

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of the Spring term 2023.



Curriculum

The children have quickly settled back into their learning and we have been impressed with their engagement and excitement at the start of the spring term. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum enriched by meaningful, motivating and memorable experiences.

This week, Year 4 enjoyed spending time in the conservation area on a micro-adventure at the start of their **Explorers** topic.

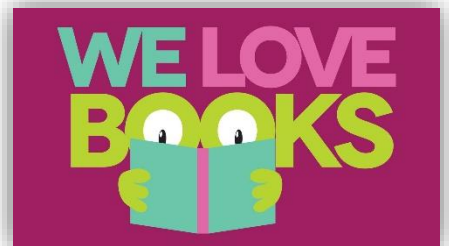


Library reopens for families

We are delighted to inform you that our school library will reopen for families next week. We have a small team of enthusiastic library volunteers, who have been working hard on a variety of tasks, from labelling and shelving books to creating our lovely book Advent calendar. They are keen to open the library after school again to allow parents/carers to visit with their children and take out/return books.

Starting from next week (w/c Monday 9th January), they will be in the library from 3pm until approx.

3.30pm on a **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** to allow you to visit with your children. Please do bear with us, as the system is not always easy to navigate! We look forward to seeing you.



Staff news

We welcome two new members of support staff to the Holbrook team this term. Mrs Helen Taylor and Mrs Marie Taylor will be supporting children's learning in Year 5/Reception and Year 4/Year 6 respectively.

Safeguarding - parking

In the short time we have been back, I have witnessed cars dropping off children on the yellow zigzag lines, parking over our neighbours' drives, using the car park entrance to turn around and driving too fast near the pedestrian crossing. PLEASE can the small minority of parents doing these dangerous acts make a New Year resolution to park and drive safely around the school site, so that we can avoid any unnecessary accidents. Thank you.

We have invested in a couple of feather flags to highlight the pedestrian crossing near the KS2 gates. Please drive slowly past these flags and do not park too closely to them. A reminder that we have an arrangement with Tythe Barn and St. Mark's Church for parents to park in their car parks to enable children (and parents) to Park'n'Stride to school, thus reducing traffic in Holbrook School Lane.



Internet safety

Some children may have received a new phone or computer for Christmas and this is an ideal opportunity to talk to your child about internet safety. One area to be aware of is the use of social media apps, which are aimed at secondary aged pupils and require users to be at least 13 years of age (TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Snapchat), whilst others require users to be at least 16 years old (What's App) before they can register.

Useful parental guides can be found at www.internetmatters.org and www.thinkuknow.co.uk, as well as the school website under the Parents tab.

Picture News

This week's topic for discussion is **renewable energy** – see below.

TAKEHOME

2-8 (primary)

In the news this week

A flatpack wind turbine, invented by Douglas Macartney from Scotland, is to help provide power to communities in Kenya, Africa. Douglas designed the turbine for a competition four years ago, when he was only 15. It has now been developed into a working prototype with two additional solar panels by teams of student engineers from Glasgow Caledonian University. It is hoped the device, which can be assembled without any specialist training, will be used to help areas recovering from natural disasters and in rural settlements.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Do you have any sources of renewable energy either in your home or at school? What are they used for?
- > Share your thoughts on Douglas' invention. How do you think it may benefit the rural communities in Kenya?

Should all the energy we use be renewable?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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New Hot Meal Ordering System

A reminder of the cut off dates for ordering your child's hot meal:

January Cut off Dates

Thursday 12/1 for w/c Monday 23/1
Thursday 19/1 for w/c Monday 30/1
Thursday 26/1 for w/c Monday 6/2

February Cut off Dates

Thursday 9/2 for w/c Monday 20/2
Thursday 16/2 for w/c Monday 27/2
Thursday 23/2 for w/c Monday 6/3

Diary Dates

New dates added in bold

Spring 2023	
Tuesday 10 th January	Y3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Thursday 12 th January	Y3 Swimming Starts
Monday 16 th January	Parent Workshop-Sensory Processing Differences
Friday 20 th January	Young Voices at the O2
Friday 10th February	Forest School Roadshow to Year 5
Monday 13 th February-Friday 17 th	Half Term
Monday 20 th February	INSET Day- School closed for pupils

Best wishes



Ian Holmes