

Message from Mr Randell

It has been a busy and productive term and it has been a pleasure to see the children enjoying their learning and play times. We have welcomed a new pupil to Nightingale Class, much to the excitement of his peers. We have also welcomed several external visitors and 'guest teachers' such as the school nurse, the local PCSO and our next door neighbour, school governor and academic vet, Melanie!



Attendance Matters

As you may have seen in the letter circulated from the MNSP Trust today, there will be a greater emphasis on the importance of school attendance from next term. Our current school average attendance is 91.51% compared to 94.6% nationally, so improving attendance remains a significant school priority. Our Trust policy states that attendance is expected to be a minimum of 96% with 97% a good target to aim for, unless there are other exceptional reasons resulting in authorised absence, and I have recently written to parents and carers of children who are not on track to meet this expectation. A child with an average attendance of 90% over their primary school career will miss 25 weeks of school in total. Clearly, this will have a significant impact on the progress they make. We are aware that there are often genuine reasons for a child's absence to dip below the expected target; however, it is important that parents and carers are aware of their child's attendance so that school and families can work together to provide any support necessary to enable improved attendance. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or myself.

Diary Dates

Monday 15 th April	First day of Term
Wednesday 17 th April	Brunel Field to Food visit (Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet)
13 th – 17 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
27 th May – 31 st May	Half Term
9 th and 10 th July	Whole School Performance
Friday 19 th July	Last Day of Term



A huge thank you to The Midsomer Norton Men's Shed for donating 3 beautiful hand-crafted bird-boxes to be placed in our conservation area. We know they will be well-used! Thanks also for their donation of tennis rackets for use in PE and during playtimes.

A massive thank you to Emma Hendy, our parent in preschool for inviting nursery and KS1 children to Upper Row farm. Children enjoyed meeting lambs, goats, cows and horses and learning about where our food comes from.



Hemington Community Spring Get Together

All members of the school community have been invited by our neighbours to the Hemington Village Spring Community Get Together, taking place at St Mary's Church from 11.00 am on Saturday 6th April.

It will be a great opportunity to meet our neighbours and share some light refreshments. Please feel free to bring a food item. There is no charge and children are most welcome. The organ will be switched on and any keyboard players can try it for themselves.

For more information please contact Peter Simper on 01373 834315 or petersimper@hotmail.co.uk



Our School Community Groups are now well-established and children are enjoying being responsible for their different areas which include The Herbs, The Wombles and the Toy Box tidiers!



World Book Day was a huge success with an unexpected and very welcome boost of £1,000 worth of new books donated to our school library from the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership.



Nightingale and Brunel classes enjoyed a visit to the Holborne Museum in Bath earlier this month, exploring curriculum related topics and taking part in hands-on workshops.



Both classes also visited St Mary's Church in Hemington last week. They had a good look around and learned about the different objects within a Church and what they signify.



Thank you to everyone who baked and bought cakes at the Comic Relief cake sale on Friday. We raised an impressive donation of £62.15! We also raised an additional £35 towards school funds through our Easter Raffle. Huge thanks to Amanda Bottle for arranging and donating the Easter hamper which was won today by the Rodgers family – congratulations!

We wish you a restful and fun Easter Break. May the sun shine!

