



Friday 15th February 2019

Issue: 18/19 No.6

Reasons to Celebrate!

Merit Awards:

Year 1: Rosa, Amelia

Elm: Michael

Year 3: Daniel

There is no Achievement Assembly this week due to the Y3 Class Assembly.

House Points:

409

St Nicholas

373

St Francis

390

St Alban

400

St Hilda

Value this half term:



“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1.9)

Dear Parents/Carers,

““The true meaning of courage is to be afraid, and then, with your knees knocking and your heart racing, to step out anyway.” – *Oprah Winfrey*

Our Courage value continues to explore what it means to face up to things we're a little scared of (such as spiders, heights, dogs, Lord Voldemort...) But, having Courage means to do it anyway – even if it might mean failure to start with, especially in our learning. This is very important in the pursuit of Resilience, and becoming successful learners.

Online Safety

Since the last newsletter, we have celebrated Safer Internet Day (which was on Tuesday 5th February). The children thought about the issue of Consent for online activities. If you'd like to explore this yourself, please visit the website: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs/activities-parents-and-carers>

You can learn more about Online Safety and protecting your family by visiting: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

World Book Day 2019 – Thursday 7th March

World Book Day is not far away and we would like to hold a book swap. Pupils can bring to school a book they have finished and swap it with another from a friend. If they'd rather not, they could bring in a drawing of their favourite character and write about why they like them.

The Book Fair is coming to our school!

We are looking forward to welcoming the Scholastic Book Fair in March! Please watch out for more information after half term. We will run a competition to win vouchers to spend at the fair, and we may need parental support in running the sessions after school.

Thank you for your continued support and help!

Philip Asher, *Headteacher*



Diary Dates

New dates are in bold.

February 2019

Friday 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Tour, 10am Y3 Class Assembly, 2.30pm
Saturday 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTA 80's Disco!
HALF TERM: 18 th – 22 nd February, School Closed	
Monday 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INSET DAY, School Closed to pupils
Tuesday 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School open!
Thursday 28 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Tour, 9.30am

March 2019

Friday 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Tour, 10am KS2 Achievement Assembly, 2.45pm
Tuesday 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Consultations 3.30-5.30pm (Book online!)
Wednesday 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday Service, 9.30am School Hall Parent Consultations 3.30-4.30pm & 5.40-7.30pm (Book online!)
Thursday 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WORLD BOOK DAY – Dress Up Day! Nursery Tour, 9.30am
Friday 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery Tour, 10am EYFS/KS1 Achievement Assembly, 2.45pm
Thursday 14 th – Tuesday 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOOK FAIR in School (Times TBC)
Friday 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KS2 Achievement Assembly, 2.45pm Nursery Applications Close!
Friday 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y2 Class Assembly, 2.45pm
Friday 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYFS/KS1 Achievement Assembly, 2.45pm PTA School Disco, (Times TBC)

April 2019

Tuesday 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y3/4 Show Afternoon Performance, 2pm
Wednesday 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y3/4 Show Evening Performance, 6.30pm
Friday 5 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Service, 9.30am in School (All Welcome!) Spring Term finishes at 1.15pm

PTA Fundraising

Thank you so much for your support of the Waitrose Token campaign in January – we raised **£436** towards a stage in memory of Addy.
We also raised **£173.10** from the Clothing Collection. Another collection will take place after Easter.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please remember not to send your children into school with products containing nuts – this is to protect children and staff with allergies. Thank you!

80's Disco – TOMORROW!

Saturday 16th February, 7pm 'til late
Parsonage Community Hall

TICKET SALES - today (after school).

Join us for a fabulous evening of dancing and fun!

Disco tickets - £5 each

Raffle tickets - £1 a ticket or £5 a strip.

Prizes include:

- Barracuda voucher
- Bill's hamper
- Cream tea at South Street Pantry
- Electric scooter
- Facial
- Manicure
- Thai massage
- Yoga class voucher

SAVE THE DATE!!

