fantastic creations to decorate our Easter Tree.





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## Year One

Year One have settled back into school brilliantly and are already back into their routines. This term the children have explored a variety of wellbeing activities from slime making, playdough making, crafts and arts, yoga and positivity chats. We have continued our topic on Enchanted Woodland and the children have been exploring different habitats and the local grounds. They have made some brilliant posters about litter and how this can affect our environment. We look forward to the children coming back in the summer term to our new topic – Dinosaur Planet!



## Year Two

Miss Morrissey and Mrs Gotch are so impressed with how well Year Two has settled back into their learning this term. This term we have had a real focus on timetables; the children have really enjoyed learning their rolling numbers which has helped them to learn their 2,5,10 times tables and we are now starting to learn our three's. In addition to this, we have really been getting into our history work linked to our topic this term 'Towers, tunnels and turrets' where we have been comparing our lives now to those of children who lived in the Middle Ages. Finally, the children have thoroughly been enjoying their well-being activities this week where they have been making Easter eggs containing a compliment to hide around the year group area for their friends to find. We hope you have an amazing Easter break and look forward to seeing you ready and raring to go in the summer term.



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## Nurture

The Nurture team feel we have to acknowledge the huge changes our children have experienced not only with changes the pandemic has brought but the change in their learning environment including: moving to White Rose Maths; to a new Independent Writing programme - Colourful Semantics; new Phonics strategies and staff changes. These differences without doubt were challenging for Nurture children in the beginning but as with most children, given time and positive support they have quickly adapted whilst recognising and enjoying the fun learning can bring.

## Year Three

The Year Three team is extremely proud of how well the children have returned to school with such a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning. The children have really enjoyed writing short stories based on the story 'Bee & Me' and we are very impressed with the quality of their work. We have all really been enjoying our well-being activities each morning, such as listening to the sounds of nature and keeping active with some Go Noodle! We are really looking forward to the summer term!

## Year Four

Year Four has come back to school with great enthusiasm for their learning and we have seen some fantastic writing in English about a field trip to the ocean deep and some lovely handwriting too. In history we have been learning all about Grace Darling and Jacques Cousteau and will be writing a newspaper article this week, all about the invention of the aqualung. Also, as part of our Blue Abyss topic, in science we have been exploring animal habitats, endangered animals, and the impact we have on the environment. We have enjoyed several wellbeing activities including sharing jokes – I would tell you the one about butter, but you might spread it!

## Year Five

The Year Five team have been very impressed with the way in which the children have returned to school, with a positive and enthusiastic attitude. We can see how hard the children (and parents) have worked during remote learning and are looking forward to seeing how this progresses in the final term. The children have enjoyed developing their knowledge of the Ancient Egyptians and applying this knowledge to independent writing pieces. The children are very excited about going swimming and learning Rugby with the Northampton Saints, in the summer term. We are also looking forward to introducing our new topic- Stargazers- for the very first time!



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## Year Six

Year Six have settled back into school life with a sensible and mature attitude. The children have enjoyed learning all about The Titanic and writing short stories describing the moment it sank. In our curriculum lessons, we have continued the work we started at home, learning about the Arctic and climate change. We have been so impressed with the children and are all really excited to see what the Summer Term has in store!

## Potter Class

It was amazing to welcome back all of Potter class – they have all settled back in brilliantly and are working incredibly hard. We have been working hard to improve our handwriting this term, focussing on letter formation, letter height and some children have started to join their handwriting. In science, we have been growing sunflowers. The children followed instructions to plant them and then made daily observations of how they have changed and grown. I hope to see photos of the beautiful sunflowers blooming at home very soon!

## Dangerous parking outside and near school



We are receiving concerns from parents and members of our community regarding dangerous parking outside of the school gates on Brayford Avenue and Burghley Drive. We encourage where possible that parents walk to school but where this isn't possible please ensure that you park in a safe place. If following this notification we continue to have concerns raised we will be notifying Operation Snap, please see details below.

### Operation SNAP

Operation Snap has been set up to help keep our county's roads as safe as possible.

