

PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Full Speed Ahead

We are fully back to it now as we finish the second week of term. It is really important for us to restart every term by 'rebooting' behaviour and reminding the children of the norms we want to see in and around school and also support them with strong routines. We know that children will not learn at their best if there are behavioural distractions and so we take the time to get these right. Much of this is built around catching children doing the right thing, or reteaching the behaviour we want to see when the children are already doing it. This is because it is the best time for them to take it in. To steal a quote from the current book I'm reading 'A fence at the top of the cliff is preferable to an ambulance at the bottom of it'.

COVID update

On Friday, we had a spot check visit from the Health and Safety Executive. They are visiting schools to ensure that the measures to reduce transmission of the virus are in place and to offer further advice. I am very pleased to say that the feedback from the HSE was overwhelmingly positive. They were very impressed with the structures and routines we have in place around the school. They provided some additional advice which we have taken on board and balanced with the need to provide a full and rounded education for your children.

One thing that was mentioned again was how the most likely transmission at primary school age is adult to adult. With that in mind I wanted to remind you of a few of our guidelines for before and after school:

- Please wear a mask when on school grounds
- Please only one adult per child
- Please, please, please socially distance from each other – 2m wherever possible.

Spelling League Table

Each week, we will be sharing the top 3 classes on the Spelling Shed league table. The league table is based on the total shed score for the class on a rolling 7-day period. This means, that if your child has not played spelling shed for a week, their rank/score will appear to have decreased. We really do encourage a little practice as often as possible.

1st position - Rhinos

2nd position - Lions

3rd position - Crocodiles

Which classes will be in the top three positions next week...?

Books at ... Christmas!

Is it too premature to mention Christmas in early November? I think in schools, it's never too early. For those of you thinking of advent calendars to gift your children (or yourselves!), why not follow Iceland's footsteps... Their tradition is to exchange books on Christmas Eve as presents. They then spend the rest of that day and night reading all the books collected over the advent period. Such bliss! This tradition is part of a season called '*Jolabokafloð*' translated into '*The Christmas Book Flood*'. It is interesting to learn that Iceland publishes more books per capita than any other country and sells the majority of its books between September and November as people prepare for the upcoming holiday. There are many approaches to this tradition that you can take:

- Instead of saving all the books for Christmas Eve, gift a book each day of the advent period.
- You could alternate a book with a sachet of hot chocolate/treat to enjoy as you read a book.
- You could even include books already owned by your children so they re-read them.

You can make your own tweaks that suit you and your family. From next week, we shall be sharing some Christmassy titles that you may like to consider.



Our Amazon Wish List

A huge thank you to our 'Book Fairy' who ordered some fantastic books from our Amazon Wish List. Mrs Childs could hardly contain her excitement when opening the package to see this:



Parent Consultation Evenings

Your date and time for Parent Consultations should now have been sent to you. As we explained last week (please recheck last week's newsletter attachments for more details), there will be one link for each class and you will be placed in the waiting room and admitted when it is your allocated slot. Please make sure we can identify the device by renaming it as your child's name and also take the necessary steps to ensure that you and our staff are safeguarded properly. Please also bear with us! We haven't had to run Parents' Evening like this before and as much as we have tried to foresee any potential problems, technology has a funny way of trying to catch us out!

Helping your child to learn

I'm going to leave these links here for one more week, purely because I think their value to you all is significant. I wish I had known about this when I first started teaching – I would have been a far better teacher! It's also worth considering how this can be used for children of all ages. I apply these strategies with Arthur albeit in an informal way. For example, he loves counting at the moment. When he gets to 8, I ask him what has 8 legs and (hopefully) he says a spider. I then ask what else has 8 legs and (hopefully again) he says octopus. By getting him to retrieve this memory, I make it stronger for him so that, soon, he will not need any prompting and he will have this knowledge as part of his long term memory.

Memory introduction -

<https://youtu.be/K1yVKBxEnAY>

Memory retrieval and strengthening -

<https://youtu.be/07r27sosjuE>

And finally

Today is World Kindness Day. Let's see if we can all share a random act of kindness – this year it is more important than ever!

“There's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.”

Have a lovely weekend, and if you watch Children in Need tonight remember that your parentmail account is still accepting donations until Monday lunchtime - **£370** so far – thank you.

Mark Chatley

Dates: 4th Jan & 7th June 2021 INSET days.

20th November – flu immunisation

17th November – Parents Evening

18th November – Parents Evening

19th November – Parents Evening

Letters sent home (parentmails)

All: Anti-Bullying Week

Children in Need

Friends AGM

Online Safety Newsletter

Consultations



Superstar Corner

Ella (Panthers) entered the school's Spooky Spoon competition and was so pleased when she found out she was a winner. Matthew from Elephants and Benjamin from Zebras have received medals for walking 500 miles since January. They concluded it in style by walking 36 miles in a week at half term.