



23rd October 2020

The Kymbrook Key

We made it!

As we approach half term, we look back on the last 7 weeks which have certainly been very unusual! None of us have ever experienced anything like this and we have been on a very steep learning curve but we are so impressed with how well our children have adapted to the 'new normal'. We are very proud of every single one of them. It's not easy to remember to keep your distance where possible or to understand why you can't play with your friend who is in another class, but the children are doing so well.

Thank you for all your support with our new routines. Just one more reminder to parents and carers to please socially distance on the playground and that when your children are released we do ask that you leave the playground as soon as you can. We really do not want to see children from different bubbles running around the playground together at the end of the day, when we have worked so hard to keep them separate all day. We are occasionally seeing some groups made up of several families standing in the playground with no social distancing between them. In the 'Rule of 6' this should not be happening. Thank you for your support with this as it is so important.

Normally we would be getting excited for our preparations for Christmas (shh!) when we get back, but this year things will have to be a little different. We are discussing lots of ideas and we are very much hoping that we will be able to celebrate Christmas in many ways- they may be different to our normal routines, but we are determined to make the run up to Christmas a special time for all of our pupils.

We hope you have a lovely half term and we will see you again on Monday 2nd November.

Mrs Smith

Bikeability

Many of the children in Y5/6 have signed up to do Bikeability training after half term. A reminder please that the sessions for these children are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as soon as we come back. On the first day please bring bikes and we will store them inside overnight each day- unless, of course, you want to ride them home each day. The children need to be warm and comfortable. They can wear their school PE kit and trainers each day and please remember a coat (as they will still be out if it rains!) and their HI-VIZ. Also children MUST have a helmet otherwise they won't be able to take part. Year 5 and 6 do the Level 2 course, which involves first of all a recap of Level 1 on the playground and then those children judged to be proficient go out onto the roads around school for the next 3 sessions. The instructors are very experienced and will not take anyone out on the roads who they do not deem to be safe and in control of their bikes. Some practice over half term of things like lifting hands off handlebars to signal and looking over the shoulder could be a good idea.

Year 3 and 4 training will be on Friday 6th November, and they do Level 1 which is playground based. Again, come in PE kits to be warm and comfortable.

Head Girl and Head Boy

The decisions have now been made about our important Year 6 positions of responsibility and I am very pleased to tell you that Lauren is our new Head Girl and Bradley is our new Head Boy. We know that they will carry out their roles brilliantly. Their first job was to judge the poster competition, which they carried out maturely and fairly.

Year 6 responsibilities

A few weeks ago, the Year 6 children had a session where they worked with Mrs Moore to write their CVs and then they applied for their Y6 'jobs'. This was followed by an interview with Mrs Moore and Mrs Smith where they had to talk about why they would be suited to the job they wanted. After much deliberation the jobs were assigned and they are as follows:

IT monitors: Jack and Bradley

Librarians: Maisie, Ariel and Lauren

Early Years monitors: Niamh, Ruby, James and Sophie

Office monitors: Daniel, Ophelia, Danielle and Jacob

James also has a special job, which is to count the house points each Friday.

House captains

The votes have also been cast for our House Captain roles. Each child who wanted to put themselves forwards had to do a little pitch, which we recorded and put on Seesaw so that children in all classes could watch them. The voting was VERY close, but our winners were:

Jeffries: Maisie

Stocker: Ruby

Greenwood: Jack

For our new parents, our houses are named after members of the Pathfinders squadron based at RAF Little Staughton in WWII. They used to have strong links with the school through their annual reunion weekends and we wanted to have a special way to remember Ron Jeffries, Ted Stocker and Joan Greenwood. The house captains are working with Mrs Moore to plan a range of house competitions.

Poster competition

Thank you very much for all your wonderful entries to our competition to make a poster with the message READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE. We had lots of fabulous entries and it was hard to choose. Everyone who took part was awarded 3 house points and the winners got 5 house points! The winners are:

Reception: ERIN

Year 1: GUY

Year 3: CAL

Year 5: IYLA

Year 2: MERI and JOEY

Year 4: EMILY and HARRIET

Year 6: LAUREN

Writing competition

Our next house competition is going to be a writing competition. Children will be bringing home a task on Friday and we really hope as many of them as possible will choose to take part over half term. Entries in on Monday 2nd November please. House points will be awarded to everyone who takes part with extra points for the winners!

Seesaw

We hope that you have been able to get your child/ren logged into Seesaw, using the QR code or password they brought home.

Any problems please contact your child's teacher. One of the things you will be able to see on there is the class Harvest Festivals, which have been taking place this week.

Thank you so much for your generous Harvest donations. They will make a real difference to people's lives in our local area.



An update from Monkey class

Monkeys had a fabulous time for their 'Sparkling Start'. The children dressed up as an everyday 'Hero'. Well done to all the brilliant Monkey parents for taking so much care and time to think about the children's outfits, they all looked fantastic! The Monkeys enjoyed a full fun packed day with a lovely 'Show and Tell' session to talk about the role they were playing for the day.

The Monkeys have been working so hard since the start of our new school year. Little Monkeys are now reading and blending sounds to build words in their reading books. They write every day – already the development in their writing is huge! They have worked on lots of number formation as well as looking at ordering, money and learning the days of the week. Super effort, Little Monkeys!

Our Big Monkeys have also been working super hard, practising numbers to 50 and beyond. They are really working well with addition sums, counting forwards and back on a number line, telling the time to o'clock and adding/comparing money coins and totals.

