

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Curriculum

Year 2 Polar expedition

Pupils in Year 2 had an exciting time exploring Polar regions on their polar expedition this week. As you can see they dressed accordingly and used the binoculars they made to spot a variety of animals. At the end of the expedition they celebrated a great day with a welcome hot chocolate.



Safer Internet Day

To celebrate and promote Safer Internet Day 2024, our Digital Leaders spent time in Key Stage 1 classes reading stories with a theme of staying safe online. Key Stage 2 classes completed an online lesson on AI technology and in assembly, we discussed safe online gaming.



Coffee morning



After half-term, we are holding a Coffee morning at school, the first of what we hope will be a regular event. As well as providing hot/cold drinks and biscuits, there will be a chance to discover more about Diversity in our school and have an informal chat to some staff and governors, including Mrs Davies (Deputy Head), Ms Franklin (Rabbits class teacher) and Mrs Gardner (Chair of Governors). We would love to see you on Thursday 22nd February at 10:30am.

International links - special feature

Recently, one of our parents and governors, Chris Brett, flew to Senegal as part of his job as a pilot. Before he flew, we collected some donations for a primary school called Ecole Sarene Beach in the town of Point Sarene.



You can see from the photos how basic the school is compared to what we are used to in the UK - this is the playground, around which sit 4 or 5 basic concrete buildings housing the classrooms, with metal bars for windows.



The first classroom visited - note the red, dog-eared exercise books they each have, the crumbling wooden desks, and the basic wall art. The basic chalk boards is all they have to teach from.

This classroom each got a reading book from your kind offerings - they were all excited to receive something for themselves and got straight into them!



Thank you for donating the items you did - they all seemed happy and I'm sure it will help them. The half-sized rulers went down particularly well! It's fair to say they were very happy to receive the items!

Chris Brett



New member of staff

We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the Holbrook team after half-term. Meet Kallie (pronounced Karley) who is a Therapy Dog and her owner Lesley. They will be visiting Holbrook on a weekly basis as part of the Paws and Read scheme, which aims to improve communication and literacy skills of children by reading to a Therapy Dog.



Picture News

This week's topic for discussion is 'Should we learn sign language at school?' – see below.



In the news this week



Pupils in England will have the choice to take a GCSE exam in British Sign Language (BSL) from 2025. BSL is a form of communication using hand gestures and other movements. Pupils, who take the subject, will learn around 1,000 different signs. Fairfield High School (pictured in this week's poster) already runs a successful extracurricular club in response to pupils' interest in learning BSL.

Things to talk about at home...

- > Have you ever used sign language or seen it being used by others?
- > Is sign language a language you would like to learn? What do you think are some of the advantages of learning sign language?
- > Are there any other skills or subjects you believe would be useful to learn at school?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others
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CHARTWELLS ORDER CUT OFF DATES

CUT OFF DATE Thursday 23:59	FOR WEEK COMMENCING
15th February 2024	26th February 2024
22nd February 2024	4th March 2024
29th February 2024	11th March 2024
7th March 2024	18th March 2024

Diary dates (new dates will appear in bold)

Spring 2024	
Monday 12 th - Fri 16 th February	Half term
Monday 19 th February	INSET- school closed to pupils
Thursday 22nd February	Diversity Coffee Morning
Tuesday 27 th February	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 29 th February	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 7 th March	World Book day

Have a relaxing and enjoyable half-term break.

Best wishes



Ian Holmes

