



School closes today at 3pm for the half term break and re-opens again at 8.45am on Monday 22nd February.

Headteacher's Message

At the end of this half term we have 87 children who have achieved 100% attendance. This is a good improvement on the autumn term. These children will be awarded a certificate at the end of term if they continue to achieve 100% attendance for the second half of the term.

May I wish you all a very happy break and I look forward to seeing you all on 22nd February.

Mrs Cawson, Headteacher

Mother's Day Bags

The very last date for ordering Mother's Day bags is Monday 22nd February at 9.30am.

If you would like to order a personalised bag, please return the form and the correct payment to school before this date to avoid disappointment. Thank you!



Bocketts Farm

Year R will be visiting Bocketts Farm on 21st March. If you are a Year R parent and you would like to help out on the trip a DBS check will need to be carried out prior to the trip. This process can take several weeks to complete so please speak to Mrs Tinkler immediately after half term if you are interested.

Mrs Robinson's Family Challenge



During the half term, we challenge your child to write and illustrate a fiction or non-fiction book with your family.

All books will have a special place in the school library and prizes will be given to the best family books.

Please ask your child to bring their books to school on Monday 22nd February.

Reminder!

Please bring clean P.E. kits back to school on Monday 22nd February. Thank you.

Save the Date!

Our Sport's Day this year will be Friday 15th July, weather permitting.

After School Clubs

After half term the following clubs will start up again:

Tuesday: Choir Club from 3.00-4.45pm (open to Year 1 and Year 2)

Wednesday: Sporty Kidz from 3.00-4pm (fee paying club, open to children over 5)

Wednesday: Puzzle Club for Ruby Class (alternates between classes) from 3.00pm-3.50pm on 2nd, 9th and 16th March

Thursday: Mrs Brett's Sport's Club from 3.00-4.00pm (open to Year One for the next 1/2 term)

If you would like your child to join any of these clubs please ask for a form at the school office.



Mother's Day Assembly

We would like to invite all Mothers and Grandmothers to a Mothering Sunday Assembly on **Friday 4th March** from 9.10am to 9.40am in the school hall. Please take a seat in the hall after dropping your child off. We are only able to accommodate Mothers and Grandmothers on this occasion due to space constraints and health and safety. We would prefer to have this as an adult only performance but if you are unable to sort out childcare you are welcome to bring them to the assembly. However, we would ask that you take them to the Library if they are being noisy and you need to settle them. Some of our younger children have very small voices and it is difficult to hear them if there is a lot of background noise, so for everyone's enjoyment, we ask that this is adhered to. You are welcome to return to the hall when your child has quietened down.

Please note that there is *no* parental parking on-site, at the Library or the Pub. Please park responsibly in the area, showing consideration for our neighbours by not blocking drives or paths or you may be asked to move.

Samuel Cody Trip

Our Year One children will be visiting the Samuel Cody Exhibition at the FAST Museum on 25th February. Letters were sent home last week so please can you ensure that you have returned your child's permission slip and payment to the office as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. We cannot take a child on the trip who does not have a permission slip.

Please note that your child will need to bring a warm coat on the trip as the museum can get quite cold.

School Trips

We understand that a few people have commented on the cost of school trips, in particular, the trip to Samuel Cody (for Year One).

Whilst the standard access to the museum is free, the children are given a tour around the museum by one of their guides and it is tailored to the needs of the age group of the children and the topics that the teachers have asked that they cover. For this to take place we pay the suggested donation of £3 per person to the museum which helps to cover their cost.

In addition to this, we have to pay for the coach. Because we are full in Year One, we have 60 children who are accompanied by 2 teachers, 3 TAs and 8 parent helpers in order to ensure that we have the right adult to child ratio and we know that we can keep the children safe. This means that we need to seat 73 people on a coach. Coaches only have sufficient seating for 70 people, so we have to pay for two smaller coaches and this ramps up our costs considerably and our coaches for this particular outing cost £445. The total cost of the coach is then shared amongst the 60 children eligible to go on the trip. We *never* make a profit on a trip. We always round it down and supplement it where we can to keep the costs as low as possible for parents.

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the school office.

Save the Date!



On Friday 18th March our PTA will be hosting their Curry and Quiz Night.

Flyers will be going home nearer the time, however, if you are interested in putting a team together please put this date in your diary.

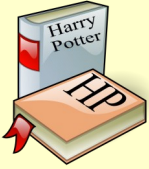
Bags2School

Thank you very much to everyone who donated their unwanted clothing and shoes to Bags2School.



We are delighted to tell you that we raised £96 for the school which will go towards buying new resources for the children to use.

Thank you very much for your support!



World Book Day



We have many lovely things planned for World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March.

Swap a Book

Over half term if you are thinking of having a sort out, please keep any good quality children's books so that your child can enjoy swapping a book with a classmate.

Give a Book

Each class will have a challenge to collect as much small change as possible to give to the charity Book Aid International who send books to children in Africa; £2 provides one book. These coins can be brought into school from Monday 29th February. We will update you regularly on how well each class is doing.

