



**Jan/Feb 2023**

# IN THE KNOW

Dear Parents/ Grandparents/ Carers,

In this newsletter we are having a big focus on attendance so that you, as parents are aware of your own and our legal duty regarding children attending school. We thought you'd appreciate more information on term-time absences, as some of you will have received letters regarding your child's attendance falling below a threshold.

As a school we are always willing to support you in any way possible with your child's attendance, however, it is a legal responsibility that as 'a parent', you bring your child to school:

*The [Education Act 1996](#) states that parents must ensure that their children of compulsory school age receive appropriate full-time education according to their age, ability and aptitude. Ordinarily this involves ensuring children attend school regularly and punctually. "Regularly" means "in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school" i.e. every day the school is open.*

*Under the Section 576 of the Education Act, any person who has care of a child – whether or not they are the parent – or who has parental responsibility, is deemed to be 'a parent' and is therefore responsible for ensuring regular school attendance.*

*A parent is guilty of an offence if their child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly – **Section 444(1) Education Act 1996.***

## **Absence related to illness.**

Absences due to genuine, proven illness are unavoidable in most cases. There are also times when a child is ill in school and we have to ask you to pick them up early. And, of course, the '48-hour rule' applies when pupils are physically sick or have an upset tummy. In both circumstances we need to ensure we can make contact so that your child is looked after. Please always make sure school has up-to-date contact information for your child including emergency contacts.

## Reporting an absence

There are several ways a parent or carer can inform us of absence, and of course we have to be satisfied that it's someone with parental responsibility giving us the information:

- By telephone, in which case the reception staff record this information and communicate it to staff in primary
- by email [a.bharj@bournville.fmat.co.uk](mailto:a.bharj@bournville.fmat.co.uk)
- by personal contact with a member of staff
- by classdojo

For safeguarding reasons, it really is vital that you let us know each day why your child is absent from school. If we do not hear from parents, we are legally responsible for ensuring the safety of your child during term time. Therefore, we'll first ring to ensure that they are safe at home with you.

If we do not receive a response from a phone call, text or email we have to carry out a home visit to ensure your child is safe. If the door is not answered, we will leave a note through your letterbox. Following this, if we still do not receive contact, we have to inform social care and the police, who can carry out a welfare check on a child at our request. This is something we want to avoid as it can create a lot of worry and stress for everyone involved. However, we have a duty of care to follow up on all absences.

## Falling Attendance (below 90%)

There are a lot of strategies we use as a school to support attendance. One of these, linked to our school policy, is that any child's attendance that falls below 90% will receive a letter from school raising a concern. This is not sent to upset you, again, part of our job is letting you know when we have a concern.

As a staff team, we want you to be aware of the impact attending school has on your child's future which is based on clear evidence. We appreciate that it is hard not to let emotions make you feel annoyed, upset and guilty about sending them in when they appear unsettled, however, it is important your child has the best chances for their future –that is why we want to make every day count. So much learning happens in a school day and missing one day, can upset your child's learning. We want to avoid this wherever we can.

We will always meet with you and support where we can to help you and your child. Please come and see us if you need help with **anything!** We are never here to judge; we like to support people in an honest and open way. If there are things we can do to help your child, we will...nothing is too much trouble.

## Attendance So far...

Our target in Primary is 96% so we need to work together to help this happen. Every single day counts and makes a difference to your child's future.

We will update you with your child's individual attendance at parents evening. We also talk about this with children in school so they know how they are doing (they do like to know). If you would like to know your child's attendance at any point, please ask your child's class teacher as we can let you know.

To date, class attendance this academic year looks like this. Well done to Year 1/2 for improving. All other year groups have declined slightly so it would be great to see these begin to rise again.

Year Class	%	
	Term 2	Term 3
Rec	89	88.3
1/2	91.5	92.5
3/4	92.5	92.5
5	92	91.4
6	94	93.8
Overall	93	91.8

At the end of the year, any child achieving 95% or higher, will achieve a rosette and certificate. We appreciate with all the bugs that are around, children will have the odd few days off. However, we would love every child to strive for the highest attendance possible as it prepares them well for their future.

