



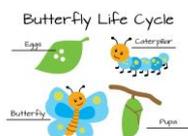
Dear Parents/Carers

It is such a shame that we had to take the decision to close school on Friday after such a fantastic week - but I know you all understand that the health and safety of your children and our staff is paramount. Thank you for your understanding. A special thankyou to Mr Johnson, Mrs Garnett, Mrs Marriott and their teams and, of course the drainage company, for all their hard work to get school safe to open today.

We have really enjoyed our first week back with the whole school. The children and staff have really enjoyed working on our book 'Here We Are' and some wonderful work is already on display! It has been great to see so much outdoor learning and practical hands on learning, which the children and adults have clearly enjoyed.



In EYFS we have been looking at life cycles of a frog and a butterfly. Some tiny caterpillars arrived on Thursday, so we are looking forward to watching them grow and change. We also enjoyed looking at Google Earth and talked about which parts are land and which parts are the sea. We then used it to find out where the UK is and where Belper can be found.



This week we discovered a spaceship had crashed on the MUGA! The alien pilot has been stranded on Earth. Year 1 and 2 have had to help the alien learn about what it is like on this planet and created videos to teach the alien how to live happily here. We have been looking at the stars in the night sky and creating paintings based on Van Gogh's 'Starry Night'. Our mission is to help the alien get back to its home planet.



Year 3 and 4 - On Monday, we started off by learning all about space; we looked at how planets orbit the sun and recreated it on the playground. We also made our own star constellations too! Tuesday's focus was all about under the sea. We had a guest visitor ...Mrs McGraw! She brought in her diving equipment for us all to see and explained how it all worked. We were surprised to find out how heavy the weights were! Our next adventure took us back to the land where we looked at land features; we had the opportunity to research about different land features. In teams, we created and named our own exciting desert islands. We calculated the area and perimeter to see whose island was the biggest! Finally, we looked at animals ... we learnt all about endangered animals and what we can do to help them and our environment. We finished off our day by having a body percussion lesson linked to 'I Just Can't Wait to be King' from the Lion King – we had so much fun!



Year 5 and 6 have had a great start back after lockdown. It has been great to see each other in school although we do miss our live lessons! We started the week with an amazing outdoor day where we made dream catchers, painted stones and left messages for the rest of the school to find, made colour palettes from natural materials, projected objects into the air by working as a team and explored the new trim trail. Mrs Nix lit a fire for us, and we enjoyed singing and chatting around the fire. The sun shone the whole time! We have been finding out about climate change and how we can help look after our amazing world and will be making films about issues which we are interested in. We have written black out poetry for the Belper Fringe 'Poet-Tree' event in April / May - look out for them around Belper Town. As part of the Japanese Sakura festival, we were lucky enough to have been chosen to plant one of the Cherry Blossom Trees, which have

been donated by the Japanese government as a symbol of lasting friendship between the UK and Japan. Our tree is already in blossom and will remind us of the hope of what is to come after a very unsettled year. The staff are very proud of the children's engagement during online lessons and would like to thank parents and carers for supporting their children getting organised and online for 2 hours each day and encouraging the children to complete learning tasks. There is no substitute for having the children back in school and learning together, although we could have done with that 'mute all' button at times this week. It's great to have you all back.



We have been monitoring drop off and pick up times and have decided as a staff that for drop off times 5 minute intervals will work better and reduce the need to queue as much. The younger children still need the 10 minute gap at home time.

From tomorrow (16.03.21) we will try the following:

	Start time	Finish time
Reception	9:00	3:25
Y1 / Y2	8:55	3:15
Y3 / Y4	8:50	3:05
Y5 / Y6	8:45	3:00

COVID reminders

We are so grateful for the support we have received from parent, carers, staff, governors and, of course, the children, in doing everything possible to keep each other safe over this really difficult year.

Can I just remind adults to always wear a mask on the school site (unless exempt) – we have noticed that several adults are forgetting to do so.

Also, as lockdown restrictions are still in place, please ensure that children are not mixing outside of school.



Diary Dates for March

Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day. Children can wear something red if they would like to – donations of £1 are welcomed for this really good cause. Please let us know your favourite jokes to make us laugh!

Coming Soon:

PSA Raffle - closing date Friday 26th March. More details to follow.

What does Easter mean to you? - Easter creative competition

Children are invited to enter our competition entitled **What does Easter mean to you?**

Entries can take any form e.g. poster, poem, lego, collage, clay models and can be submitted by sending a photograph in of the finished result.

The closing date is 16th April and prizes will be awarded after that date.



Peripatetic music and afterschool clubs will resume after Easter - if the data allows!! More details to follow.

Due to the children just arriving back at school we have decided to hold parent consultations on **Monday 10th May, Tuesday 11th May and Wednesday 12th May.** More details to follow.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Peach