

A word from Mrs Milner

Friday 24th March 2023



Dear Parents/ Carers,

This is our penultimate newsletter as the Easter break is just around the corner. Thursday was our Mega Maths Day and I will let Mrs Harrison explain fully what was involved. On my part -I went outside to watch the children and their enthusiasm for mathematics was quite palpable. Thank you to all parents and carers for sending children to school with their wellies as lots of activities took place outside. May I take this opportunity to say thank you to Mrs Harrison, not only our Deputy Headteacher but also our lead for mathematics, for organising this event. Maths is a critical and core area of our curriculum and crucial in all aspects of life. Maths can help us do many things that are important in our everyday lives such as: managing money, understanding loans, preparing food, baking, shopping etc. It will be lovely if you are able to talk to your children on a regular basis about the importance of maths in everyday life: *What do you use maths for? Why do you need maths? Imagine a world without maths.. How would you survive without maths?* Hopefully this will help instil in children a love of learning mathematics and yesterday’s activities will prove that maths can be **fun!**

Just a couple reminders. Our parent / teachers meetings are scheduled for the 28th March 2023 and 30th March 2023. Please ensure that you book your ‘slot’ on MCAS (Bromcom) as parent-teacher interviews give you a great opportunity to: learn more about your child’s academic, emotional, and social development, meet and get to know your child’s teachers, help your child’s teachers understand more about your child, make plans with the teacher about how you can both support your child. Going to parent-teacher interviews also shows your child that you’re interested in their learning and life at school. Please contact your child’s teacher via Class Dojo if there are extenuating circumstances which mean that you are unable to attend the meetings scheduled next week.

I am hoping that as the weather gets warmer, our sniffs and colds will disappear as if by magic! Our staff are well equipped to deal with minor ailments, and we will always call you if your child’s health deteriorates. The government’s target, and to which all schools are accountable, is 95% attendance. Even with 95% attendance, your child will be missing 10 days of schooling in the academic year—which is significant. If a child has an attendance percentage of 80% then this is equivalent to missing a whole day of schooling every single week. Persistent absence is defined as an attendance rate of 90% or below and all schools are under obligation to work with parents and carers to ensure that their child’s attendance improves. We will continue to contact parents and carers where we have concerns regarding their child’s attendance so we can fully understand, and work with you, to improve their attendance.

Children of school-age who are registered at a school, must, by law, attend that school regularly. Regular attendance is the best way of ensuring that your child makes the most of the educational opportunities which are available to him or her. When your child is absent from school, he or she misses not only the teaching provided but is also less prepared for the lessons after their return. Parents and carers should avoid taking their children out of school during term time to go on holiday. There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Thank you very much for listening.

On Thursday, I spent a good part of my lunch time helping some children picking up worms from the playground and therefore protecting them from a possible death by squishing. It was so nice to see so many children caring for the wildlife. Thank you, boys and girls, and if all the worms saved were able to talk or write they would have written a thank you letter to you. Well done!

I think that this will be it from me for this week. I am eagerly awaiting our Year 6 pupils back from their residential trip, as I would like to hear about their adventures. Parents and carers will, no doubt, hear about all the exciting activities and also have mountains of dirty clothes to take care of.

With my warmest wishes
Dorota Milner, Headteacher

Please click [here](#) to learn more about Teacher Training opportunities through SCITT Chepping View.

House Point Totals (no weekly totals this week as our Yr6 House Captains are on their residential)

Total	4938	5293	4573	5143
	Maple	Willow	Elm	Cedar

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
27.3.23	Easter Hamper Raffle Draw!
28.3.23	Year 5 Easter assembly to parents at 2.20pm
28.3.23	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Day 1)
29.3.23	Author Visit - Steve Cole
30.3.23	Year 3 Dance Festival at Dr Challoner’s
30.3.23	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Day 2)
31.3.23	Break up at 1.30pm on Friday 31st March. No Hideout Zone afterschool club on last day of term. Breakfast club is still available. Return to school Monday 17th April.
25.4.23	PTA Meeting in school 8-9pm
1.5.23	Bank Holiday
5.5.23	Year 4 Tri Golf Festival at Chiltern Hills Academy
8.5.23	Additional BANK HOLIDAY- His Majesty’s coronation
9.5.23	Year 3 Tennis event at Dr Challoner’s
17.6.23	PTA Summer Fair—SAVE THE DATE
29.6.23	Sports Day (if this needs to be re-arranged due to bad weather, the reserve date will be 13.7.23)
w/c 3.7.23	Bike-ability (Yr6)
4.7.23	Transition Day
21.7.23	Break up 1.30pm
	Link to 2023/24 term dates on website

Crown Competition update!!!