Each week, the children love hearing which class wins the Attendance Trophy – some classes are very competitive! We reward your children whenever we can as we know positivity makes a huge difference with change so please work with us to help your child attend school as much as possible. Year on year, together we will make a difference to the lives of your children.

Thank you for trusting us to do this. 😊

Kind regards,

Miss Briner



# VALUES



At Bournville School we are  
**Ready, Respectful** and **Safe** to learn.

We show this through:

- Ambition** by being the **best** we can be
- Integrity** by doing the **right** thing even if no one is watching
- Dedication** by **never giving up** even if it's hard
- Excellence** by **working hard**, giving 100%
- Respect** by showing Bournville traditions of **kindness** and **good manners**

## Reception Class



This half term we have been exploring similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. Sabrina's mother very kindly came in and shared her family's experience of life in Somaliland. We learnt about typical Somalian homes, traditional transport, animals, cultural food, music, dance, and traditional clothing. We followed this up in our PE lesson dancing to Somalian music. Reception Class would like to thank Sabrina's mother once again for her fabulous visit.



## Year 1/2 with Miss McLynskey and Miss Vis

### Ministry of Choc-O-licious!!'



This half term, Year 1 and 2 have been researching chocolate. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Ministry of Chocolate visited us to teach the children all about the world of chocolate! The children learnt how to make chocolate cases and a fantastic, printed lollipop. The class were able to role play how the Mayans used cocoa as well as chopping down

cocoa pods. "My favourite part was pretending to cut a cocoa pod with a plastic machete."- Sebastian, Year 2. Throughout the workshop, the children learnt so much about the history of chocolate, how it is made and where chocolate comes from. The class were able to touch and smell cocoa pods, cocoa beans, cocoa paste and cocoa nibs. The children were so engaged in the learning and asked some fantastic questions. Year 1 / 2 had a fantastic time!



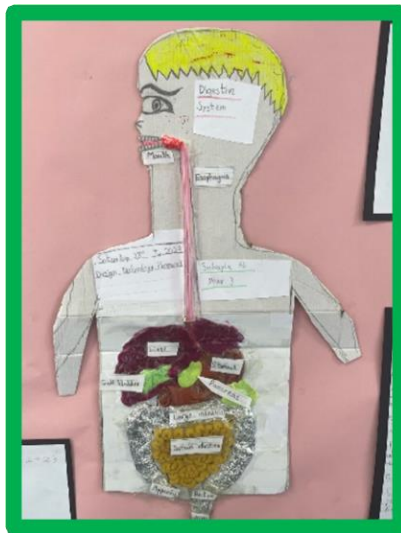
## Year 3 / 4 with Miss Heyer and Miss Walker

During this half term, the children focused on several learning outcomes. In English we focused our learning



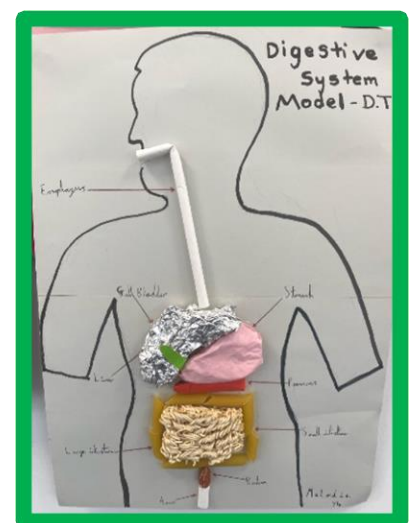
on biographies. We based our learning on a house which travelled the world with his trusted friend and how he made an impact on society all throughout his life, until the end. The children understood how to portray this into a biography. In maths, our main focus was on multiplication and division

as well as length and perimeter. Moving onto foundation subjects, the children's focus was based on the Anglo Saxons, in history where they got the chance to create their own tapestry as well as investigating the mysterious treasure of Sutton Hoo.

