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Welcome back everybody to our summer term. We have had an excellent start to a new term and the children have settled in brilliantly. We are continuing our weather and climate theme for the first three weeks of this term before changing to Fantastic Creatures.

Our RE topic is Pilgrimage and we will be looking at pilgrimage in Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. The children began this topic this week by thinking about journeys they have been on. They then had to decide which ones are special and which ones are ordinary (and explain why). They demonstrated some superb thinking skills and worked well in groups to sort and share their journey ideas. We were very proud of how well they have come back to school.

Our morning routine is starting to settle in. Please remember that class 1's drop off time is now 8.40am to give them time to join the short morning play session before reading groups begin at 8.50am. We have found that this short play helps the children to focus better in the mornings.

The reading groups are working well. We are having a reading for pleasure reading group before we do our Read Write Inc (RWI) interventions. More children have now graduated from RWI – this shows that they are making great progress despite all the setbacks we have had. The children who are off RWI do either active learning with Mrs Turner (on Mondays) or a morning times tables session instead. Mrs Stiansen is taking a group a day to do guided reading as well for all children.

Please keep checking Seesaw which we are using as our virtual reading log. Reading is hugely important to help children to access the rest of the curriculum, we also want the children to enjoy reading for reading's sake. We would appreciate it if you would also use Seesaw to record when your child has read at home so that the reading log is a two way communication as it was before when we used a paper booklet. If you have forgotten your Seesaw code please let us know and we can email it back out to you.

Rebecca

Stay and Play – Thursday afternoons 1.30 – 3.00pm

We are delighted to be able to hold Stay and Play sessions again for young children and their parents and/or carers. This is on Thursday afternoons 1.30 – 3.00pm and is held in the nursery building at the back of the school. Everyone is welcome to join our friendly little group!



Forest school plans

We are really pleased that Pippa Willis has agreed to do some forest school art sessions with the whole school. It will give the children a chance to be creative whilst enjoying and appreciating the outdoors.



Getting and keeping fit!

We welcome Dougie back into school on Thursdays this half term to do rugby coaching. This is happening alongside Commando Joe's which will continue all year.

We will be welcoming Steve Nutt in after half term to do cricket coaching.

Active Day on Friday 30th April

Lockdown has meant that some children have not been as active as they could be, especially when we were all stuck inside. We are looking at ways to get everyone moving and increasing fitness levels as well as having fun. Please make a note that Friday 30th April will be our 'Active Day'. This combines the national celebration planned for the Daily Mile and the Captain Tom 100 challenge. We will be challenging the children to do 100 activities during the day.

Hula Hoop and Zumba on Tuesday 18th May

We have also booked in a Hula Hoop festival for Tuesday 18th May as well as Zumba style dancing sessions on that date too. This is always a good day as the children increase their amazing hula hooping skills and build up coordination as well as fitness.

Earth Day- Restore Our Earth

Earth Day, celebrated on 22nd April each year, is the annual event dedicated to awareness about the various environmental challenges that face our planet. The 2021 version of Earth Day will be the 51st anniversary. The aim of Earth Day is to **educate** and **activate** the environmental movement worldwide, but also it is also becoming a popular time for many communities to gather together to clean up litter, plant trees and take stock of our carbon footprints.

Earth Day is assigned a different theme or area of focus each year; this year's theme is "Restore Our Earth." For Earth Day next Thursday we will be:

- o Making bee houses
- o Swapping out one item for something more sustainable or compostable
- o Unsubscribing from unwanted catalogues
- o Planting wildflowers
- o Planting vegetables



Remembrance Garden

As part of our work on the recent death of Prince Phillip, the children agreed that they would like to create a Remembrance Garden to remember everyone who is no longer near us (including pets). On Friday, we used our forest school time to start creating a beautiful garden area with flowers, painted stones and seating. We will keep you updated with our progress.

Eco-Schools Update:

I am delighted to announce that for our Eco-Schools Project we have been awarded the Eco Schools Bronze Award (at our first attempt) as the school embarks on a journey towards improving the environment in our school, homes and local community.

The topics that we have started work on are: Waste, Global Citizenship, and Energy. The Eco Warriors have already started to engage in recycling, composting and challenging wasteful use of energy and water. We will continue on our Eco journey towards our Silver Award and we are keen to hear your ideas and views. There is a display in the Learning Zone where anyone can share their suggestions with the Eco Team.

Finally we are thrilled to have begun taking part in Meat Free Monday, a campaign launched by Paul, Mary and Stella McCartney which aims to raise awareness of the detrimental environmental impact of animal agriculture and industrial fishing. The campaign encourages people to help slow climate change, think of animals, conserve precious natural resources and improve their health by having at least one plant-based day each week. Did you know it takes 30 bathtubs of water to make just one beef burger!

Therefore every effort we make to reduce levels of meat consumption has a tremendous impact on the environment. Lots of clear plates after the Mac and cheese, we are looking forward to next Monday!

Miss Easten

