



Headteacher's Newsletter Vol 3

23rd November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for not sending this newsletter out when it was due. I think this term has been the hardest yet since the Pandemic for schools and I know my staff team and I are exhausted. Having to cover absence

for COVID and other winter bugs is increasingly a challenge and I have to thank the awesome Radstock staff for being moved to different year groups or losing their LSAs at the last minute. Whilst out in the real world, I know that COVID seems like old news and no longer a concern, but in schools, spending the days with unvaccinated children, it is a very real problem. Please bear with us over the next few weeks!

Thank you to those who completed the Parent Engagement survey sent out before the half-term. It was really useful to see the responses and understand what would better help you to support your child. One useful piece of feedback was knowing in the newsletter the specific items for the different year groups - this has now been implemented below. We will be continuing to work on improving our communication processes over the next few months, starting with the launch of our updated website, which should come live soon. Please drop us a line at admin@radstock.wokingham.sch.uk if you have any feedback to give us!

Thank you for your support,

Best wishes,

Mrs Slocombe

Headteacher

COVID-19 measures

For all parents



Thank you for your support with the ongoing COVID measures. I appreciate that the restrictions implemented in school look different to that outside of school, but please remember, we need COVID numbers to remain low in school so that staff don't become ill. Unfortunately, if we have too many staff absent, particularly in one year group, we may have to resort to online learning, so please bear with us!

Please can I remind you to **wear a mask** when on the school site during drop-off or collection. Please make sure you follow the one-way process and only one adult per family collects the children or drops off.

Parking around Radstock

All parents



Please can I remind you to drive and park sensibly on the streets surrounding Radstock if you are choosing to drive to and from school. I have recently learned of parents parking in front of driveways, as well as on corners which create blindspots for other drivers and pedestrians.

Anti-Bullying Week

All parents



Last week, we celebrated Anti-Bullying week with odd socks on the Monday! The focus of Anti-Bullying week was around One Kind Word and which highlighted that even a small action can break the cycle of bullying. The children talked about how checking someone is okay, saying hi to them or apologising can make a real difference. Classes also talked about how bullying is repeated anti-social behaviour towards another child, rather than a one-off unkind incident and what to do if they feel they are being bullied.

As part of Anti-Bullying week, the children also looked at speaking out if they are feel they are not looked after properly. This was being led through the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe campaign. In Years 3 to 6, the children looked at what peer-on-peer abuse or bullying could look like, as part of our safeguarding measures to ensure children know how to get help if they are worried.



The week ended with Children in Need 2021. It was great to see so many spotty outfits, Pudsey ears and yellow t-shirts in school on Friday! We raised £ in total! Thank you for your support.

Beat Band Boogie

Year 1/2 Parents



The Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed kicking off their new learning project with a drumming workshop, which took place just after the half term. A musician from Berkshire Maestros came into school and modelled using different drums, including a timbale drum, bongo drum and square drum as well as a classic drum set.



The musician played a number of different songs on different drums of different genres, such as jazz, latin, rock and classical. The children had the opportunity to try different drums as well as perform body percussion to We will rock you!

Predators in school

Year 3 Parents



Year 3 were lucky enough to have a number of different predators from Quirks Animal Workshop come into school after half term, as part of their learning project, Predators. The children got to see a praying mantis, python, tarantula and tree frog, including having the opportunity to touch some and hold others.



The children had chance to find out more about the different creatures, including what they ate, how old they were, their expected life span and what features made them predators.



They were particularly excited to see the python, whose name was Penelope!

Darwin's Delights

Year 6 Parents



We had a number of birds of prey from Feathers and Fur Falconry swooping through the hall on the first week after half term to kick off the Year 6 learning project entitled Darwin's Delights. The children spent the afternoon learning about the criteria for what makes a bird a bird of prey, as well as being able to see four birds of prey up close – a hawk, falcon and two owls! They learnt lots of facts about the characteristics of these birds of prey.