Adam Teeuw and Lorraine Kelly will be on the judging panel for the Crown Competition on Friday 2nd May!

The winning designer will be invited to visit Pinewood Studios!

Mrs Harrison's Weekly Curriculum Update

Mrs Harrison's Curriculum update

Mega Maths Morning

Yesterday the children took part in a fantastic morning of Maths. Each class took part in an outdoor Mega Maths hunt all over the school grounds. They used their map skills to find the clues- which required them to use their mental maths and known facts. They then had to crack a code. It was such a joy to see all of the children running around and enjoying this outdoor maths session.

The children also completed a Giant Tangram Team Challenge in the hall. They worked collaboratively in small groups to make shapes and animals- using their skills of spatial awareness and problem solving.

Each class completed other maths investigations and activities which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children also took part in a House challenge which required them to use their skills of estimation.

Thank you for sending your children in with coins. We are yet to total them up, but I can tell you that we managed to make it just over half-way around the track!

The highlight for me had to be watching your children work so well together. All of the challenges required the children to work in collaboration with others and use their communication, cooperation and listening skills. There were countless examples of children showing such kindness and patience and this is why your children are such a credit to you and to our wonderful school.



Geography

The outdoor learning theme continued this week with year 4 going on a local field trip around Amersham. They used their map and orienteering skills to navigate their way and solve a problem. Year 5 were also out and about on Wednesday completing their geography field work in the school grounds.

Sport



A word from Mrs Tandara: Yesterday afternoon, eight year 4 children took part in a 'School Games' Basketball final at Princes Risborough School. Ollie, Lohan, Freddie, Tom, Sadie, Amelia, Elsa and Tilly.

The afternoon started with skills being taught by some fantastic coaches from Milton Keynes Breakers Basketball Club. Then some fun basketball games were played. There were no winners in this competition but all the children were given a medal and had a fun filled afternoon learning from some very talented players.

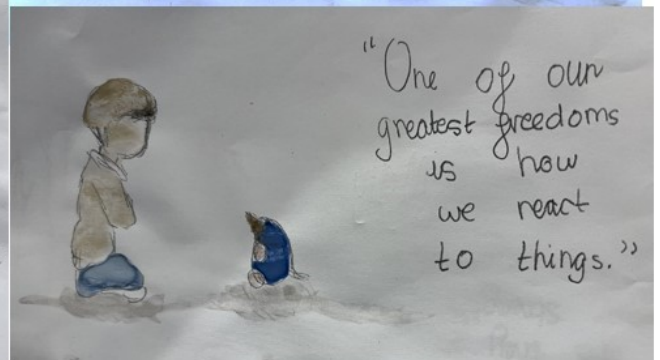
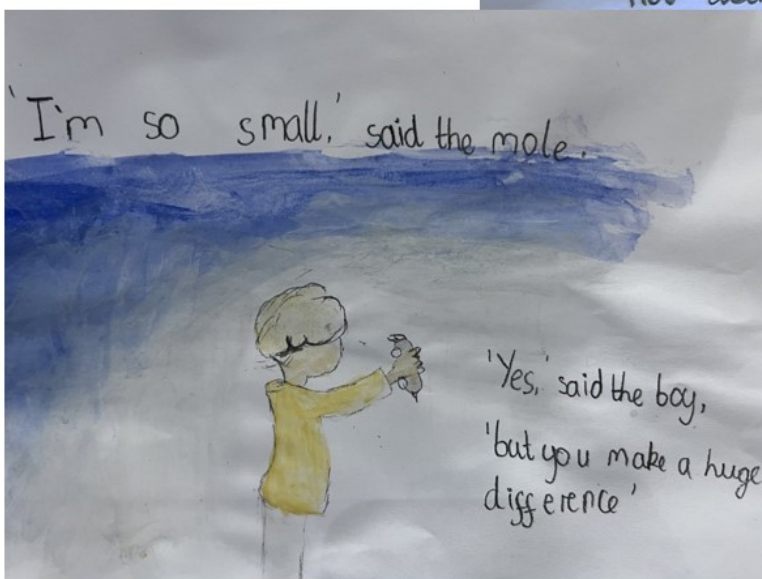
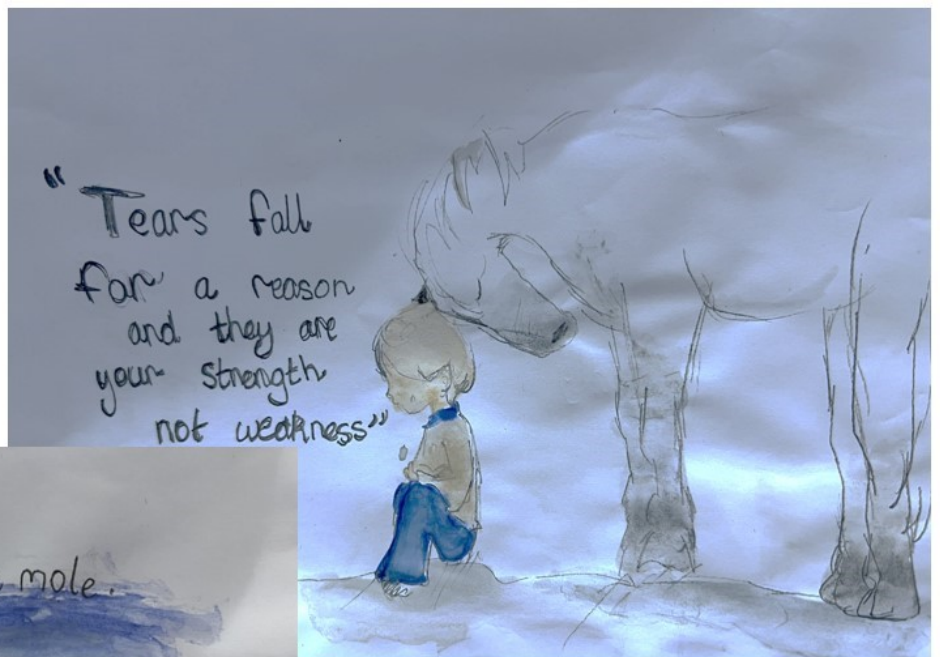
Thank you to the 32 year 4 children who turned up in the rain to play in the year 4 Hockey Tournament at Amersham and Chalfont Hockey Club yesterday after school. You really showed us how much you had learned over the eight weeks of hockey coaching in your P.E. lessons. We know you have enjoyed it and some of you are going to continue playing. Thank you to John Spicer, the hockey coach, and well done to all of year 4.

