

Mornington News

Spring 2 edition

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

I can't quite believe how quickly this academic year is flying by. We are already coming to the end of the Spring term and what a busy one it has been. Residentials, trips, Egyptian workshops, 3/4 production, sporting competitions and so much more. The children have been enthusiastic, hardworking and determined, showing us how Ready, Respectful and Responsible they can be at all times. The Summer Term is one of my favourites. The weather starts to warm up and we can make the most of our outdoor space. Our Year 6's enjoy their last term of primary school, including: sports day, SATs, summer BBQ and their end of year production. So much to look forward to!

We would love to hear your views on school so please help us by taking part in our parent questionnaire -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=v7klnSUGWUij7EhaSp_3dV2afq1S6kdBgMRH3Q3TJ1tUMFE4R01FSVRYMzBPU0xNNTVEM0dIQldNW4u

Mrs Smith

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS

It's been another exciting term for the children of Mornington. It seems every week there is something happening! Some of the highlights for governors have been the long awaited school disco, Year 3&4's Egyptian workshop, Year 5 & 6's trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, the wonderful turn out for the FS and KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade. I would also like to thank the staff who provided the opportunity for Year 6 to go to PGL Caythorpe on residential. The staff have also worked to provide a wide range of after school clubs such as cookery, yoga and multi sports all of which add to the already rich tapestry of school life.

This week, I was privileged to spend the morning in Foundation observing the new phonics scheme which the school bought in to in September. If you are an FS or KS1 parent, it is likely you will already know about this. For those less familiar, Little Wandle is a DFE approved phonics scheme which has had to pass rigorous assessment before being available to schools to purchase. What struck me the most during my time in the unit was how quickly the children were able to transition through the different stages of the session, how well behaved they were and how great their writing is. Mrs Wood was kind enough to meet with me beforehand to explain how the sessions run and some wider changes they are wanting to make to Foundation. Something that they had been working on recently was the outdoor area which I spent some time in watching the children interacting with the equipment and each other. We are really looking forward to seeing future developments!

*Wishing the Mornington parents and staff a wonderful Easter break.
Natalie Sisson (on behalf of the Governors)*

SUPER SCIENCE WEEK

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of everything science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This year the theme is 'Growth'. At Mornington Primary School, science is at the heart of our inquiry-based curriculum so we wanted to fully embrace the event with our pupils.

The week began with Mr Houseman, our science lead, inspiring our pupils in assembly and setting out the aims of the week. At Mornington we have 4 phases in school and each phase had an age-appropriate take on the over-riding theme of Growth.

In our Early Years Foundation Stage, our children have been researching how young grow into old. The children investigated the scientific names for baby animals and how they change from babies to adults. They now know that a baby duck is known as a duckling and a baby dog is a puppy. They then moved on to explore the lifecycle of a frog and a caterpillar.

In years 1 and 2 the children have been growing their own dinosaurs. No need to panic, Nuthall will not become Jurassic Park! The children have been growing Triops. Triops are a species of freshwater crustacean that look like a Horseshoe Crab or Trilobite fossils you can buy in any rock shop at the seaside. Triops are considered “living fossils” because they’ve been around for about 300 million years. They saw the dinosaurs come, they saw the dinosaurs go, and they are still here. The children have discovered that, in order to survive, a living creature has certain needs — like the air, water, food, and warmth. The children are going to continue to observe the triops in their classrooms as they hatch and grow, nurturing them all the way to adulthood.



Year 3 and 4 have been rocking on too. They have been looking to grow their own crystals. They have been looking at the process of crystallisation and how we can make our own EDIBLE crystals using sugar. The children created a solution that was saturated in sugar. Their next task was to create seed crystals by rolling a skewer in sugar to coat it. This allowed the crystals to form on the wood. The children had to patiently wait until the crystals had formed for their tasty treat! YUM! Our pupils were all fascinated by the crystallisation process.



Finally, in year 5 and 6, the children have been learning about the heart and the circulatory system. The children observed a live dissection of pig heart and were shown various features such as ventricles, the aorta and the valves – the children were captivated by such practical learning.



They then moved on to make a prototype model of how a heart actually works. They used bottles and straws to replicate the movement of blood from the heart, into the lungs to be oxygenated and then on to the rest of the body.