Did you know that owls have asymmetrical ears as this allows them to pinpoint the source of the sound better or that owls fly silently!



The children really enjoyed this experience and it supported them with their English and learning project work.

Stargazer

Year 5 parents



Year 5 children and staff were lucky enough to see space during the first week after half term when they visited Winchester Science Museum. They started in the Sound, Hearing and Vibration Interactive Exhibition, where there was a 10m long guitar, earthquake simulator and a gigantic rocket.



After this, Year 5 then went to Explorer: Space, where they had a lot of fun exploring the Black Hole, the weights of the planets and how much energy a rocket takes to lift off from different planets. The children were the most excited about the Planetarium, where they zoomed from planet to planet, but not before studying the star constellations!



They ended the day in at a Rocket workshop. The children had to shake up their aerodynamically designed rockets filled with methylated spirits. We then raced them across space, by setting the methylated spirit on fire, to see which rocket would travel the furthest!

The circus was in town...!

All parents

Thank you to all the families who attended the Friends of Radstock Circus just before the half term holidays. It was great to see so many of you enjoying the performances on Friday 22nd October, including some old faces who returned with their families! Friends of Radstock haven't been able to organise any significant fundraising events because of COVID restrictions over the last two years, so it really was fantastic to see everyone enjoying themselves.



In particular, a very big thank you to Cristina Charlton-Perez and Karen Press who organised the circus on behalf of Friends of Radstock. They met with me several times to discuss COVID-19 prevention measures and worked with Public Health Wokingham to ensure it was a safe event.

Friends of Radstock are organising other events over the next few weeks to keep the fundraising up to pay for much needed items in school, such as our new tablets which children in Years 3 to 6 are enjoying using. Please continue to support them as much as you are able to!

Black History Month

All parents



As I mentioned in our Curriculum News document sent out in September, the children across Radstock spent time studying an aspect of Black History Month during October. The children had 3 assemblies, looking at famous black Britons, such as Ade Adepitan, the Paralympic Basketball player, Benjamin Zephaniah, the poet and actor as well as Malorie Blackman, the children's author. In addition, each year group or area of the school focussed on a different aspect of Black History.

Nursery and Reception looked at different musicians and types of music, whilst Years 1 and 2 looked at Windrush. In Years 3 and 4, children looked at pre-colonial history and focussed on the Kingdom of Benin. Years 5 and 6 studied the Civil rights movement and black activism, particularly focused on events in the UK, rather than those in the US.

House Boccia and Kurling competition



All parents



Yet another great House Tournament took place on the last week before half-term with the WHOLE school participating from F1 through to Year 6! This time it was a mix of Boccia & Kurling. For those of you who are not familiar with these sports, the Paralympic sport of Boccia is a close relative to indoor bowls. Kurling is a form of the original curling game, but adapted so that it can be played indoors on any smooth, flat surface, such as a hall floor. Yet again, there was a close result with each house winning at least one year group tournament.

A huge thank you to all the House Captains, Sports Captains & Vice Captains for helping to organise and referee our tournament. You are a credit to your houses and I was very proud of you all. Results below, well done to Farah!

1st. Farah

2nd. Ennis

3rd Weir

Diary Dates

All parents

Please find below the Diary Dates for the Autumn term.

Monday 15th November: Anti-Bullying Week - please wear odd socks on Monday - the brighter the better!

Friday 19th November: Children in Need - please wear 1 spotty item along with school uniform for £1



Tuesday 7th December: EYFS Nativity Performance - Virtual performance

Wednesday 8th December: EYFS Nativity Performance - Virtual performance

Thursday 9th December: KS1 Nativity Performances - Virtual performance

Friday 10th December: KS2 Carol Concert in school

Wednesday 15th December: Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 17th December: End of term - school finishes at 1.10pm to 1.20pm



Please contact us via the following methods:



Telephone 0118 986 9050

E-mail admin@radstock.wokingham.sch.uk