

Dear Families,

We have had two special whole school assemblies from the school Mindmates team, over the past two weeks, about understanding AI and safe internet use. There will be one more presentation next week about alternatives to screen time. This has been part of our Disconnect to Reconnect work, which started at the beginning of the year with a survey of usage at home. Nearer the end of term we will do another survey for anyone who wishes to take part.

Thank you for your responses for the proposed painting party. We will go with the afternoon of Tuesday 7th July when most people are available. Your time is very much appreciated and I will contact the volunteers involved nearer the time.

Phonics Phase Four continues and the children are getting very good at recording a dictated sentence and using their tricky words increasingly accurately in their writing and spelling words with adjacent consonants anywhere in the word. Most are now on the Phase Four reading scheme books.

In maths the children have been doing lots of problem solving around grouping and sharing, number bonds and also writing numerals to twenty. We have also been thinking about identifying more complex patterns. One of our numeral writing tasks involved making a calendar to record when the chicks are due to hatch and we have also been counting down the days until hatching (by doing some addition and subtraction) using the golden eggs on the interactive white board. We calculated that the eggs are due to hatch next Wednesday and will be spending more time learning how to care for them and setting up the equipment we need to keep them safe and happy at the beginning of the week. We candled the eggs at the end of the first week, to see what is inside them. This is a simple process of shining a special bright light into the egg. The children were very excited to see some of the chicks moving inside, so I have high hopes for a good hatch.

We will finish the last of our Imaginary world Doors next week by adding the finishing touches, like gems, sparkles and jewels, as well as thinking more about our imaginary worlds behind our doors. Over the last two weeks the children have applied a base coat and then their chosen colour or mixed the colours they wanted (using emulsion paint sample pots) and then adding details such as handles, hinges and pictures using acrylic paint. They have had to think carefully about the process and different techniques for the best finish at each stage.

This week we had our adventure in the castle wood. It was lovely that so many of you could join us. The adventure really started on Wednesday afternoon, when a mysterious, magical wooden box appeared in the garden, along with some keys, a map and a pirate hat. There was a note explaining that the box couldn't be opened without magic words and a secret code for a combination padlock. I told the children I recognised the castle on the map and asked them if we should go and explore to see if we could find whatever was at the 'x' on the map. They were hugely excited and all wrote a note home to ask

permission. Thank you all for keeping it a secret for the week. On Thursday morning we set off on our adventure and had a great time, up and down the Ha-ha and along the paths in the woods. We did find another treasure box near the castle and had to bring it back to school to open. Once opened, using the key (which I forgot to take with us!) we found some coins with words on and mathematical problem clues to solve, which give us the number combination for the lock. The children instantly knew we could build sentences from the words and, after some excellent phonics work and demonstrations of great punctuation and grammar skills, we had our instructions. In the big box we found treasure, both to play with and to eat. There was also a mysteriously small golden slipper that didn't fit anyone. There has been some excellent role play, map and pirate hat making since then and I'm sure this will continue into next week.

In PE dance lessons have continued with Miss Brogan, who is teaching the children a routine to Katy Perry's Firework. They're doing a great job. We have also continued to practise sport day skills like the egg and spoon, beanbag balancing, sack racing, hurdles and standing jump. We have spoken about good sportsmanship, always trying our best and trying not to be upset if someone is better than you at something. I look forward to seeing you all at sports day next Tuesday, if you are able to join us.

In RE we have been thinking about how to be a good helper with stories from different religions, including Christian, Islam, Buddhist and Hindu. We have also linked this to the work we have been doing on how we have helped to improve our classroom and garden through the year.

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her music lessons over the past two weeks: We have continued to explore the music of Africa. We listened to a piece of African music and I asked the children whether they liked it and what they thought about it. I was very impressed by their answers and that they knew the instruments they could hear were not the same as the orchestral instruments we listened to last half term. We then watched a video about aspects of African life, talked about their homemade instruments, the bright colours of their clothes, all the different African animals and their houses. We looked at all the different landscapes you can find in Africa. The children were very interested to look at a world map and work out where Africa was in relation to England. We tried to remember all the different fruits from Handa's Surprise. The children learnt that music is written for people to read, just like words and we clapped all the different rhythms of the fruits, such as 'soft yellow banana'. The children took turns in leading the rhythm games. We have also, continued learning 'What a Wonderful World' ready for the Summer Concert.

I sadly can't join you for the summer fair tonight but I hope you all have a fabulous time. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped to plan or volunteered to help at this even, it is very much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend. Kind regards from Mrs Watts.