PSHE

I spent some time with year 6 last week and we had a PSHE session based around Charlie Mackesy's 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse.' Such a heart-warming tale of courage, kindness, friendship, hope and never being afraid to ask for help. This week, some children illustrated some of Mackesy's quotes by free sketching and using simple watercolour. I was absolutely blown away by their talent! I really wanted to share these with you.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Harrison



After School Sports Clubs

Summer Term - Booking Open!



First Touch Football

Thursday's 3.15pm-4.15pm

From 27th April - 13th July

11 weeks, to book click the link below

<https://first-touch-sports.co.uk/after-school-clubs/woodside-asc>

TOTAL TKD

Wednesday's 3.15pm - 4.15pm

From 19th April - 12th July

12 weeks, to book see the flyer attached [here](#).



Netball Club

Tuesday's (Yr 4&5)

And

Friday's (Yr 5&6)

From 25th April - 14th July

10 weeks, to book click [here](#) to download the booking form

In School Music Opportunities



Summer Term - Booking Open!



Bucks Music Trust offer tuition on all instruments including strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, voice and guitars.

If you would like your child to start receiving lessons, please click [here](#) to find out more information.

Soundbox offer 1:1 lessons at Woodside school on a Thursday for all year groups and from beginners to those who have experience with drumming! To learn more about what Soundbox and the options available, please click [here](#).

If you would like a free taster session please email [Gareth](#).



Rock Steady offer Band-based peripatetic music service delivered by professionals which is available to all children here at Woodside School. To see more about what Rocksteady offer... please click [here](#).

Safeguarding

Some information for you today regarding new legislation that came into force recently

Legislation

England and Wales -from Safeguarding CIC

[Domestic abusers face crackdown in raft of new measures](#)

Domestic abusers will face tags and tougher management under new measures to protect women and girls. The new proposals go further than ever before in protecting women and girls from harassment, aggression and violence, and focus on stopping domestic abuse before it takes place. The law will be changed so that the most dangerous domestic abusers will be watched more closely. For the first time, controlling or coercive behaviour will be put on a par with physical violence, which will mean offenders sentenced to a year or more imprisonment or a suspended sentence will automatically be actively managed by the police, prison and probation services under multi-agency public protection arrangements. A range of agencies will have a legal duty to cooperate to manage the risks posed by these dangerous offenders. This will make it easier to deliver a joined-up approach to protect the public.

