



19 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer/Governors

I want to start by thanking Nabih, Omar, Bader and Ameen for representing our school at the 'Year 4 Bristol Mathematics Challenge' at Red Maids Primary School this week. They were fantastic and were a real credit to us with their positive attitude and resilience. They performed incredibly well and we are grateful to them. I would also like to thank their parents who were extremely patient in waiting for them when the taxi let us down.

It has been fantastic to see some amazing writing this week across the school. Adam in Year 1 brought me a brilliant alternative ending to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. I was so impressed with every aspect of his writing. I have also been lucky enough to see two stunning pieces of diary writing in Year 5 from Mia and Peaches. They have been inspired by their work on Shackleton's adventures to the Antarctic and their writing showed a real empathy and understanding of a character's viewpoint and feelings.

This term I have been teaching in Year 4 and we have been creating amazing descriptions of different places. All the children have worked exceptionally hard to improve their work and include different elements to their writing. I am going to give a special mention to Naz and Nabih for producing work that blew me away. They listened carefully to the feedback they had been given and the input from the adults, to show what stars they are.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting their children at home to help them to make the progress that we want to see from all our pupils. Hearing them read regularly and filling in their reading records; helping them to practice their spellings and number facts and encouraging them with other home learning, really helps them to gain confidence in their own abilities.

I hope you have a great weekend.
Stuart

YR. Over the past few weeks the children have been busy learning 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' story. They have also continued to learn Set 1 sounds and have begun to read and write CVC words and simple sentences.

In Mathematics they have been finding 'one more' and 'one less than' numbers to 20. In addition to this they have begun to learn 2D shape names and the properties of these shapes.

Please remember to put your child's reading book into their book bag everyday. Your child will not be given a new one until the first one is returned to school.

Y1. This week we have been working on using our imaginations to describe something we wanted and why we wanted it. The children have worked hard to remember to use 'because' to extend their sentences and some children have even used 'but' and 'so' to add more detail into their work. In Maths we have looked at numbers to 20 and how to show a representation for each number. We have been using our number bond song to 10 to help us remember the numbers that go together. Our next challenge is to use this to help us solve addition and subtraction number sentences and word problems.

Y2. We were lucky to watch a preview of the new Aardman movie 'Early Man' this week and we have been writing diary entries as one of the characters (Dug or Goona). In Maths we have been learning the 2, 5 and 10 times tables (which everyone needs to practise at home!). Our Topic is about everyday materials - we carried out an investigation to see the best material for wiping up spills and we have been thinking about the suitability of materials for different objects. Why do you get spoons made out of wood, plastic and metal? We have also been learning a new skill - how to weave! In RE we have been thinking about special books. It was great to see and hear about all the special books children have at home.

Y3. The children are really enjoying the story 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.' As part of his journey, poor Edward ends up on the rubbish dump. The children thought about what Edward might see, taste, touch, smell and hear amongst all the rubbish and composed their own poems as a response. The children published their poems on, 'rubbish' which they found very exciting!

Y4. In Year 4, we have been continuing our project on 'Varjak Paw', the cat who escapes from his family into the outside world. Varjak has been visited in his dreams by an ancestor who is now teaching him secret skills to survive in the city. The children have produced some lovely work alongside this: in Art, some beautiful collages of the city-scape and in English, some descriptive writing. In Maths, we've been discovering how to represent problems such as $600 \times 0 = ?$ by using empty bowls to help us to visualise the idea of 0.

Y5. This week, the Year 5 classroom has been a hotbed of creativity! We have expressed the innermost thoughts of the Endurance crew through creative writing, and painted haunting water-colour representations of the Antarctic landscape as it would have appeared, as Shackleton and his men first approached it. We are captivated by the trials and dilemmas of those resourceful and courageous explorers, and are surprised to find so much common ground between their adventures of 100 years ago, and some of our own lived experiences.

Y6. Term 3 has begun with a trip back in time to Ancient Greece; we have joined Odysseus on his treacherous journey from Troy back to Ithaca and so far we have met a kind king and his daughter and a terrifying Cyclops! The children re-wrote the chapter about the Cyclops as a play script and performed it very confidently in front of the class. In Topic, we have just begun learning about Adaptation, Evolution and Inheritance, looking closely at what Mary Anning's finds have helped us to understand today.

In Maths, we have almost concluded our fractions topic: who knew how easy it could be to multiply and divide fractions?! Have a wonderful weekend :)

Attendance Update

Our whole school Attendance goal is **97%**. Please help us reach our goal by ensuring your child is in school regularly and on time.

Data: Monday 15 – Friday 19 January 2018

Rocky the Attendance Dog		Punctuality Polar Bear	
Awarded to: NOT AWARDED – not one class achieved the school target 97% ☹		Awarded to: Y3 who have recorded ZERO late marks for the week. Excellent Y3! ☺	
Class	% Attendance	Late marks recorded Before close of register (L)	Late marks recorded After close of register (U)
R	91.47%	3	2
1	79.63%	4	0
2	89.78%	0	0
3	88.89%	0	0
4	92.75%	0	1
5	91.88%	3	2
6	85.60%	2	0

193 minutes late have been recorded this week. That's just over 3 hours of missed learning due solely to lateness, with the exception of our Y3 class.
By being continually late, you run the risk of being issued with a Penalty Notice. Please be on time. School starts promptly at **08:45am** – no later.

