



18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

What a crazy-weathered half term!

## Attendance

We are currently at 96.1% This is slowly creeping up and we hope that it continues to for the rest of the year. This half term seems to be when the illnesses are - with coughs and colds featuring heavily.

If your child is ill, please ensure that the office is informed as soon as possible.

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## Values

This half term we have focused on the values of Empathy and Kindness.

Being able to empathise with others is a crucial life skill - understanding how others may be feeling enables you to see their point of view more easily, which can lead to fewer conflicts.

Mrs Thomas read us a brilliant book about filling your own buckets with kindness by being kind to others. The book also showed how 'dipping in other people's buckets' by being unkind, empties BOTH buckets.

We also passed on the kindness coins - where children spotted kindness and gave them a coin, which was then passed on to others. No-one gets to keep the coin, it needs to be passed onto as many people as possible in the half term.

100 acts of kindness grids were also completed in some classes. How amazing are your children? More than 100 acts of kindness were spotted and shared by one class in half a term.

As a Values-based School, we had our annual Values-based audit. Neil Balliston was blown away by the children and the way they behaved in school, to the adults and each other. Well done everyone!

### **Snow days**

We could not help but be affected by the surprising 'Beast from the East' that arrived suddenly and disrupted our learning!

Poor Upper School missed their visit to Lakeside to see the Viking exhibition. Thank you for your understanding and thank you to those who went anyway! I even know of a star who has travelled to York to the Jorvik centre to carry on learning!

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### **Water - in all its states**

Lower School, however, had the best start to their topic on water. They saw snow, icicles, melting snow, condensation, rain and Year 3's saw the swimming pool too! They have had so much fun, they are continuing the topic after Easter.

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### **World Book Day**

Due to the weather, World Book Day had to be postponed for a week. Once we did hold it, we saw fantastic costumes from a huge range of books. Well done everyone, especially our class winners.

We hope that you have all spent your voucher on a new book. Reading really is the key to learning.

Our Friends of Porchester Junior School also held two book sales to promote reading and to raise funds for school. Both of these sales went well with over £50 being raised for school!

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### **World Maths Day**

As a whole school, we swapped classes and worked in groups, mixing Lower and Upper school together, to celebrate World Maths Day. Each teacher chose a different activity which the children explored and experienced. Each activity was scored out of 100 and up to an extra 10 points were added for team work.

The children were amazing and worked well with EVERY teacher and each other.

The event was a huge success and we cannot wait to do something similar again next year.

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## International Women's Day

This saw the children dressed in Suffragette colours to remember the struggle to Get Women Votes just 100 years ago!

All staff displayed a poster showing the women who inspire them and why. We looked at some of the inspirational woman they may not have even heard of, from historical figures to present day inspirations, from all walks of life and all corners of the World.

The children also made cards for the inspirational women in their lives. Most of these became Mother's Day cards, but some were sent to Grandparents, Aunts and even teachers!

We were all really proud of the children for embracing International Women's Day and being really mature and thoughtful throughout everything we did.

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## Porchester Parliament

Miss Mintey is continuing to work with all the representatives of the Porchester Parliament, and the whole Children's Parliament across the whole Flying High Trust. Every member of Porchester Parliament has a role now. We look forward to seeing how these roles will expand over the rest of the year.

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## Dementia fundraising

Well done Mollie and Hermione! These amazing Year 6 children demonstrated Kindness and Empathy when they asked if they could organise a fundraiser for those with Dementia.

The girls decided that they wanted everyone to wear blue, and to hold two competitions - one for a poster, the other for a badge. The girls even sourced prizes for the winners.

Everyone looked brilliant for the day. The winners were judged and announced by Mollie and Hermione. A staggering £166 was raised!

We are really proud of both girls, who demonstrated our values and raised money and awareness for a worthwhile cause.

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### **Easter Foodbank**

Mollie and Hermione have also inspired a Year 3 pupil, Ewan. He was watching the news and was horrified to discover that there will be children going hungry over the Easter holidays.

To help, he (with the help of his Mum) organised a foodbank collection at School to make sure that the shelves of the local Foodbank will be stocked to make sure that no-one went hungry.

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### **Homework**

We have relaunched our homework, with Purple Mash being the platform that most homework can be completed.

We still welcome creative homework linked to topic too.

Have a look and see what takes your fancy for next half term.

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### **Upper School Reflection - Vicious Vikings: Alliteration or Truth?**

All this half term, despite the weather's best attempts, we have been learning about the Vikings.

This topic has been interesting and fun. The reflection took the format of an exhibition, with experts on hand to tell you all about the Vikings, as well as fun activities for you to try.

Walking around were our guides to make sure that everyone had fun and learned something new.

The feedback we got was very positive and we hope to run something like that again in the future.

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## Lower School reflection

Lower School decided that they have not finished learning about water yet and will do their reflection in the Summer Term.

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## Easter Activities

This year, we again saw an 'eggcellent' array of decorated eggs. They were creative, 'eggciting' and inspiring. Thanks to the midday team who argued, debated and voted to find the winning entries.

Well done to the winners, but also to everybody who took part.

The egg rolling was again a huge success. Thanks to everyone who bought eggs in, especially those of you who bought spare eggs in to share with those who were eggless. It is much harder than it looks! They bounce all over the place.

The Easter bonnet parade was also amazing! We saw such a range of designs, it made judging very difficult. Thank you to all those who took part. We appreciate your hard work and creative ideas.

Please have a look at our school website to see how impressive and enjoyable the Easter activities were.

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## Year 6 - Yoga

To help the Year 6 pupils relax and prepare for SATs this half term, we are starting our Yoga sessions. These sessions are designed to allow the children to practice their mindfulness at this stressful time.

We will also be running Yoga sessions for the Year 6 pupils at 8.00 during SATs week. What a fabulous start to the day!

### Dates for next half term

Date	Event
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to School
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 6 Yoga begins
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Earth Day - have an hour 'unplugged!'
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St George's Day
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> April to Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Duke's Barn - Year 6 residential
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> May - Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> May	8.00 Yoga Year 6 SATs week
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Royal Wedding celebration*
w/b 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Lower school reflection* Upper School reflection*
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for Half term holidays
<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET day
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school

\* more information to follow

### Key dates for the coming year

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> June** - INSET day

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April - Fri 27<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 6 residential

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> May - Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> May** - Year 6 SATS week