



Newsletter No. 9

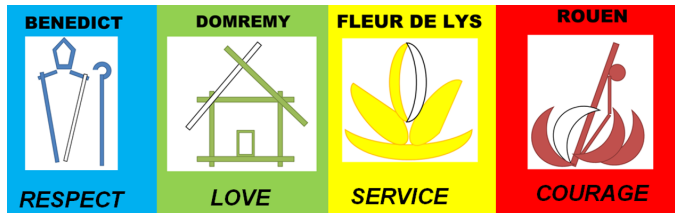
Fri 11th February

Dear parents and carers.

We have all made it to half term and I am sure with the various challenges thrown in our direction, we are all looking forward to a week's break. Thank you very much for your continued support in various capacities since Christmas. The cases of Covid in the school are declining so, I am very hopeful that we can look forward to returning to school after half term in better health to finally allow some normality to resume.

I hope you and your family are able to enjoy a change of routine next week and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 21st February.

Clare Campbell



Extended Schools:

Normal opening hours resume from Monday 21st February for children booked into this service (3-5pm or 3-5.45pm).

Quiz Night:

Despite having to reduce the number of adults attending, this was a very successful evening.

Thank you to all who organised this event behind the scenes. Your hard work and fundraising means a lot to the school.





Lunar New Year:

Our EYFS children had a wonderful week at school last week celebrating Lunar New Year. The classrooms are a sea of lanterns and tigers but most importantly as you can see from the pictures, the children were really engaged in their learning.

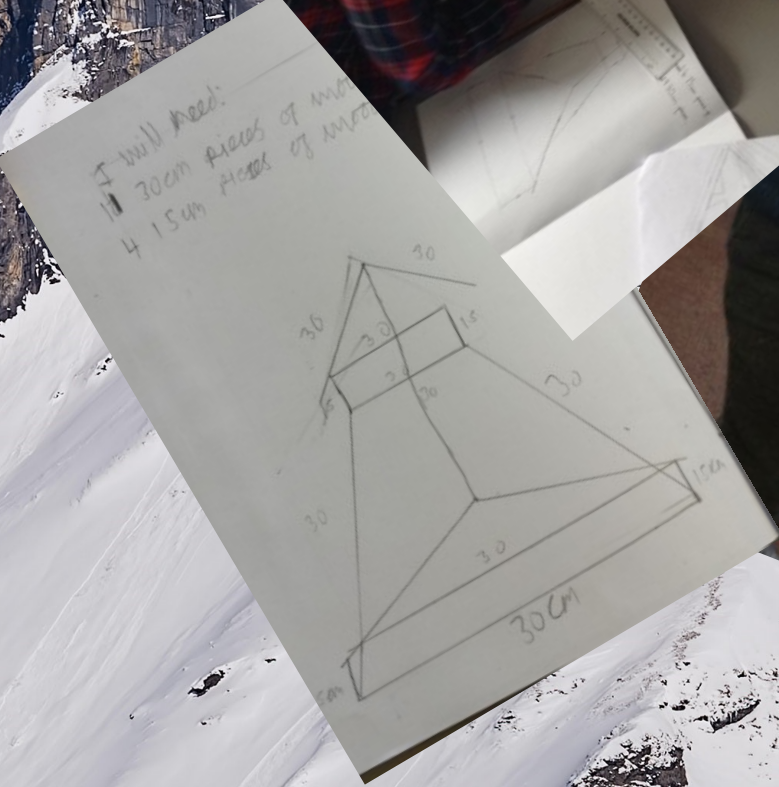




The Alps:

Half Term came early in Year 5 as they took a whirlwind trip to the Alps as part of their Geography topic! They designed and constructed Alpine houses with pitched roofs to withstand the local weather conditions- even sawing their own wood for the structure! After working up a serious appetite from all that manual labour, they feasted on homemade bread and cheese fondue, with chocolate fondue for dessert!

Check your child's Google Classroom for more photos.





