



**Headmistress: Mrs Z. Sylvester**

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Dear Parents

I am not quite sure where the week has gone to as I write this week's newsletter. I hope that everyone had a good half term break and are now firmly back into the school routine. With such a very short half term, before we break for Easter, it feels like time is passing increasingly fast.

The children are settling into their new topics which include space, animals, books and stories, Transport and the Emergency Services, and The Great Fire of London. The role play areas in the classrooms are offering the children a fantastic opportunity to develop their imagination. Teaching through topics allows children to make links in different skill areas, where the classroom activities are tied to the theme. Children benefit from connections made across the curriculum and this in turn teaches them to make their own connections from one experience to another. It also helps children become creative in their thinking and actively engaged in their learning.

### **World Book Day**

We are very much looking forward to World Book Day next Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. We hope that the children will enjoy dressing up as a book character and we are hoping to collect a good number of books to support The Royal Free Hospital (please see poster attached). I would like to extend my thanks to the parent reps for their help in the organisation of the reading sessions when we look forward to welcoming you into the classes to share books with the children.

### **Extra-Curricular Science Club**

There has been a fair amount of interest in the Little House of Science Club that we are running in the summer term for full day children. If you would still like to book into the club, please register online at <https://www.littlehouseofscience.com/timetable>

### **Stop and Drop**

Thank you to our 'Stop and Drop' volunteers this week. I am aware that this is the first week of the scheme but would ask that if you cannot take your turn on a particular day that you look for another parent to swap with. We rota four parents on each day and this week we have struggled with significantly fewer than that each morning. We will put up the rota for each week in this newsletter and also send a reminder. We thank you for your support with the scheme.

26/02/2018	Charlotte	Jaffa
26/02/2018	Chloe	Tamura Remiao
26/02/2018	Chloe	Wood
26/02/2018	Cian	Pai
27/02/2018	Claudia & Sebastian	Hodges

27/02/2018	Constantine	Mavrelou
27/02/2018	Dania	Ahmad
27/02/2018	Daniel	Sprake
28/02/2018	Dylan	Kothari
28/02/2018	Eleni	Levashova-Akyuz
28/02/2018	Eloise	Florentin-Lee
28/02/2018	Filippos	Hadjidimitriou
01/03/2018	Finlay	Tyler
01/03/2018	Gabriel	Fafalios
01/03/2018	Harry	Telford
01/03/2018	Helena	Bour
02/03/2018	Henry	Palow
02/03/2018	Ishani	Maggiorani
02/03/2018	Jack	Curtis
02/03/2018	Kasra & Koosha	Eftekhari

### Curriculum News

The Characteristics of Effective Learning define the way children learn. Each characteristic determines the way children respond to and engage in learning. There are three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

- **Playing and Exploring** – how children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’
- **Active Learning** – the way children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and show enjoyment and pride in their achievements
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – the way children develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

Nurturing children’s creativity, curiosity and perseverance in learning enables individual talents to be developed. When children are engaged and motivated they become effective learners. Open ended activities allow children to explore, experiment and problem solve on their own.

You can support your child’s play at home by:

- Showing your own interest in discovering new things
- Join in your child’s play and fit in with their ideas
- Support your child to try new activities and solve problems
- Talk with your child about what they are doing, how they plan to do it, what worked well and what they would change next time

### Reception Class News

Reception have explored the Artist’s, Monet, Picasso and Van Gogh and have painted their own versions of ‘The Water Lilies’ and ‘The Sunflowers’. To support this, we created a photography studio in the role play area, where the children were able to explore taking photos, looking at light and angles.

Why Art?

Art generates a love of learning and creativity. Art strengthens focus and increases attention, developing hand-eye coordination.

We have started a new topic about ‘The Great Fire of London’, we are exploring the differences between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century, looking at food, clothes, buildings and the emergency services.

Please feel free to come and view their art work.



I wish you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

**Mrs Sylvester**  
Headmistress

**Proprietor:**  
**Mr. B. J. Berkery**