While this legislation is being pursued, police and the probation service will start work immediately to ensure that from now offenders sentenced to a year or more for controlling and coercive behaviour are recorded on the violent and sex offender register, so that they don't fall through the cracks. In addition, abusers could be fitted with a tag, prevented from going within a certain distance of a victim's home, and made to attend a behaviour change programme, as part of a trial of domestic abuse protection notices and domestic abuse protection orders in three areas in the UK.

Also, those at risk of, or suffering from, domestic abuse will be able to receive emergency help from one of 18 Jobcentres and Jobs and Benefit offices across the UK, and a new postcode checker will tell them their nearest location to access the service.

The [Ask for ANI](#) (Action Needed Immediately) scheme is already in operation in over 5,000 pharmacies across the UK in over 88 cities, towns and villages. It is delivered in partnership with Hestia's [Safe Spaces](#). Anyone who is suffering from or fearful of domestic abuse can ask for ANI, and they will be guided to a safe and private space and offered support to call the police or specialist domestic abuse services.

[Legal age of marriage in England and Wales rises to 18](#)

Vulnerable children across England and Wales will be better protected from the damaging impact of forced marriage as the legal age of marriage rises to 18 in England and Wales. The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022, which gained Royal Assent in April last year, has come into force on 27th February. It means that 16- and 17-year-olds will no longer be allowed to marry or enter a civil partnership, even if they have parental consent. It is now illegal and a criminal offence to exploit vulnerable children by arranging for them to marry, under any circumstances whether or not force is used. The change will crack down on forced marriages which can cause lasting damage on a child and forms part of the government's continued commitment to tackle violence against women and girls.

Those found guilty of arranging child marriages face sentences of up to 7 years in prison. The age of 18 is widely recognised as the age at which one becomes an adult and gains full citizenship rights.

Child marriage is often associated with domestic abuse towards girls, leaving education early, limited career opportunities, and serious physical and mental health problems. The change honours the government's commitment to the pledge made to the United Nations to end child marriage by 2030.

Previously forced marriage was only an offence if the person uses a type of coercion, for example threats, to cause someone to marry. It is now an offence to cause a child under the age of 18 to enter a marriage in any circumstances, without the need to prove that a form of coercion was used. This includes non-legally binding 'traditional' ceremonies which would still be viewed as marriages by the parties and their families.

In 2021 the government's Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support in 118 cases involving victims below 18 years of age. The courts have also issued 3,343 Forced Marriage Protection Orders between their introduction in 2008 and September 2022 which prevents someone from using threats, violence or emotional abuse as a way to force a person into marriage.

The [government's statutory guidance and multi-agency practice guidelines on forced marriage](#) have also been updated to reflect this legislation.

Wellbeing

Stay vigilant when selling via online marketplaces.

Residents are reminded to stay vigilant when selling their belongings, particularly electronics, via online marketplaces following a series of incidents. There have been six incidents in and around Norfolk in 2023 where the suspect has visited the address to purchase items such as games consoles and laptops which have been advertised online. They typically arrive early, prior to the agreed time, before showing an image of a fake bank transfer. The suspect then explains it may take up to 24 hours for the funds to appear in the victim's account, provides a phone number and leaves with the item. The money is never transferred, and the suspect becomes uncontactable. It is important to be cautious when selling high value items online. Criminals will often target people who are selling items such as mobile phones, laptops, games consoles and designer clothing. Whilst online marketplaces can be a great way to buy and sell items, we would always recommend that you take precautions before sending and receiving money from people you have connected with online.

Tips when buying and selling items online:

- Always make sure a payment has cleared before releasing the item to your buyer, whether that is in person or by post.
- If a buyer or seller makes you feel uncomfortable, do not be afraid to block their account and report them to the site you are using.
- Only give the buyer or seller minimal personal details such as your address or phone number.
- Do not use links sent by buyers to check for payment, these can look genuine but can be easily forged.

Always use reputable payment methods, that you trust, on your own device when sending and receiving funds. Protect yourself against fraudsters by taking the time to check that the sale feels genuine and following the precautions detailed above. If you or a friend or family member feels they may have been a victim of fraud, you are not alone, please do not feel ashamed or embarrassed. You should contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud. You can do this by calling 0300 123 2040 or via the [Action Fraud](#) website.

Please find details for all of Discover Bucks Museum's Easter Holiday activities running from 3rd - 15th April on their website:

www.discoverbucksmuseum.org/whats-on/easter-holiday-activities/

Congratulations!!!

Charlie from 3F – designed a car, together with his sibling, and won a trophy

Georgia, Ivy and Bea from 5HM – very proudly presented their Gold Award badges from Brownies