Dates for your diary:

Monday 21st February – School reopens

Friday 25th February @ 8.30am – PA meeting in the staffroom

Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday Mass – Led by 4J – SJA Church @9.00am – Parents invited

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day – Non-uniform Day – Children to come dressed in their favourite book character - £1 donation

Spring Term Readathon starts

Friday 4th March – Uniform stall

9am – EYFS / Year 1 rescheduled phonics / reading workshop for parents via zoom

Tuesday 8th March – Peter Bunzl Author visit and workshops for years 4-6

Dragonfly Tales workshops for Years R to 3

Wednesday 9th March – Tag Rugby Competition – Junior children

Friday 11th March – Special Assembly for Year 1 – Parents invited @ 9.00am

Thursday 17th March – St Patrick's Day Mass led by 4I – SJA Church @ 9.00am – Parents invited

Friday 18th March – Cake Stall

Tuesday 22nd March – 4I – Visit to Three Discovery Centre

Parents evening – 3.15- 5.45pm

Wednesday 23rd March - Parents evening – 3.15- 5.45pm

Thursday 24th March – 4J – Visit to Three Discovery Centre

Friday 25th March - Special Assembly for Year Nursery and Reception – Parents invited @ 9.00am

Monday 28th – Thursday 31st March – Stations of the Cross for all pupils

Tuesday 29th March - @ 8.30am – PA meeting in the staffroom

Thursday 31st March – Y5 Passion Play

Friday 1st April – End of term Mass led by 3G – SJA Church @ 9.00am – Parents invited

1.30pm – School closes for the Easter holidays

School uniform

As part of our strategy to resume normal practices and standards, we are asking all pupils to wear the correct uniform and to wear it with pride. The uniform promotes unity and allows opportunities to practise discipline and responsibility. This includes footwear. Can you please help the cause by ensuring your child has the correct footwear—plain black/navy shoes of leather appearance, with velcro, buckles or laces. **Trainers are not permitted.** If there are legitimate reasons why your child needs to wear trainers, please inform the school via the reading record or email.

Thank you for your support in the matter.

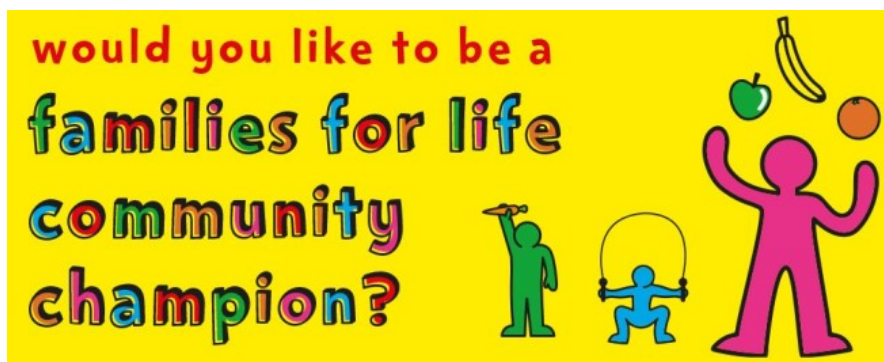


Pupil absence and setting of class work:

As the world starts to get back to normal, the expectation is that children should be in school everyday unless they are ill. If your child is ill, they need to stay at home and not be undertaking school work. If they are self isolating due to contracting the virus, we will provide online learning for those who are physically and mentally able to complete it. However, there is no expectation to complete online learning if you test positive and are self isolating.

We are increasingly being asked to provide work for children that are absent from school for other reasons - holidays, non covid illnesses. As stated previously, if your child is ill, they need to recuperate. If they are not ill, then they should be in school. After half term, we will continue to provide work on Google Classroom for children who test positive (that have been reported to the school) but this will be reduced as positive cases in school hopefully decline (which they currently are). I am sure that you will agree that the best place for pupils to learn is in school and I need to ensure that teachers are maximising their time focusing on class teaching to facilitate this.

COVID-19 LEARNING



Would you make a great Families for Life Community Champion?

We're looking for inspirational volunteers to encourage families in Islington to get active and eat well. The Families for Life programme offers free healthy eating and active play activities for families with children aged 2 to 11.

Volunteers should be Islington residents, be committed to improving the health of their community and available to volunteer two to three hours a week.

Community Champions will learn about health and wellbeing. They will have access to free training and ongoing support. It's a great opportunity for them to meet new people, improve their communication skills and boost their confidence.

Online training for the Families for Life Community Champion programme begins Wednesday 23 February 2022!

