



Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed the half-term break. It's lovely to see that we are getting the first signs of Spring. Earlier this week, our Year 1 classes were really excited to be going to the park to look for clues that Spring is on the way and predicted seeing 'shoots', 'daffodils' and that it would be 'warmer outside'.

### **Charity, Community and Enrichment**

Our Social Signature Friday afternoons have been a wonderful source of joy, bringing smiles to both students and staff alike. Here are just a few examples of the kindness in action: Year 3 wrote cheerful chalk messages for pupils and parents to enjoy at home time, Year 5 created and sold bracelets to raise funds for charity, and our specialist provision classes made delicious breakfast sandwiches to order and sold them to staff.

The Eco Council has lots of exciting plans for the summer term. It has secured £3000 of funding to build an outdoor classroom and also has a switch-off fortnight and a renewable energy workshop to look forward to in addition to continued work with the local council, developing the local area.

The School Council continues to plan charitable events and fund our second pupil in Sierra Leone, now that Amie has grown up and on from education.

### **Charity Pantomime on 8th March**

We have been made aware of a local Amateur Dramatic Society's Charity Pantomime - Cinderella. They are doing a special SEND performance on Sunday 8th March at 11.45am. Scan the QR code below for tickets and more information.



### **Sports**

Pupils from KS2 have engaged in a range of competitive sporting activities over the last few weeks. Y4 took part

in a multi-skills event and a gymnastics competition, and Y5 competed in an indoor athletics event and a football tournament.

We played our first football match since Christmas on Thursday this week (26.2.26) at Chesterfield High and won 3-0 against Linacre Primary School.

⚽ Charlie

⚽ Theo

⚽ Lewis

Player of the Match - Lewis

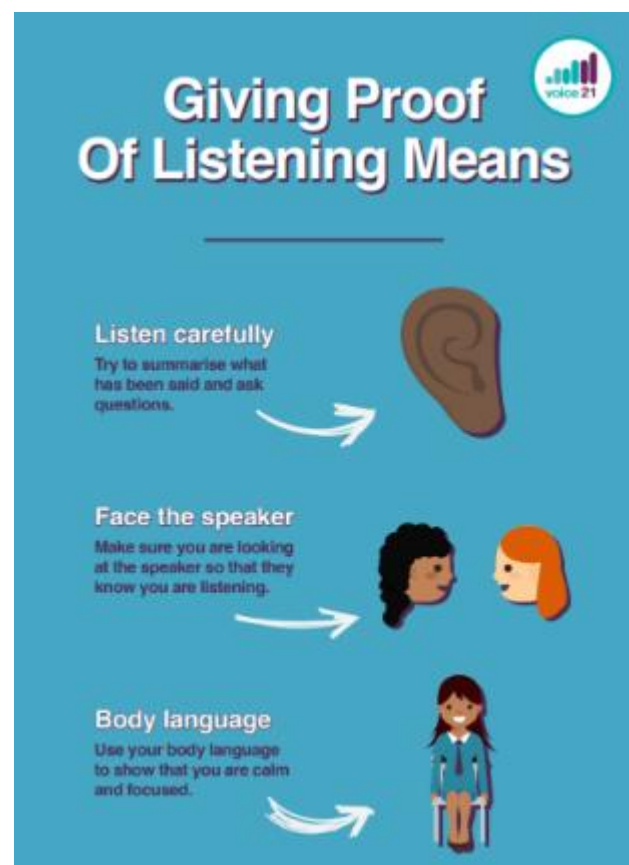
We have lots of football matches and tournaments scheduled in the upcoming weeks. There are still a couple of outstanding football kits (red top, shorts and socks) from the previous half term's fixtures that are yet to be returned. Please ensure any kits used are washed and sent back to school promptly.

## Teaching, Learning & Curriculum

We are now in our second Year of being a Voice 21 school.

Last half term was busy with staff training and teachers planning more opportunities for talk in their lessons.

We have been asking children to show 'Proof of Listening' when working in pairs or in groups:



We have rolled out a new 'project-based curriculum' in our provision classes.

Children have been having memorable experiences to start these projects and are really enjoying the hands-on approach this provides.

Please see our specialist provision class section below for examples.

We continue to have expert coaches in for Music and PE who are working across all year groups in the school.

## **MVLT Trust Updates**

The School Council has been preparing for its first Trust Council meeting, which is taking place next week at Chesterfield. Each school will deliver a short presentation talking about how they were elected, the work they have already undertaken and any plans for the future. There are several exciting Trust plans that the children will have the opportunity to 'get stuck in' with and it will be great for children across our family of schools to work collaboratively to support and develop things in the wider community and across our schools.