Attendance and Punctuality

Please be aware that we are introducing Penalty Notices, which may be used where absence is repeatedly unauthorised and/or children are consistently arriving late, after the school's register is closed.

For more information, the Penalty Notice leaflet is available in the hallway by the school office or online: www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/education-welfare

Term 3

A few reminders for you all now we are now firmly in Term 3:

- **Everyone** requires a P.E. kit on their peg. All kits should have been freshly laundered during the holiday and returned to school, where they should remain until the end of the term. If, however, you wish to take the kits home for cleaning before this time, please ensure there is a replacement on your child's peg.
- Music payments are now due. Please, where possible, use our secure online payment system 'ezPay' to settle this terms bill.
- Dinners are £2.05 per day per child, which is £10.25 per week. The preferred method of paying for dinners; (After School Club; music tuition; school trips etc) is via our secure online

payment system 'ezPay'. Dinners are **not** payable in arrears; please ensure all monies are received in a timely fashion.

- Some of you may have received a new phone for Christmas – please remember to give the office new telephone numbers and email addresses so we can reach you in an emergency. We've had a few failed messages due to new details that haven't been updated. Thank you for your help with this.

INSET Days

A few parents have re-requested the INSET day information, so here it is again for you all:

Schools have 5 INSET days per academic year.

INSET 1: Monday 4 September 2017

INSET 2: Monday 30 October 2017

INSET 3: Tuesday 2 January 2018

INSET 4: Friday 9 February 2018

INSET 5: Friday 23 March 2018

The Year 4 Maths Challenge

Four children from Year 4, Omar, Nabihah, Bader and Ameen, represented the school in the Maths Challenge held at Red Maids Junior School on Tuesday 16 January. We left by taxi after lunch and arrived to see a hall full of children and teachers getting ready to compete. There were many schools competing, solving tricky maths problems under time pressure for a whole afternoon. Despite this, there was a really fun atmosphere and our Year 4 children can really be proud of their achievements. The children were given a well-earned drink of juice and a flapjack to finish before heading home. It also took a while waiting for the taxi, but we got there in the end!

STAFF Car Park

The use of the staff car park is for staff, peripatetic staff and healthcare professionals on official school business only. It is **NOT** for parents, carers, ex staff members and extended family to use. There is not one circumstance that allows parents, carers, ex staff members or extended family to use the staff car park.

We operate a breakfast club and after school club to aid congestion around the school. We also encourage, where possible, families to walk to school. We have a bike shed in the top playground to house scooters and bikes.

PTA

Thank you to the parents who attended our recent PTA meeting. It was great to get a plan in place for our first event. If you couldn't make it, don't worry. If you would like to get involved leave a message with Helen in the office or catch me (Emma Y3 teacher) in the playground before or after school on a Monday or Tuesday.

We have decided to organise a whole school cake sale on Wednesday 7 February 2018 after school, which means we will be looking for donations of cakes/biscuits. (Homemade or shop bought are equally welcome). All donations can be brought into school the week beginning Monday 5 February 2018 and leave them in the school office.

Drop In – Speech and Language

Speech and Language Therapy



Drop in session



Speech and Language Therapy



St. Michael's on the Mount
Primary School



Date	Time	Location
Thursday 22 February 2018	8:30 - 10:30	Parish Lounge



• Informal **15 minute** drop in sessions for anyone with a child attending the school.

• The sessions are bookable via Helen in the school office on a 1st come 1st served basis.

• Pop into chat about your child's speech and language development.

• We can talk about any concerns and answer your questions



• We can also give you tips and ideas to support speech and language development.

• Free service to anyone with children at the school.



Alice Cantwell

Speech and Language Therapist

Dates for Your Diary

Tues 23 Jan	YR OUT: Royal Fort Gardens – consent not required as it's a walking trip.
Thu 25 Jan	Y6: Homework Club resumes after school in the Y6 classroom 3:15pm-4:15pm
Tues 30 Jan	Y6: OUT – Bristol Museum – details to follow next week.
Thu 1 Feb	Y6: x3 pupils to attend Christ Church Primary School in an Inter School Bake off!
Sat 3 Feb	Y5: x6 pupils to attend a workshop with other schools in Bristol.
Mon 5 Feb	PTA mtg in the Parish Lounge 8:45am refreshments for a 9:00am start.
Wed 7 Feb	PTA Cake Sale: after school
Thu 8 Feb	End of Term 3: normal 3:15pm finish time
Fri 9 Feb	INSET DAY 4: School closed to all pupils
Mon 19 Feb	Start of Term 4: normal start time - prompt 08:45am
Thu 22 Feb	Speech and Language Drop In Session – see details above