Families for Life Community Champions' Induction Training - FREE

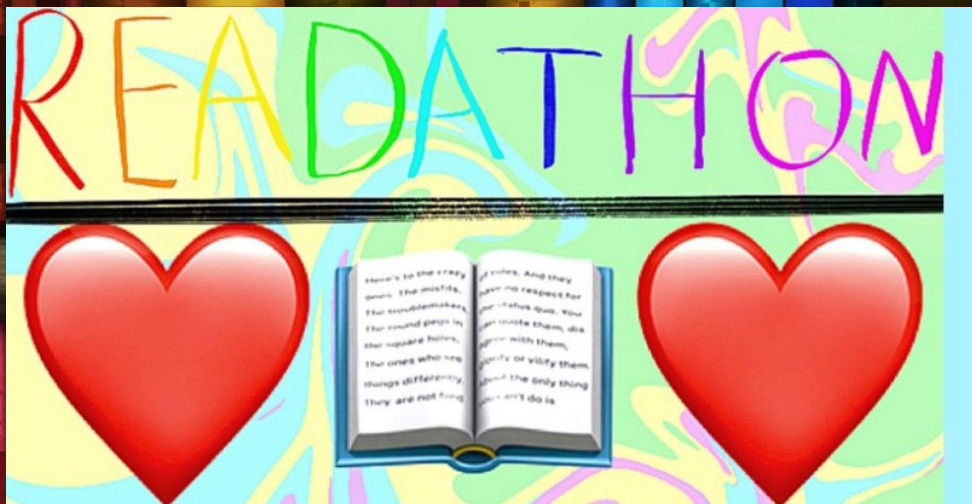
- Dates: Wednesday 23 February - Wednesday 30 March 2022 (6 weeks)
- Time: 9.30 – 12.30am
- 3 hours

If this sounds like someone you know please contact: Natasha Miller, Community Champion Co-ordinator on 07974604133 or via natasha.miller@islington.gov.uk

World Book Day – Advanced notice:

This is on Thursday 3rd March and we would like the children to come dressed in their favourite book character. The school's Green Team will be hosting an assembly on Monday 21st February to give the children lots of ideas of how they can recycle clothing items that they already have at home into a costume. Of course, if you already have a 'bought' costume that you would like to recycle that is fine too.

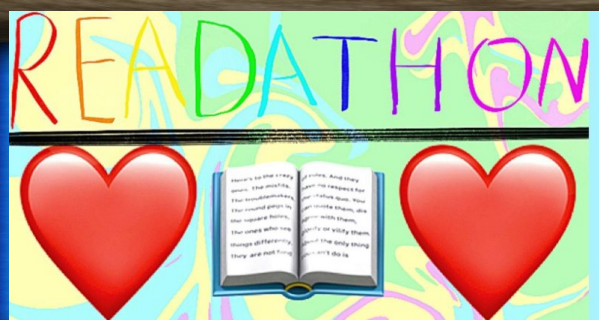
We are asking the children to bring £1 for this day which will go towards the Readathon book fund.



2022 Readathon:

A huge thank you is extended to our local restaurant -Beam who are sponsoring this event.

BEAM



Readathon—the details:

In the coming weeks, we will be placing more focus than ever on the wonder of reading and the wonderful benefits reading can deliver to a child's imagination, understanding and well-being. There is nothing more important in a child's educational journey than learning to read; it is the master-skill of education and allows children to be transported to other worlds, to meet larger than life characters and to learn how the world we live in works. As a school, we want to celebrate reading in whatever way we can.

To encourage children's reading participation, we are launching our Spring Term Readathon, which starts on **Thursday 3rd March to Tuesday 19th April.**

We are encouraging all pupils to take part and to choose anything they fancy reading – from comics to classics and audio books to blogs -it's all about reading on their own terms. For younger pupils, it can be reading alongside an adult or retelling the pictures in a bedtime story.

Details of this, along with the sponsor card and book marks, will be posted onto Google Classroom pages. Simply put, the children will be sponsored for their amount of reading; this might be per book/poem/blog or per unit of time spent reading. The readathon will run until 19th April so there is plenty of time to seek sponsors and begin reading. We are incredibly grateful for your continuing support to the school and appreciate any money that can be raised. No amount is too small to sponsor a child for the readathon.

All the children need to do is:

- 1 Choose what they want to read – anything they like- fact, fiction, audio- books, blogs, comics or magazines
- 2 Ask family and friends to sponsor them per book, per page, per ten minutes. It's up to them!
- 3 Collect sponsors on their sponsor card
4. Encourage the sponsors to pay online (link to follow) or place cash collected in an envelope and return to the school office
- 5 Children will be taking home a sponsor card and bookmark on the launch day. Alternatively, sponsor cards can be downloaded via your child's Google Classroom / Tapestry page.
- 6 Staff will be promoting this as part of book week, as well as during their daily English sessions.
- 7 Prizes will be given to one child from each class that has become inspired to read more literature during the readathon. Winners will be announced in the newsletter on Friday 22nd April.

Taking part in the Readathon is a brilliant way for children to get reading, whilst also helping our school's much needed fundraising drive this year. All proceeds go towards updating your child's classroom book corners and books which children read for pleasure.

