



Dear parents,

We hope that everyone has managed to stay as warm as possible with this cold snap we have been experiencing. We recognise that this very cold weather can place extra pressure on families; please let us know if you need some additional support as there are some initiatives that we can direct you to that may help.

We also know that as we perhaps spend more time indoors during this cold weather, it can be tempting to spend more time using technology. Children are asking for devices such as smartphones earlier and earlier. Whilst it is parental choice when and if children are allowed to have such devices, there are many helpful guides to make it easier for all families to manage this technology. Please see the attached guide to smartphones for young people.

Last week the Friends of SBS held their AGM. During this meeting Piers Thomas stepped down as Chair after a brilliant year leading the Friends. Piers has worked tirelessly to promote the Friends and to raise large amounts of funds. This has enabled the school to purchase a huge number of resources for the Learning Lab project and provide activities for the pupils, including the ongoing contribution to Zoolab and Woodmill at the start of the academic year. Like elsewhere in life, the costs of resources for schools are rapidly increasing, this means we continue to rely

on the support of the Friends to help us buy essential resources.

The new committee has already started work thinking about the events for the rest of this year, more details will follow but we would love you to get involved either as a volunteer or by attending the events and having lots of fun!

Thank
You



SBS Website

Please keep an eye on [our website](#); we have built this website and manage it ourselves. This means that we are continually growing it as a tool to support you.

On the SEND page, there are a number of links to external agencies that might help you understand your child's learning profile more. There are also links to resources such as [the Solihill approach](#). This website provides guides and courses on a range of topics, including 'understanding your child's feelings' or understanding your child 0-19.' These resources are valuable for us all and worth finding a snippet of time to watch.

We have also recently added two NHS resources that you may find helpful:

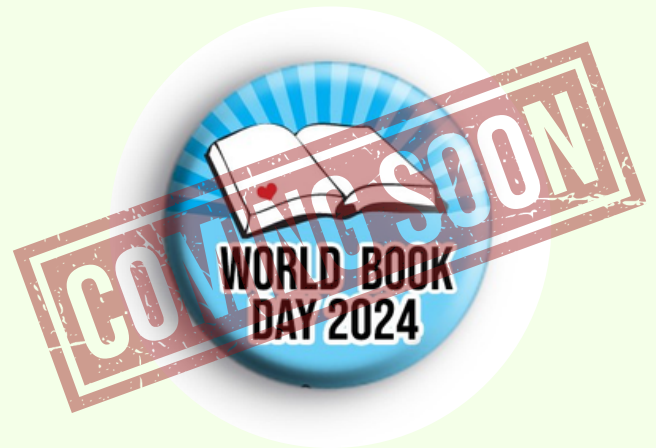
- [NHS Healthier Together](#)
- [NHS - Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Parental engagement

Thank you so much for all of your continued support and engagement in your child's learning. I thought a brilliant example of this was the effort the year 3, 4 and 5 parents put in this week to follow our recipes to make curries with their children ready for our food tasting lesson. I understand this home-learning challenge came at the end of a fantastic DT unit of work focusing on food and linked to the children's scientific investigations about digestion. The aroma in school was divine and the children had such a lot of fun! Thank you!

World Book Day 2024

World Book Day is coming up at the beginning of March so get your thinking caps on for those costumes. PJs or comfy reading clothes are also welcome on this special day. Half term would be a perfect time to get organised for another fun day of books, books, books!



23 and 30.1.24 - Oakhaven Acorn Project, Year 2, afternoons

31.1.24 - Postponed SBS Marathon

12 - 16.2.24 - Half term

26.2.24 - Open classroom

13.3.24 - Parent consultations

14.3.24 - Parent consultations

14.3.24 - Trailblazers

20.3.24 - Rock Steady concert, 2pm

27.3.24 - Celebration Assembly, 1:30pm

27.3.24 - Last day of Spring term

15.4.24 - First day of Summer term

INSET days 2023-24

28th March 2024

3rd June 2024

Community Worship

19.1.24 - Mae and Isobel

26.1.24 - Tilly L-S and Minnie

9.2.24 Tilly Smith

23.2.24 - Stan, Ed, Beau and Walter



STRIVE AND BELIEVE TO SHINE

Reading at SBS

SBS loves to read! Literature is a core driver of our curriculum; we aim to develop confident and fluent readers, as well as using inspiring texts to stimulate learning across the whole curriculum. We already know that our phonics scheme, Read, Write Inc is working to teach most children to decode words well. This scheme also helps to develop fluency, but across the school we are doing even more to ensure all of our children can read at a good pace, with intonation and understanding.

We have been doing lots of things to help this, including our new reading challenges. This week the winners of the KS2 challenge were fortunate to have a delicious pizza lunch in school (many children were very excited that Dominos can deliver to SBS!) and Paddington children have been very excited to receive the medals for completing the Captain Pug reading challenge!



You can find out more about our reading challenges in years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 on Google Classroom, as well as find out what your children are reading in class this term. Finally attached to this letter and on [our website](#) (under the Curriculum tab), is a guide to help your child become a more fluent reader.

Community Worship

Last week, we saw the return of our Community Worship. This is where pupils are able to select topics of their own choice and prepare a presentation for the school. It is entirely voluntary. Last week, Mae and Isobel (year 5) led a fascinating topic about 'Tigers.' The girls said that they had been motivated to find out more about tigers, after reading a text called 'Cinnamon' in class, where a tiger was the protagonist. I was incredibly impressed with the girls' presentation; it showed an excellent use of IT, great awareness of the audience and determination to polish and polish the talk so that it ran smoothly. Well done girls!

Parents are welcome to join us for Community Worship; they are at 9am on Friday every week.

Swimming Success

Finally, we returned to Priestlands Sports competitions this week with another magnificent win! This week it was a year 3 and 4 swimming competition. Our

swimmers showed just how talented they were taking the lead in race after race. Well done children - a great start to the competition season!



Friday Explorer Awards

Gruffalo



Oscar Tindell

For always challenging himself in his learning.

Elmer



Grace Townsend

For her positive attitude and working really hard on her writing in phonics this week - well done!

Paddington



Felicity Barclay

For discussing problems and finding solutions.

Tulane



Rory Townsend

For his thoughtful contributions in history this week about why the Romans came to Britain.

Shadow



Isobel Pullen


For having a wonderful attitude to learning and writing an amazing story for our class book.

Aslan



Poppy Morris

For fantastic problem solving and teamwork in DT this week.



Thought/question for the month

- What does it mean to have a responsibility?
- Do we all have the same responsibilities and can responsibilities change?
- Is it easy to have a Responsibility?