

Friday 9th October 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to GRUFFALO CHILDREN!

Our new Gruffalo children are doing so well! They are always busy and seem to be enjoying all of the activities available to them. The older children do keep peeping over the fence as they pass by on their way to the field! We will be sharing a very special welcome for Gruffalo children with you soon but in the meantime, we thought you would like to see the pictures below giving just a small flavour of what the children have been getting up to!



Gates to the Church

The Church Wardens have asked me to politely remind you to close the Church gates if you are entering the church grounds.

Two exciting writing opportunities

If you are looking for a nice quiet weekend activity, below are two ideas for writing with your family. The first one 'Beyond Words' is a writing competition created by the Bupa Foundation and in support of Mental Health Day. Some of the resources are quite mature and you may like to look through them before sharing them.

<https://www.bupafoundation.org/>

The second is a writing competition open to children 4-14 years.

<https://www.explorelearning.co.uk/writersawards/>

By entering both competitions there is an opportunity to win more resources for our school!

Oxford Owl Learning

The Oxford Owl website is a very useful resource for parents. There are many ebooks on the site that are matched to our colour scheme in school. There is also additional information for parents about the National Curriculum. The link is below:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Tiny Happy People and Hungry Little Minds

For younger children, the links to the website below are very helpful as they have lots of nice activities that relate to the early years curriculum. There are some nice ideas for rainy weekends or indoor days in the school holidays.

Tiny Happy People: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Hungry Little Minds: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

School development priorities 2020-23

We have now uploaded an overview of our school development priorities 2020-23 to our website. You will find it under the 'About Us' tab. This overview provides you with a flavour of our strategic plan for the next three years; we use this alongside our school self-evaluation document to set annual priorities. During the lockdown period, alongside providing remote learning for all SBS pupils, the staff at SBS completed a significant amount of virtual professional development with global organisations. This year we are keen to embed all of our new learning with the children, as well as address any gaps in learning and challenge all children to take many steps further. To help us with this process, we have decided to break our priorities down into small, bite sized chunks for each term.

Our priorities for the Autumn term are as follows:

1. To launch our new vision and Explorer award system.
2. To ensure that all children in Gruffalo, Elmer and Paddington class are making expected progress in phonics, reading and sentence writing.
3. To ensure that children in Tulane, Shadow and Aslan class have additional time to focus on spelling and arithmetic.
4. To implement plans for catch-up and enrichment learning.

You will be able to support these priorities by completing the home-learning tasks shared with you via Google Classroom, Doodle or ixl and Spelling Shed. For Gruffalo children, additional learning tasks are mainly shared via Tapestry, as per letter earlier this week.

I will let you know how we are getting on with these school development priorities later in the term.

The SBS Half Term Treasure Hunt

Please don't forget to sign up via Classlist to the SBS Treasure Hunt. It is £5 per family and I am sure it will be a lovely family activity for half term.

INSET days

These dates are on the website but to confirm the following days are INSETS and school will not be open:

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Friday 18th December

There will be two further INSET days. These will be confirmed with Governors this month and I will let you all know ASAP. All of our INSET days are precious and relate directly to the school development priorities above; they are carefully planned to maximise the time we have together as a staff for working on our own professional development for the benefit of all SBS children.

Explorer Awards – Friday 9th October

Elmer: Robyn for persevering with work she finds tricky - including writing whole sentences and cracking the locked briefcase code! You can do it Robyn!

Paddington: Leila - you have been given this Explorer Award for always making sensible choices and always focussing on your work. Because you are so sensible, we can see you are making good progress and have a clear understanding of your learning tasks. You have made particularly good progress when counting in 2s and 5s in Maths lessons this week.

Tulane: Sam for working very hard in English this week and producing some great writing based on our class book 'Avery Everywhere!'

Shadow: Tilly for an excellent free story write but more than that, it was well edited and spellings corrected and logged in your personal dictionary. Truly looking after your own learning!

Aslan: George - for always having such a positive attitude towards his learning and always giving 100% in everything he does.

School Dinners

We are excited to launch our new themed food weeks created by our dedicated kitchen staff. Next week the theme is 'Special Flavours' week. Please encourage your child to choose a hot school dinner every day!

Finally....

Saturday 10th October is National Mental health Awareness Day

I think particularly during this time of global difficulties and pressures, being aware and supporting this day is of great importance. So, I will leave you with this poem, shared with children in worship today:

The Same Inside

Red perfumed apples
and crunchy, crisp green,
used straight from the tree
or in tasty cuisine,
like honey nut charoset

and pies with ice cream.

In Fujis from Co-ops

and Cox's from Spar,

or Java apples

from far Zanzibar:

look inside any apple

and there is a star!

By Liz Brownlee (From the poetry book 'The Same Inside.')

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Warm regards

Anne Moir