Besides our Numeracy and Literacy work, the Monkeys have been learning about parts of the body and their senses (science), things that make them feel happy and how it is ok for our feelings to change (PSHE), we have also learnt about Florence Nightingale and people who help us (topic), 'How do we feel that we belong?' (RE) and they have practised different ways of moving and how to make shapes with their bodies whilst working as a pair (PE). The Monkeys really don't stop throughout the day, so please don't worry if they come home exhausted! We are so very proud of our Monkeys, great job!



An update from Meerkat class

Meerkats have been having a very busy half term learning all about castles, dragons, knights and princesses. In Maths, the children have been consolidating lots of skills so they are ready to move onto the increasingly trickier challenges of the Year 2 tasks. In English, we have been working really hard on our phonics, reading and writing. The children have loved all their writing lessons – writing as reporters to describe a dragon and as rappers for our work on "Rapping Rapunzel". Just recently, as Cinderella or the Prince, they have written invitations to a friend, persuading them to attend their amazing wedding! After looking at drawings, maps and plans of different styles of castles, the children made their very own Motte and Bailey castle out of clay. This activity made a lovely "Sparkling Start" to our Topic. They have been learning what it would have been like to live and work in a castle in medieval times. They had fun learning about the qualifications and skills necessary for the job of the Castle Cook. They took it turns to interview each other for the role – it was fun at the end of the lesson finding out who had got the job! In the next half term, we are looking forward to making "real life" fire-breathing dragons; learning more about the history of castles and the monarchy and trying to locate U.K. castles on a map.

Look out for upcoming news on the details of our Marvellous Middle that will be coming soon.

An update from Zebra class

Year 3/4 enjoyed a Robotics Day on 23rd September where all the children had an exciting time building, programming and moving robots to have our very own Robot Wars.

This was followed up by our topic sparkling start, an afternoon of healthy food tasting and learning about the gooey works of our digestive system.

The 7th October saw us on an exciting, adventure filled day at Grafham Water Activity centre. The weather was great...even a bit warm and the sun was shining...but not as much as the faces of our brave and strong children who tackled all sorts of adventurous activities, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and challenging themselves. Mrs Morgan couldn't have been prouder of the courage, determination and teamwork.



An update from Lion class

Lion class have had a very busy start to the year and we have hit the ground running with all our learning. We loved the robotics day and feel that our computing skills are developing really well. All of our Y6 children have been busy applying for different roles and responsibilities, which is what comes with being the top of the school! We celebrated National Poetry Day on 1st October with a morning of poetry writing and sharing. On 12th October we enjoyed a brilliant day at the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough. We were able to try out some activities including open canoeing and a huge high ropes course. We were all EXTREMELY brave as it was not easy at all! It was a shame we couldn't go on our residential, but at least we had a taste of it. We are also very involved in our class book 'Wonder' which we are basing our English lessons on and in our science we have so far been exploring the themes of adaptation and evolution.

Purple Mash

This week, our staff received some training on a fabulous ICT package called Purple Mash. We have invested in this largely to help support us with the teaching of the computing curriculum, but also because it is full to the brim with fabulous games and activities which can be used across the curriculum. It enables children to explore and enhance their knowledge in a fun and creative way. This will definitely have an impact on the ways in which children are able to learn and there is a broad variety of 'tools' that will enable our children to be ahead of the game in terms of their IT knowledge. After half term, your child will receive a login for Purple Mash. We would ask that you please set this up for your child, so that they can access this exciting resource at home. We will give the children some lessons in school about how to use it, where to save their work etc. This is a huge resource, so please bear with us as we all get to grips with it. Needless to say we are all VERY excited about getting started!

UP AND COMING DIARY DATES- for information:

November

Monday 2 nd	Back to School
Monday 2 nd -Thursday 5 th	Bikeability for children in Y5 and 6, who have registered
Friday 6 th	Bikeability for children in Y3 and 4, who have registered
Monday 9 th	Last date for returning Christmas card designs (organised by our 'Friends')
Friday 13 th	Children In Need day- further details to follow
Friday 20 th	Children invited to wear non-uniform in return for a donation for the Christmas raffle hampers. This is a 'Friends' event.
Wednesday 25 th	Individual photographs of children (children who would normally be PE ready, please come in <u>school uniform</u> and bring PE kits in a bag) more details to follow.
Friday 27 th	Decoration Day- further details to follow

December

Friday 11 th	Christmas jumper day- children may wear festive jumpers and non-uniform in exchange for a donation of at least £1 for Save the Children.
Friday 18 th	Break up for Christmas

Safeguarding reminders

At Kymbrook Primary we take safeguarding very seriously, so to ensure the safety of every child in our care, we would like to remind you of the following:

- Please notify the school on 01234 376266 by 9.30am if your child will not be in.
- If you are not going to be the person picking up your child from school please remember to let us know in advance.
- At the moment whilst our gates are often propped open, please pay special attention, especially to younger children to ensure they are only leaving the playground with you
- Please remember to leave the yellow zig-zag lines at the front of the school clear at all times and avoid parking around the school to avoid congestion. The village hall car park is available and the crossing allows for safe crossing of the road

If you see or hear anything that concerns you whilst at school please talk to the class teachers or contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Designated Safeguarding Leads for the Kymbrook and Thurleigh Federation - Mrs Sarah Moore, Mrs Rachel Smith and Mrs Kathy Augustine (based at Thurleigh site). **Remember that safeguarding is everyone's business.**

Thank you for your support.