## **Making Us Proud**



Our brilliant Brownie badges-earner and competitive creative champion

## **EYFS Phase Update**

In Reception, we have been learning all about the savannah and the polar regions, exploring the different environments and the animals that live there. The children have enjoyed comparing hot and cold climates and talking about how animals are adapted to their surroundings. We have also continued to develop our phonological knowledge, using our robot arms to help us sound out and blend words with growing confidence.



In Nursery, we have had lots of fun learning about different types of journeys and vehicles. The children have enjoyed making their own roads, exploring speed, and talking about how we can stay safe on and near roads. Alongside this, we continue to develop fine motor skills every day and encourage independence through play and daily routines.



### Y1-3 Phase Update

Year 1 had a wonderful trip to the local park this week to look for signs of winter and spring. The children were fantastic at spotting seasonal changes and were excited to find beautiful crocuses, daffodils and snowdrops blooming. They also noticed delicate blossoms on the trees and tiny flower buds beginning to grow. We were even lucky enough to see a squirrel jumping through the trees! It was a lovely outdoor learning experience and a great way to explore nature together.



Our Year 2 children have enjoyed learning about the artist Mondrian, exploring how he used lines and primary colours to create his work. They created their own work in his style using collage and paint. What amazing artists we have!



Our work on space travel through our English and History work has inspired so many of our children who now want to become astronauts! They have learnt about the life and achievements of Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake, creating posters about what they have learnt.



Some of our Year 1 and 2 children have enjoyed getting fit and active during their Social Signature sessions. They thought about how to develop healthy lifestyles and enjoyed making a tasty fruit kebab at the end of their unit of work.



Year 3 have been reading 'The Iron Man' in their English lessons. Through their art lessons, they enjoyed a 'cold' visit to Crosby beach to sketch Anthony Gormley's Iron Men. They used light pencil strokes so they could refine their sketches to produce a finished piece of art.



### Y4-6 Phase Update

It has been an incredibly productive term for our students.

Our Year 4 students did us extremely proud when attending their first gymnastics competition which was held at Chesterfield High School. Our gymnasts managed to finish in a very respectable 4th position out of 14 participating schools. Year 4 children have also visited Crosby Library this week and improved their knowledge on how to blow glass and make bird feeders!

Our Year 5 students have been channelling their inner Beatriz Milhazes for the national Art Bytes competition. Taking inspiration from Milhazes' famous vibrant, geometric, and layered style, the children produced absolutely incredible work. The talent on display was a joy to see, and we are now eagerly awaiting the results. Watch this space—we may have some award-winners in our midst!



In honour of Holocaust Memorial Day, Year 6 visited the Plaza Cinema for a special screening of *The Boy on Bird Street*. While the film's themes were understandably moving and sombre, the children handled the experience with great maturity. It was a well-deserved opportunity for them to enjoy some treats and spend time together

outside the classroom during an intensive term of SATs preparation.

## □ Coming Soon: Victorian Day!

Year 5, get your flat caps and pinafores ready! On the final day of term, we will be hosting a **Victorian Day**.

- **The Plan:** A full day of immersive Victorian-themed activities.
- **The Look:** We encourage all children to come to school in a **Victorian-inspired costume**.

## Specialist Provision Classes

In Mrs Kenyon's class, we have started our new project-based learning. In Spring 1, our project was 'Gods and Mortals'. We enjoyed making our own papier-mache Greek God sculptures. We also wrote retells of some familiar Greek Myths such as Icarus and Daedalus and Pandora's Box. We have also been developing our oracy skills and have taken part in debates in different subjects using our stem sentences: I agree, I disagree, I think and Yes and...



In our Autism provision classes we have introduced a new curriculum and have been loving exploring and experiencing new and exciting things! We have completed a project named 'Muck Mess and Mixtures', with our focus text being *Georges Marvellous Medicine*. In all of the classes the pupils engaged in potion making, messy exploration, making different recipes and had lots of fun learning all about the very grumpy granny!



## Staffing Updates

We have welcomed Mr Uttley to the team. He is currently teaching in Year 5 until Mrs Shaw's return and will then be covering leadership time and delivering intervention across school.

We have also welcomed two new 1:1 teaching assistants to school this term, Mr. Locke and Miss Jones. Mr Locke is based in Year 6 and Miss Jones in Year 2.

## Attendance - 'We Can't Teach an Empty Chair!'

Overall attendance for the Autumn Term was **93.1%**. This is **1.1% below the national average**.

