

**Friday 8 January 2021**

Dear Parents

As the first week of term draws to a close, I hope that this newsletter brings some positivity and interest in what is clearly an extremely challenging time.

The news this week of a further national lockdown has been hard for everyone, not least as we are all feeling the fatigue of living with so many restrictions, for such a prolonged period, already.

I please urge you all to follow the advice to stay at home, unless you are leaving for a permitted reason. Please do everything you can to protect yourselves and the wider school community. Cases in the Camden area are very high, increasing the risk to us even more.

We are pleased to be fully open at the present time and hope that this will remain the case in the coming weeks. This will naturally depend on staff and children remaining fit and well and not being required to self-isolate in greater numbers.

We will continue to look closely at the bigger picture and hope that the Government do not throw any further curved balls our way- we can always hope!

My team, as you know, are hugely dedicated, but I am acutely aware of the risks they are facing daily and the pressure this inevitably brings.

Thank you very much for the support and kindness you are offering them at the present time.

The children have returned to school this week, with their usual vigour, enthusiasm and positivity which has been wonderful to see.

New topics have been introduced with Full Day children embarking on some exciting adventures into space, whilst Half Day are a little closer to home, learning all about the farm this half term. We continue with our phonics and maths schemes of work alongside all the other areas of the EYFS curriculum offering a full and varied program to all.

Our main co-curricular event this term will be World Book Day which we will celebrate on and around 4 March 2021. Further details will follow.

I look forward to seeing the children return to Broadhurst on Monday, particularly those that have delayed their return after the Christmas holidays; we have missed you.

Take care this weekend,

Best wishes

Mrs Sylvester

## Curriculum News from Miss Belzer

### Learning Trays and Baskets

An important part of our classroom environment is having an ordered and prepared space. The way resources are presented often gives clues and prompts about what should be done with the activity or material. As you are aware, Table Time is a key part of the daily timetable and the designated session for teachers to work with your child one to one. It is also a time for quieter activities where children have the opportunity to work independently with a variety of planned learning trays or baskets. Each tray is neatly organized, presented, accessible and underpinned with a carefully planned learning objective. Learning trays are changed periodically and when new trays are introduced, time is spent showing and demonstrating the purpose of the new activity. Carefully prepared learning trays or baskets are important for:

- providing each child with their own work space.
- promoting a quieter environment as the activities require focus, engagement and concentration.
- promoting independence and self-esteem as children learn to problem solve, experiment, investigate and persevere.
- providing a range of learning opportunities set up to invite different kinds of exploration or creativity.

Learning trays include the following key curriculum areas:

- Phonics
- Literacy, including mark making
- Mathematics, including number, shape, size order, visual discrimination and patterns
- Fine Motor skills, including small/intricate construction, transferring activities, threading, cutting, gluing and investigation trays
- Puzzles



Miss Belzer

## Diary Dates:

### Term Dates:

Half term:

Monday 15 February-  
Friday 19 February

End of Term:

Wednesday 30 March

Summer Term starts:

Wednesday 20 April

**World Book Day-**

Thursday 4 March

**Parents Evening-**

Monday 8 – Thursday  
11 March, further  
details to follow



## **Class 6 News**

Class 6 have had a fantastic week. We have zoomed into the New Year exploring our exciting new topic 'space.' Some of our favourite activities have been making rockets out of cardboard boxes and painting them using bubble wrap. We have also enjoyed our space cafe role play area where we have been pretending to be astronauts going to the moon.

In literacy, we enjoyed acting out the story *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy and joining Baby Bear on his trip to the moon in a cardboard box. We really liked putting the colander on our heads for our space helmets. We especially loved role playing in our own cardboard box and 'flying to the moon.'

For maths, we have been discussing the properties of flat shapes. We used lolly pop sticks to make different shapes and put them together to make space rockets. We have been using language to describe the length and amount of sides a shape has, as well as differentiating between sides and corners.

In phonics this week we have been practising our blending by using our robot arms and feeding the 'hungry aliens' consonant vowel consonant (CVC) words.

In P.E. we had great fun practising control with a ball and rolling it to our friends.

We have been working really hard this week and we are looking forward to our learning next week.

**Miss Clarkson**

## Class 6 Photo Gallery

