

**Friday 26 February 2021**

Dear Parents

### **Term Dates**

Please note that the last day of term for children is Wednesday 31 March. Half Day sessions will run at the normal times and Full Day classes will finish as follows:

Class 6 & 7- 11:50am  
Class 8 & 9- 12:00 Noon

Children will return to school on Tuesday 20 April.

We apologise for the typo in last week's newsletter with regard to these dates. Term dates for next academic year are available on the school website, for further information.

### **Travel Survey**

I have received a request from London Borough of Camden's Healthy Streets Officer, for parents to complete a very short travel survey, in order for them to tailor their travel support initiatives to schools. The information will help the borough understand how travel to school may have been affected by the COVID 19 outbreak. If you can spare the time to complete the survey, please follow the link below. Many thanks.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NEqPXtsrVEi7QrTQx9AkbMtjfd9KqdhGh4pCTQjzV\\_5UMUNLWVQ3Tk5aUklSNUNGOTY1SFJKWEpWMS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NEqPXtsrVEi7QrTQx9AkbMtjfd9KqdhGh4pCTQjzV_5UMUNLWVQ3Tk5aUklSNUNGOTY1SFJKWEpWMS4u)

### **Parents Evening Appointments**

You should now have received information from the school office regarding appointments for parent's evenings which are taking place the week after next. Thank you for responding with your preferred time slots in order for us to make the necessary arrangements.

### **World Book Day**

We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day this year. A fun part of the day will be seeing the children dressed up, if you and they choose to participate. We do not want parents to feel under any pressure in this regard, and if the outfit you have may not be strictly a book character, we can always use our imaginations and create a character from their outfits, whatever they may be.

We have just received, today, book tokens to the value of £1.00 for every child. These will be sent home to you next week.

As we are still working with restrictions due to the pandemic, we will not this year be collecting books for charity. However, we would love to be able to make a contribution to Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, in the form of a selection of new books that we can buy for them. If you would like to contribute to this collection, we shall be sharing further details with you next week.

## Curriculum News from Miss Belzer

Children are naturally drawn to science-based activities. They appeal to their curiosity, are hands-on and produce exciting, and sometimes unexpected results.

Even the very simplest activities can introduce children to scientific concepts and stimulate scientific thinking. By encouraging and directing their natural curiosity, and familiarising them with basic scientific vocabulary, children begin to make sense of the world around them and gain some understanding of how things work.

Science activities provide children with opportunities to develop and practise many different skills and attributes. These include communication skills, collaborative skills, team working and perseverance, as well as analytical, reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Helping to establish a love of science at a young age is beneficial in many ways:

- It fosters the desire to explore and experiment
- It helps develop analytical and problem-solving skills
- It nurtures an understanding of cause and effect
- It helps develop an understanding of the world
- It supports the development of communication skills and expands vocabulary

Introducing science at an early age enables children to channel their enthusiasm for scientific discovery from an early stage and nurtures a positive approach to science education that will stay with them into the future. It is important to remember some key factors when exploring science with young children:

The process is more important than the results: although it is really valuable for the children to gain some scientific understanding along the way, the main goals are to guide their curiosity and to foster their investigative skills.

Be open to child-led discovery: look out for spontaneous, daily opportunities for scientific discovery, guided by you but ultimately led by the children. Encourage them to always experiment and ask questions.

Offer active, fun, hands-on experiences: opportunities for physical, active and first-hand exploration engages children and maintains their interest.

## Diary Dates:

### Term Dates:

End of Term:  
Wednesday 31 March

Summer Term Starts:  
Tuesday 20 April

**World Book Day-**  
Thursday 4 March

**Parents Evening-**  
Monday 8 – Thursday  
11 March



## Class 8 News

This week in Class 8, we have had a really fun week celebrating Chinese New Year. We learnt to use chopsticks, tasted noodles and listened to some traditional Chinese music. We also made a dragon and a Chinese lantern.

In maths, we used Numicon to find all the ways to make five. Leo said, "Six take away one is five" and Max knew that, "Five plus zero is five". We learnt a new song about Farmer Pete who lost his sheep to help us learn about making five. The children said Farmer Pete was very silly not to shut the gate behind him.

In Literacy, we have been writing new captions and words; we all have beautiful handwriting. We wrote some words on the whiteboards and even some in shaving foam.

For P.E. this week we have been keeping fit with Joe Wicks Spiderman workout, practising lots of new movements to keep us fit and healthy. We also danced to some music and explored moving as if we were happy/excited or scared.

For our science investigation we made a lava lamp by mixing oil, water and food colouring. We made it bubble by adding a vitamin C tablet. We learnt that oil and water do not mix, and that oil will always float on top of the water. Each of us made a prediction of what would happen if we put the bottle on its side and if we added extra water on top the oil to see if it would sink or float. We spoke about what we could see happening and we also made a rocket blast off in the garden using water and a vitamin C tablet. We counted down from ten to help it blast off. We all enjoyed being mini scientists and we have lots more experiments planned for next week, including making raisins dance in water and making colourful milk which we are all very excited about.

**Miss Wigmore**

## Class 8 Photo Gallery