The school's persistent absence figure (children attending below 90%) is **4.2% higher than the national average**.

Children with attendance of 90% are missing the equivalent of 21 days of learning over the academic year and 95% equates to a fortnight of lost learning over the year, which is why we strive for a minimum expectation of 96.5%.

As you can see from the table below, there were only two weeks in the Autumn term where our overall attendance matched the national average. School is therefore continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality for all pupils and will be re-engaging with the DfE attendance hub and collaborating with parents to make the necessary improvements in order for all of our pupils to attend regularly, in order to maximise learning opportunities and their potential.

<b>Week start date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>National average</b>
3 November	93.5%	95.3%
10 November	94.4%	95.6%
17 November	94.6%	94.6%
24 November	93.8%	93.8%
1 December	92.5%	93.7%
8 December	90.6%	93.7%
15 December	86.2%	92.8%

Whilst we understand that children get sick, this only accounts for a proportion of overall absences in the school. Sadly, we continue to have children missing learning due to punctuality issues and **holidays in term time, which cannot be authorised**.

When speaking to parents, I always ask them to reflect on how it makes them feel if they arrive late to an event and walk in when everyone is already there and things have already happened and or how they feel when they miss an episode or more of their favourite programme and they're trying to pick up the plot. This is how children feel when walking into classrooms late or having missed days of learning.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that children are punctual and in school unless to unwell to be here.

## **Safeguarding**

### Safeguarding Reminder: WhatsApp

- The Rule: WhatsApp's minimum age is 13. No primary school pupil is legally old enough to use it.
- The Issue: We are seeing an increase in unkind comments and "chat drama" being brought into school from evening WhatsApp use.
- The Risk: In large groups, children can be exposed to content or language that is not age-appropriate.
- The Action: We urge parents to delete WhatsApp from their children's devices. If you choose to let your child message friends, please ensure it is done in a communal room and that you regularly review every message sent and received.

It can be hard to be the 'only parent' saying no, but in this case, you are following the safety guidelines designed by the developers themselves to keep your child safe.

## **SEND Update**

As we continue to implement the Zones of Regulation across the school, Regulation Stations are being developed in classrooms and communal areas to support all pupils with their emotional well-being. These calm, supportive spaces provide children with practical tools and strategies to help them recognise their feelings, regulate their emotions and return to learning successfully. Regulation Stations may include visual prompts, sensory resources and simple activities that encourage breathing, reflection and self-calming. We are also very grateful for a kind donation of a range of sensory resources that will now be distributed across these areas, further enhancing the support available to our pupils.

## **Parents Courses and new Parent Forum**

Merseyside Youth Association's mental health promotion team (RAISE Team) deliver a range of FREE bite-size courses covering a range of mental health issues that impact children, young people and their families. Go take a look at courses are on offer. Visit the below website to find out more.

<https://www.liverpoolcamhs.com/events/>

We will be sending out an email soon regarding parent interest of a parent forum with Mrs Maciver. We welcome any parent who wants to talk to the head teacher to come along. Please look out for an email next week.

## **Bucket Filling Update!**

I'm delighted to advise you that the children achieved their bucket fill target for the half term and, as a result, have earned 15 minutes of extra break time.

Please support your children in working together to achieve this by reminding them of the school code of conduct:  
Listen

Value  
Care  
Try  
Encourage  
Respect  
Forgive

Please also remind them that these values don't just matter in school, but when they are at home or engaging online as we have recently had some incidents of unkindness happening outside of school, but impacting in school. We urge that all parents are vigilant in monitoring their children's online activity and think carefully about what they are allowing children to engage in and with on their devices.



## Dates for the Diary

24th and 27th February - Year 4 at the library for a Glass Workshop  
5th March - Y5 Boys Football - Waterloo vs St Robert Bellarmine  
5th March - World Book Day (children can come to school in dressed as their favourite book character)  
12th March - School Class Photography  
12th March - Boys Football - Waterloo vs St William of York (3.30 - 5pm)  
13th March - Wear Blue for Bobby  
19th March - Football Match at Litherland Moss (3.30 - 5 pm)  
19th March - Children's University passports due (post these into the box located in the foyer)  
23rd March - Year 6 Parents Evening - 1.30 - 5.50pm - Bookings will open next week  
26th March - Diversity Concert  
26th March - Boys Football Waterloo vs Star of the Sea (3.30 - 5 pm)  
15th & 16th April Bikeability Year 3 and 4  
30th April - Year 4 Deva Roman Discovery Centre (Payment via Parentpay due by 10th March)

Kind regards,

Mrs Maciver and the Waterloo Team

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