PTA Summer Fete: Saturday 6th July 2019

Lots of exciting stalls, events and activities are in the planning stages. Please contact the PTA to offer support, ideas, and donations (of time, things and prizes!).

Thank you – it's going to be a fabulous family event!

Nursery Tours

Are you looking for a Nursery place for your child? We are taking bookings for our Nursery Tours with Stay and Play!

Please contact the school office to book a place, or to arrange a visit.

Friday 15th February 10am

Thursday 28th February 9.30am

Friday 1st March 10am

Thursday 7th March 9.30am

Friday 8th March 10am

Applications NOW OPEN (via our website)

Deadline: Friday 15th March

Year 1 Dragon Potions

Ash class have had lots of fun with their Castles theme this term. It's been great to see the fantastic models in the classroom! Last week the children made sleeping potions to help the Dragon have a peaceful night's rest – snoring has been heard so well done on a successful potion-making session!



Cashless Office

To help reduce costs, we operate a cashless office. Please pay online (through SchoolGateway) or by cheque. Thank you!

School Closure (Bad Weather!)

We only ever consider closing school if we do not have enough staff able to get to school to allow us to function safely. We will let you know as soon as we can, usually by 8am. You can get information from:

- **Parentmail:** We will inform parents through our school text messaging system. This will also be used in the case of school closure midway through the day (either due to bad weather or another emergency).
- **Everbridge:** This is the free Hertfordshire County system, enabling parents to view closure information for all the schools their children attend. Parents need to register. Please sign up through this link: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>
- **Website:** We will aim to update our website promptly, though will prioritise other communication systems that alert parents faster. You can find other information about school closure on our website.
- **Radio:** Please listen out for announcements on local radio stations – BBC 3 Counties Radio, Heart FM 101.7 (Essex, including Bishops Stortford).

Please do not telephone the school to ask – please use all other methods first. If lines are engaged, staff are unable to contact us to let us know if they can come in or not, which impacts our decision to close. If you do not receive a message from us and there is no message on our website, we are open. On snowy mornings and we are open, the registers will remain open until 10am to allow more time for you to travel here safely. Thank you!

Y2 Chinese Cooking!

Elm Class had a visit from a local chef to show them how to make Spring Rolls. The children loved making them, but had mixed views about the taste afterwards! It's good to try new things though.



Lost Property...

We have continued to accumulate a large collection of Lost Property in the box by the main entrance. Please do check it regularly if your child has mislaid an item of clothing!

ParentLite

Did you know you can update your child's details online? An easy and simple way to ensure we have the most up to date contact details and consents for your child. Visit the school website to find out more – or call the school office.

Poppy Appeal

Well done – we raised a total of £102.26 towards the British Legion Poppy Appeal in November last year.

Well done Y5!

Last week a team of Y5 pupils was sent to the Maths Challenge Heat. We did very well and came third (out of 14 schools!). A super effort!

Did you know we can recycle your used batteries at school?

Pupils can bring dis-used or spent batteries from toys and similar electrical items in a bag/box and put them in our collection bin in the library. Each time the bin is emptied, a small donation is made to the school! Every little helps!



Year 5 Brancaster Residential

Thank you to all those who were able to join us for the meeting on Monday this week. If you weren't able to attend, the information booklets have been sent home – please check pupil's bags! If you need another copy, or it hasn't made it home, please ask Miss King.

Payment reminder: Minimum payment of £250 is due by Friday 29th March and the full amount (£320) by 29th April. Please speak with Mr Asher or Mrs Perryman in the office if you will have difficulty with any of these payments.

THUNK...

At home, find some time to have a 'Thunk' moment – A beguiling question about everyday things that stops you in your tracks and helps you start to look at the world in a whole new light. Have fun thinking/talking about them!

Where does the sky start?

**Have a lovely half term break,
see you on Tuesday 26th February at 8.40am!**