Buy a Book

Children will have the opportunity to buy books at the Usborne Book Sale. If your child is not already in the Book Saving Scheme and you would like them to buy a book, please place the money in a sealed, named envelope with your child's class and the amount of money enclosed on the front. Please ensure that any loose corners are sellotaped down as coins sometimes come out of the corners.

Other Activities

All of the children will be given a £1 book voucher that day and will be able to use it to buy a book.

The book shop will be open to parents from 2.40pm-3.00pm for parents to visit if they wish.

In addition to this, we have a number of activities arranged at school for your child to take part in.

They will:

- ◆ Make a book
- ◆ Share a book
- ◆ Write a book
- ◆ Read a book

Children are welcome to dress up on this day as their favourite book character and we hope that they will have a wonderful day enjoying the pleasure that books give.



Writing

How to teach the correct pencil grip

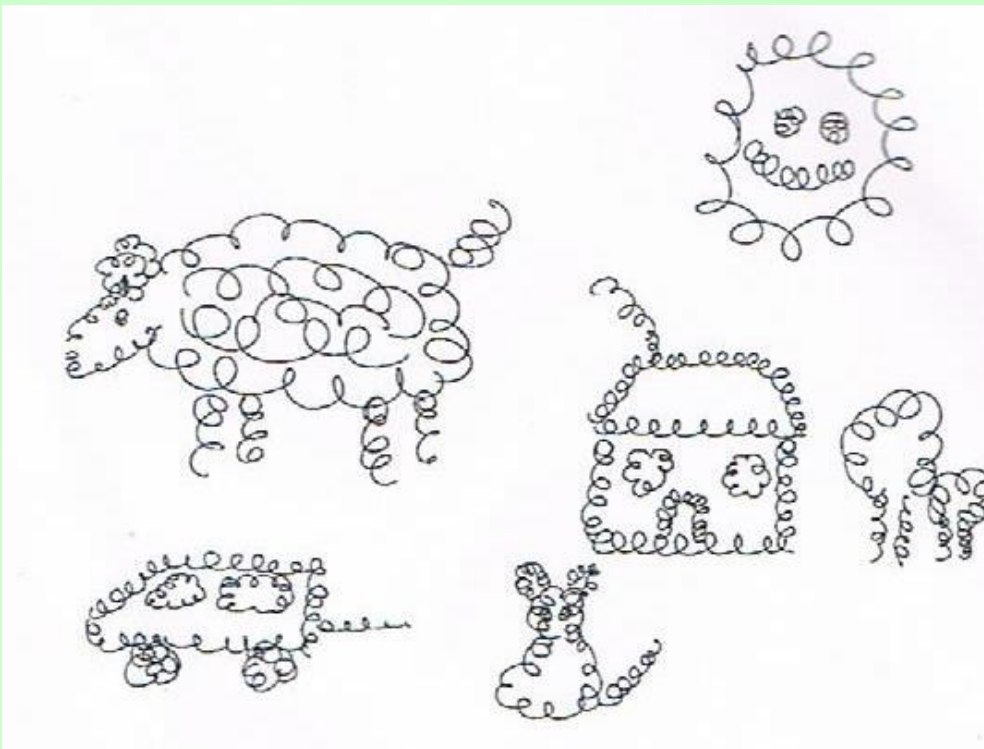
One easy way is to teach the child:

- * Lay the pencil down pointing towards the child's tummy
- * Pinch the pencil near the writing point (you can mark the place to hold with a rubber band or tape)
- * Pick the pencil up and swing it over to sit comfortably in the web space between thumb and index finger
- * Sit the pencil down on the middle finger

When introducing pencil skills, it is strongly advised to use the correct grip at all times that the pencil or any other tool such as a crayon, marker or even paintbrush is used. This accustoms the child to doing this action and feeling comfortable and used to the correct position.

Developing pencil control

It is important to practise pencil control without the additional complications of letter formation, phonics and so on. Practise pencil control on colouring, puzzles, dot-to-dots, templates and stencils. Activities such as using continuous loops are a great to practise for making small circular movements.



Parental Guidance

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
	Spring Term 1	
12th February	Last day of term	3.00pm finish
	Spring Term 2	
22nd February	First Day of Spring Term 2	8.45am start
25th February	Year One Trip to Samuel Cody Museum.	09.40am-12.15pm
3rd March	World Book Day—more information to follow	
4th March	Mothering Sunday Assembly	
10th March	Late Parent's Evening—more information to follow	
14th March	Early Parent's Evening —more information to follow	
17th March	Year Two Trip to Legoland. A letter will go home shortly.	9am-4pm
21st March	Year R Trip to Bocketts Farm. A letter will go home shortly.	9am-3pm
18th March	PTA Curry and Quiz Night —more information to follow	
24th March	Last Day of Spring Term	
	Summer Term 1	
21st May	Walsh Memorial Summer Fete—more information to follow	
	Summer Term 2	
29th June	St Peter's Day Family Picnic—more details to follow	12.00pm-1.00pm
18th July	Year Two Leavers' Assembly—more details to follow	TBA

Inset Days (School closed to children for staff training days)

3rd May
 6th June
 21st July
 22nd July