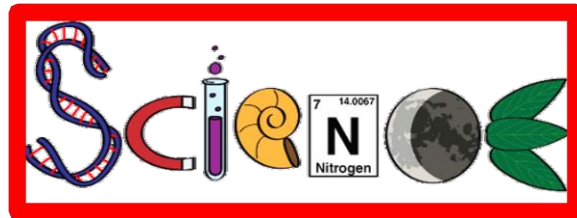


Over the term, in science we learnt about the digestive system. The children really enjoyed learning about this topic. We made our own digestive system and I have received outstanding pieces of homework based on this. In addition, the children took part in role and acted out the digestive system, each child had a different part of the digestive system. In art we focused on sculptures. In particular, an artist called Anthony Gormley. The children understood what kinds

of techniques he uses in his work and showed this through making their own clay sculptures. Overall, we achieved several learning outcomes and portrayed this physically and academically.



## Year 5 with Mr King and Miss Jones



In Year 5, we completed a series of experiments to investigate the properties of different materials. Through these experiments, we were able to develop a deeper understanding of the physical and chemical properties of materials and explore ways in which these properties can be measured and manipulated.

We conducted a range of experiments, including investigating the solubility of different substances,

exploring which materials make good thermal conductors, and examining the changes in properties that are reversible and irreversible. By carrying out these experiments, we were able to observe the unique properties of each material and better understand how these can be used in different applications.



Throughout the experiments, we developed a range of important skills, including the ability to design and plan experiments, to collect and analyse data and to draw conclusions based on our findings. We also learned how to communicate our results effectively, both verbally and in writing.

Overall, the experiments we completed in Year 5 were valuable in helping us to build a strong foundation for further learning in science; developing key skills that will be useful throughout our academic and professional lives.



## Year 6 with Miss Briner and Mrs Hathaway



Year 6 visited the Black Country Museum this term. They took part in a metal workshop, making a metal flower using a metal press, rivet, punches and beads. The children designed some lovely floral masterpieces whilst displaying impeccable manners to the workshop leaders.



The pupils also visited an old School House and experienced a lesson delivered as it would have been in the 1900's. Children used to have to pay for school each day and children sometimes spent their money in the sweet shop on the way to school. This would see them receive the cane! There was a lot of chanting, over

and over again especially of the times tables and you didn't EVER want to make a mistake when doing this. Children wrote on slate which made a terrible noise. As you can see from the photograph, boys and girls were kept separate in the classroom.

During the day, Year 6 also had the opportunity to visit the entire village including the coal mine, lock, houses, sweet shop, and railway track. There were a lot of staff dressed in costume who were able to answer all the children's questions including a miner, policeman and baker. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with lots of new information learnt. The only complaint was that there wasn't enough time to see everything. Year 6 behaved in a mature and polite manner, so much so the staff at the museum commented on how well behaved they were 😊. Well done Year 6.



# Primary Dates for Your Diary

Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	Break up for Easter
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Return to school
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	MAY BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	BANK HOLIDAY - Kings Coronation
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	SATs start for Year 6
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Break up for half term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Return to school
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening & Year 2 update
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 SATs Week
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Break up for Summer

## PE Kit

Please ensure that your child is sent to school in the correct PE kit outlined below. Please ensure everything is labelled as well.

Can I also remind parents that children should be wearing **black school shoes or plain black trainers** only to school.

Black/blue shorts/joggers/leggings  
Plain white t-shirt  
Blue/black jumper  
Black trainers  
PE bag



## Nearly New Uniform Rail

Just to let parents know that we have a pre-loved uniform rail in school, including shoes. This houses many items that have been donated to school (PE kits, summer dresses, trousers, skirts, etc). If you are in need of any items, please come and help yourself to clothing or send a note on dojo and we can pass clothes onto your children. We appreciate uniform is expensive and that children can lose items too. We do not charge for this uniform as it has been donated free of charge.