



# *Year R* *Bushmead Primary School*

Spring Term 2 2024

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

**Our Value for March is POSITIVITY**

**Our well-being theme this half term is CONNECT WITH NATURE**

It is very hard to believe that we are just over half way through the year! It does not seem very long ago that we welcomed our new classes to Bushmead, and now look at them! We are immensely proud of the confident, inquisitive and hard working children they are becoming.

Although this half term is quite a short one, we are packing in lots of fun activities and learning in the next few weeks until Easter. We will continue to learn all about the different saints' days associated with the United Kingdom. Last term we focussed on St. Andrew, this term we will find out about St. David (Wales), St. Patrick (Ireland) and later in the year, St. George (England). The children thoroughly enjoy these days, looking at where the countries are on maps, creating artwork, watching videos of how children celebrate these special days and tasting food!

We shall also continue to learn about special days associated with different religions and cultures. So far this year we have looked at Diwali (Hindu and Sikh), Hanukkah (Jewish) and Christmas (Christian). We have looked at Chinese New Year earlier this term, and will be finding out about Easter just before the holiday. In the summer term we are looking forward to focusing on Songkran (Thai New Year) and Eid (Islam).

Our Skills focus for this half term is 'The Great Outdoors' and we shall be investigating how seeds grow, the parts of plants, worms and getting busy growing flowers and vegetables for our gardens. Thank you to everyone who very kindly donated soil. If you would still like to send any in, we are always very welcome to more!

## **Homework and Reading**

***Reading is the gateway to learning. Pupils who struggle with the basic mechanics can quickly fall behind. Being able to read accurately by age 6 has a strong correlation with future academic success.***

***(Ofsted, Gov.uk)***

Thank you so much to the parents who support their children wonderfully with their reading at home. We can see from the comments in the Reading Records that fantastic discussions around the books are and the sharing of school readers is happening often. Your support is so appreciated and makes a huge difference to the progress your child will make.

We still do, though have quite a number of parents that are not regularly reading at home with their child. We cannot reiterate how important this is. As the quote above states, these early years are crucial to getting the basics of reading works embedded to enable our children to access all areas of the curriculum and reach their full potential. Our children should be reading at least three times a week at home and a comment must be made in their books each time. If there are no comments written, staff will make the assumption that no reading has happened at home.

**Please also remember, reading forms part of the school homework policy. Reading, phonics and the further activity shared weekly on ClassDojo are not optional and all pupils should be completing these.**

## **Summer Uniform**

After Easter, our children may wear summer uniforms if they wish. Ours is different from the rest of the school. Here is a reminder of what Reception children can wear:

- ★ A plain white t shirt
- ★ A plain pair of black shorts (no logos, stripes or pictures)
- ★ A plain red sweatshirt
- ★ Plain white or black socks
- ★ Plain white or plain black trainers

**SUMMER DRESSES, CULOTTES, SKIRTS or SANDALS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

## **Dates and Events**

- ★ Monday 26th February - **Term starts**
  
- ★ Thursday 7th March - **World Book Day** –
- ★ Monday 11th March - Friday 15th March- **Science week**
- ★ Friday 15th March- **Red Nose Day**
- ★ Monday 18th & Wednesday 20th March- **Parents evenings-THESE WILL BE FACE TO FACE MEETINGS IN SCHOOL**
- ★ Thursday 28th March- **End of Term**
  
- ★ Monday 15th April- **Summer term begins**

## **Curriculum Overview**

Phonics

- ★ To read longer words, using segmenting to help us.
- ★ To read captions and sentences with growing independence.

#### Maths

- ★ To learn about numbers 6,7 and 8- how to represent them in different ways and how they can be composed.
- ★ To compare weights and describe things as heavier and lighter.
- ★ To find the capacity of different containers and describe what we have found.

#### Skills

- ★ To learn about the parts of plants.
- ★ To investigate what a plant needs to grow well.
- ★ To find out facts about worms.
- ★ To help grow flowers and vegetables and look after our garden environments.

#### Music

- ★ To continue to play simple percussion instruments, thinking about rhythm, pulse and dynamics.
- ★ To make and play our own 'junkyard instruments.'
- ★ To join in singing songs with actions.

#### PE

- ★ To learn different ways of rolling- log, teddy bear and forward.
- ★ To work cooperatively in groups to make simple gymnastic routines with different rolls.

#### The Reception Team

Gemma Kiff, Daisy Padgett and Niamh Kelly

### Our Vision:

**At Bushmead, children are empowered to be active, confident learners where they are inspired to be creative and excel.**