At the end of science week we took part in our first EMET Trust Primary Science event held at the Nottingham Belfry. Pupils from 9 EMET schools gathered together to celebrate SCIENCE. The event was opened by 'Mr Physics' a STEM ambassador who wowed the children with experiments and science in the world. Children from each school showcased their work from British Science Week and explained the scientific theory behind their experiments to each other. The diversity of science celebrated was fantastic and the buzz in the room was brilliant. With a theme of Growth pupils shared their learning from the 3 scientific disciplines including plants, bacteria, ecosystems, evolution, and the human body.

CHARITY SUPPORT

In school we had our collection for Ukraine; thank you so much for your generous donations; they were taken to Morrisons in Eastwood and headed out to Ukraine by lorry on Friday. The medical supplies and baby items and toiletries are the priority items to go. We also raised £202 for comic relief which was fantastic. Thank you to James Sisson and Oliver wain (Y5) who were the driving force behind our fundraising and collection appeals.

Thank you for supporting James Stretton and his mum who were raising funds for the Nottingham Breast Cancer Research centre – they sold raffle tickets and raised £184.50

CHANCE TO DANCE



Mr Brown took a team of Mornington's finest to the annual Chance to Dance festival at The Kimberley School. The children had the opportunity to showcase their talents, perfectly choreographed by some students from The Kimberley School, and to see performances from other local schools. Our children looked amazing and conducted themselves beautifully with many other schools commenting on how well behaved our children were. Well done to all involved in this year's Chance to Dance festival.

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

This term the Year 6s enjoyed a fantastic residential at Caythorpe PGL centre. The trip provided an opportunity for the children to tackle new challenges such as: a zipwire, vertical challenge and even some canoeing! It was truly wonderful to see the children working together as a team and helping each other to overcome their fears. Throughout the week they fully embraced every activity, pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and made lifelong memories. We are all very proud of them!



A GLINT OF GOLD

We were treated to a glittering performance as year 3 and 4 took to our stage. Their play showcased all that they had learnt about the ancient Egyptians, especially the gods, and was entertaining and informative at the same time. The children and staff had clearly worked so hard and enjoyed every moment. There were sensational soloists, beaming backing singers and nifty narrators along with a wonderful cast. Well done to all involved!



EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

What a lovely time we had in school with our younger children enjoying all things Easter!



The children took part in a wonderful Easter bonnet parade and competition and the judges were amazed by the wide array of designs and the hard work that went into creating these masterpieces! Our winners were Willow Avci, Ollie Brown, Cato Tsang and Cairo Hewitt. Thank you to Mrs Wain (Governor) and Mrs Raynor as well as our Y6 helpers, Connor, Carla and Charlie for making the very difficult decision!



KS1 also linked their theme day. The children came dressed in bright colours and had a fun-filled day making cakes, painting cards and acting out the Easter story.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE HALF TERM

EYFS

The children have loved our 'People who help' inquiry focus for this half term! All the children have shown enthusiasm when learning about the jobs of important people in our community who help us in different ways. First, we learned about how the Police solve crimes and keep us safe. One morning, we arrived at school to a break-in! Someone had stolen our beloved Jess the cat! We used our detective skills like a real police officer and solved the crime, the criminal had put her in the cupboard and escaped! Next, we learned about Firefighters. We wrote our own non-fiction books giving you lots of information. We looked at how they put out fires, rescue people and help out road accidents. We learned that they wear a special uniform and have tools to help them do their job. Next, we learned about Dentists. We have learned the importance of keeping our teeth clean by brushing them twice a day and not eating too many sugary foods. We don't want any sugarbugs! Our final week was all about Doctors and Nurses. We learned about how important they are in keeping us healthy and what they may do to help us feel better. We made a teddy bear hospital and had a go at pretending to be doctors bandaging and looking after ill patients. During science week, we had a wonderful science afternoon finding out all about animals and their babies. We found out that not all animals look like their Mums such as tadpoles and frogs. We then had the exciting opportunity in class to look at some frogs from our nature garden. Finally, we ended the term with our Easter celebrations. We read the Easter story, had an exciting Easter egg hunt and celebrated with an Easter bonnet parade! What a busy half term!

Year 1/ 2

We have had another great half term! Our inquiry unit has been 'Into the unknown.' The children have enjoyed finding out about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong and thinking about their explorations and contributions to our world. Linked to navigating a journey, we have loved using the Beebots in Computing to develop our programming skills. We hope the children can now briefly explain what an 'algorithm' is and how to

'debug' this if necessary! Within writing, we have focused on fantasy stories and in particular, 'Where the wild things are.' The children have worked hard to retell the story. They then went a step further and created 'Where the wild things go' as they wrote a story about the wild things and their journey to find Max once again. Our writing unit culminated in the children creating their own storybook as part of a published piece for others to share. All the children enjoyed our Easter themed day. Many children took part in our Easter bonnet parade and they looked fantastic! We enjoyed finding out about the Easter story, making Easter cards and, of course, making chocolate nest cakes!