It allows members of the public to report driving offences in the Northamptonshire area by filling out a form and uploading video evidence they have captured. For more information about Operation Snap or to submit video footage, visit the Northamptonshire Police website at [www.northants.police.uk/OpSnap](http://www.northants.police.uk/OpSnap)



Submitted footage and reports are then examined by roads policing officers and can be used to take action against drivers found to be breaking the law.



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## **Loan of school laptops**

If we loaned you a school laptop to support remote learning, can you please bring this back to school by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. These laptops will then be used in class to further support our computing offer to pupils. Thank you.

## **Parent's evening**

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## **Gateway APP**

We are now trying to send all school messages via the APP (rather than text messages). Currently only 273 out of 450 parents have this facility. Please ensure you have fully loaded the Gateway APP onto your phone so you do not miss out on important messages. A reminder how to do this can be found at the end of this newsletter. Thank you.

Schoolgateway



## **Change in PE days**

After the Easter Break Year 5 will have PE on a Wednesday and Friday (a separate letter will be sent out regarding swimming).

Year 6 will have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday.

All other years' groups stay the same as this term.

## **After school Booster Summer Term**

Please check your email and school Gateway Account (club section) to see if your child has been invited to attend an after school booster. Even if your child is not able to attend, please complete the invite to say this. Thank you.



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## After school Sports Clubs

There are a few remaining places at our after school sports clubs starting up after Easter. Bookings can be made on the Gateway App - places are limited to ensure we stay COVID safe. All clubs finish at 4:15pm. The children will need to bring their PE kit into school if it is not their PE day.

Year group	Day	Activity	Collection point
FS2	Thursday	Multi-skills	Main reception
Year 1	Tuesday		Miss Esslemont's gate
Year 2	Tuesday		Main reception
Year 3	Wednesday	Invasion games	KS2 playground
Year 4	Wednesday		Main reception
Year 5 - FULL	Monday		KS2 playground
Year 6	Monday		Main reception

## Year 5 – Swimming

Starting after the Easter break, pupils in Year 5 will be having swimming lessons as part of their compulsory PE sessions. Swimming is a vital life skill and we are very fortunate to have such a great facility on our door-step. Can all Year 5 parents please complete the clubs section on the Gateway App so we know your child's swimming ability and place them into the best group to ensure they improve in their ability and gain a love of swimming.

## Plastic milk bottle tops

Instead of throwing away your plastic milk bottle tops, please wash them and bring them into school. They are a fantastic resource for junk modelling, maths activities, spelling games - just to name a few! A box will be available by the Brayford Avenue school gate each day to drop your clean lids into. Thank you.



## Keeping everyone safe on the school site

Can we please remind you of the following to ensure we keep our school community safe:

- All adults to wear a face covering whilst on school site;
- **Only one adult per household to drop children off / collect at end of day**
- Only arrive at your dedicated drop off and collection time, not before.



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## Have great Easter

We hope you all have a great Easter. Please ensure that you follow the latest guidance from the 29<sup>th</sup> March – two household can meet up or a maximum of 6 people OUTSIDE so that COVID cases are kept to a minimum and we can open to all children on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

## Next Newsletter – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

### Parents guide to School Gateway Web

#### Account activation

Navigate to [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com)

Select the **New user** tab



Select **Send PIN** - your 4 digit PIN will be sent via text message to your mobile phone.

Enter your email address and mobile number that is registered with the school.

You will need this PIN number each time you log in so keep it safe!

#### Logging in

Navigate to [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com)



Enter your email address and PIN number

Once you have logged in you will be directed to the **Home** screen

The children you are linked to will be displayed



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## School Term Dates: Academic Year 2020 – 2021



### Spring Term 2021

Term 3	Re-open	Monday 4 January
	Closes	Friday 12 February
Term 4	Re-open	Monday 22 February
Easter	Closes	Friday 26 March



### Summer Term 2021

Term 5	Re-open	Monday 12 April
May Bank	Closes	Friday 30 April
Holiday	Re-open	Tuesday 4 May
Bank Holiday	Closes	Friday 28 May
Term 6	Re-open	Monday 7 June
	Closes	Friday 16 July