Thanks again to our sponsors, Beam.

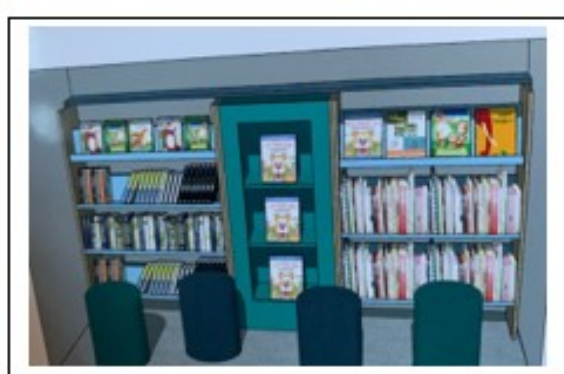
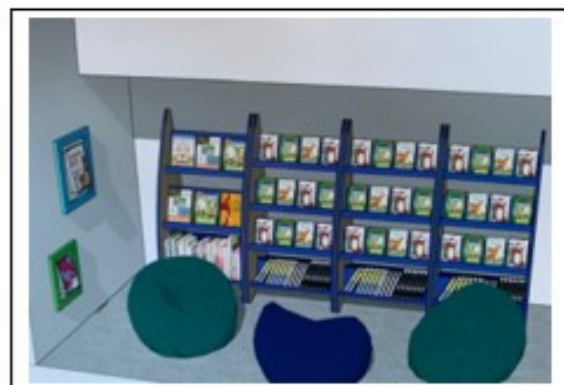
BEAM

Parent Association Funding:

This year's fundraising focus is to continue to support the teaching of music in school, as well as upgrading all of the reading corners in each classroom. Used well, reading corners can be an incredible resource to encourage engagement and excitement about reading. There is a real need for this as much of the current furniture is looking well beyond its sell-by date.

We are hoping to transform these areas in two stages; upgrading Key Stage Two classrooms first and then all other classrooms soon after. In the coming weeks we will be presenting the designs for each classroom to the key stage two children and getting their input on the options provided. With the new furniture we will also be adding to the book stock in classes, purchasing additional new books to widen children's reading choices.

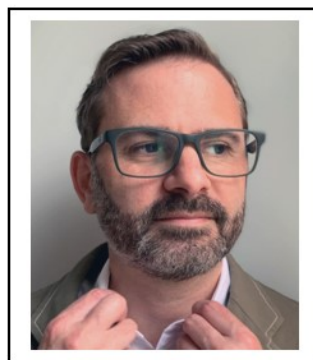
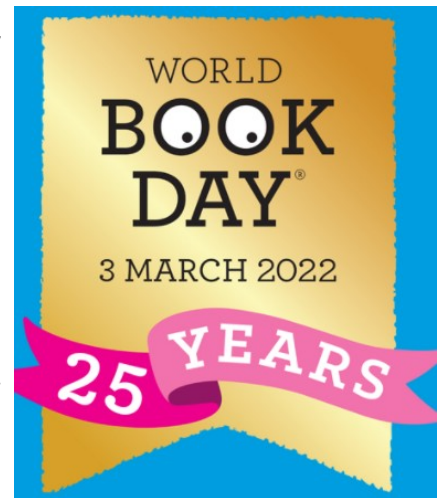
Some of the design options are below:



World Book Day Visit:

Stretching out the World Book Day theme into a second week, on Tuesday 8th March we will be welcoming the author Peter Bunzl to the school. Author of the Cogheart series of books, Peter's children's books have been nominated for the Carnegie, the Waterstones Prize, the Branford Boase and the Books are My Bag Readers Awards.

During his visit, children in years 4-6 will have a special assembly where they will learn about Peter's inspirations and how he forms his ideas into stories. Year 6 children will also participate in workshops related to his best-selling Cogheart books later in the day. All children will also have the chance to get any copies of his books signed by him in the afternoon. With the half term break here, parents may want to consider purchasing a copy of Cogheart so the children can read his most popular book before his visit (perfect for years 5-6). Alternatively, for years 3 upwards, Peter's latest book Featherlight provides a shorter and more accessible read. Peter's visit is sure to provide lots of inspiration for our own budding writers. www.peterbunzl.com/books



For all other children, we will be welcoming back Emily from Dragonfly Tales on the same day. A wonderful and engaging storyteller, she will be running interactive storytelling sessions for children from Nursery to Year 5. Her previous story-telling visits have always provided excitement and engagement for children of all ages across the school.