Next half term, our unit of inquiry will be 'Busy Bodies.' Please look out for our curriculum flyer, which will detail the content for this unit.

Year 3/4

What a half term! The children in Year 3 and 4 have been exploring all things Egyptian. We have looked at the plethora of gods which the Ancient Egyptians worshipped. We even created our own god and gave them a Facebook profile. We have investigated the Egyptian social pyramid with many different roles which included the almighty Pharaoh. The children had the opportunity to grow their own delicious crystals and our experiments even wowed children from other schools at our EMET Science event. Throughout our English sessions we have read a book called "A Pebble in My Pocket" which detailed the journey of a pebble and has also solidified our learning about fossils. We had an opportunity to create our own fossils using air dry clay! Finally, the children have become product designers and have tried their hand at creating their own salsa. We enhanced a simple recipe to make it more appealing to a wider market.

Year 5/6

Year 5/6 have had an excellent, fun-filled spring term! Our unit of inquiry has been 'World Ticket', which has involved us exploring the human and physical geographical features of different countries around the world. We have explored map reading, grid references and representing information in graphs - we used our newly learnt skills to map the Mornington estate. Year 6 have created some excellent suspense writing linked to the short film, Alma and the year 5's have written a retell based on our World Book Day text, Voices in the Park. Pupils have enjoyed a theme day based on this half term's Inquiry which is all about different parts of the world. They had a go at Samba dancing, mask making, a research computing task and sweet treat making. All embraced the day and had a great time.

Next term we will be traveling back in time exploring societies changes through the decades. Look out for our curriculum leaflet to see what exactly we will be up to!

REMINDERS :

Uniform

Please check your child's uniform over the holiday. Remember school shoes need to be worn daily - trainers are only for PE. PE kits need to meet the uniform criteria: white t-shirt, black shorts/joggers/leggings and a black hoody. We have a lot of uniform left

around school with no name. Please ensure that items are labelled so that we can return items to their owners.

Minutes Missed Due to Late Arrivals

This half term there has been **17 hours 25 minutes** lost due to lateness. If your child is late you must come with them to the office to sign them in. This number is growing and is having a significant impact on children's learning. We will be sending out letters, where applicable, to let parents know the total number of minutes late for their child.

Absence requests

We are still receiving many requests for leave of absence. We remind you that we require at least 4 weeks' notice and that the leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Please speak to use directly if you feel that your trip falls into this category.

Parking

It has been brought to our attention that a number of parents are keeping their car engines idling when picking up and dropping off at school. We know the damage that can be caused, both to the environment and to the health of our children, when we leave our car engines running for any length of time whilst stationary. Engine idling is illegal under Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. The act enforces Rule 123 of the Highway Code, which states: "You must not leave a vehicle's engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road". Could we please ask parents to be considerate and turn off their car engines when dropping off and picking up at school. Thank you. Please read see this video for further information [\(2093\) Engine Off Every Stop 1 minute front titles - YouTube](#)

Free school meals

Please do check if your child is entitled to free school meals. We receive additional funding for each child who receives free school meals and this supports us with additional staffing, interventions, and resources for your child. It also helps us to provide activities and opportunities beyond the curriculum. You can find out quickly if you are entitled to free school meals by clicking here and completing the questions. <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

DIARY DATES:

20th April – Wheelchair basketball for Y3/4

27th April – Cross Country Event

9th May – Start of KS2 SATS week

16th / 17th May – Bikeability

May – KS1 Sats (further information to follow)

INSET DATES:

Fri 27th May (Jubilee Day)

25th May – KS1 explorers dome (in school)

26th May – Jubilee Tea Party

7th June – Class Photos

13th June – Y4 residential

14th June – District Sports

1st July – Summer BBQ

7th July – New Class Day

7th / 8th July – The Kimberley School Transition Days (current Y6)

15th July – Year 2 camp

27th July – Year 5/6 production

So that you can begin to plan ahead for next year, here are our INSET dates:

INSET DATES: 2022-23

Wednesday 31st August 2022

Monday 31st October 2022

Wednesday 4th January 2023

Monday 24th July 2023

Tuesday 25th July 2023