

SCHOOL NEWS

World Book Day | Outdoor Learning Project | Medicines



Outdoor Learning and Forest School

A significant part of our School Development Plan this year is to improve the use of our outdoor space in order to develop outdoor learning and Forest School teaching. We are aiming to identify many opportunities to take the children outside for a wide range of subjects as not only does this increase their motivation and enjoyment of learning, it also provides a huge stimulus for vocabulary, imagination and opportunities for exploration.

After Easter, we will be delivering Forest School Education; each year group will have a half term slot working with our Forest School teacher Mrs Plumb. You will be receiving more information about this nearer the time but if you'd like to know more have a look at this website.

<http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>

We have a team of teachers led by Mrs Mallinson who are looking at improving our outdoor area and making it more suitable for outdoor learning and Forest School. We are hoping to create 2 or 3 covered areas where classes can be out of either the rain or sun, as well as some willow structures such as tunnels and a dome. The Eco team are keen to install a bird hide and improve the habitat for wildlife, and we would like to install poly tunnels to enable us to grow produce throughout the year. The plan also involves planting of additional trees including a fruit orchard. A willow fence (known as a 'fedge') will also be planted round the Reception outdoor classroom area.

We are delighted that the PTA have agreed to fund the willow structures which will need to be planted by the end of March. They will also be assisting us in creating a path around the field to divide the play area in the middle and the learning areas round the outside. If anyone knows someone with a digger or access to reduced cost materials such as bark, path edging and membrane we would be grateful to hear from you. We will also be applying for a range of grants to help us fund this project.



Year 1 at Staircase House



Year One had a wonderful trip to Staircase House this week where their History topic, The Great Fire of London was really brought to life. They dressed up in clothes from the past and even made biscuits in the bakery on Pudding Lane, explored Samuel Pepys' bedroom and saw him writing his diary! Finally, they helped 'clear up' after the fire and considered what it was like for the homeless. It was a fantastic trip and I'm told Year 1 represented our school brilliantly.



Kidzone Breakfast and After School Club

We have had a number of parents phoning school to book their children into Breakfast and After School Club. Bookings and enquiries can ONLY be made directly with the Marple Childcare Company who run Kidzone. Please take a note of their number: 07468 565592. This can also be found on our website should you ever need it. A registration form must have been completed and given to the Marple Childcare Company before a booking can be made.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be dressing up for World Book Day this year and would like to give parents as much notice as we can for the various themes for the year groups. World Book Day 2017 takes place on Thursday 2nd March, after half term. We will be organising a range of activities to really boost the enjoyment of reading and the importance of reading regularly. Please take note of your child's dressing up theme below and remember we do not expect large amounts of money to be spent on costumes - usually the simplest outfits put together with items found at home are the most effective!

Nursery	Favourite book character
Reception	Favourite book character
Year 1	Magical Creatures (dragons, witches, mermaids, wizards, fairies, elves etc)
Year 2	Animals
Year 3	Free choice book character
Year 4	Hairy Hooligans from 'How to Train your Dragon'
Year 5	Harry Potter characters
Year 6	Free choice book character

Medicines

Please be reminded that if your child needs to be given any kind of medicine at school, a form needs to be completed and the medicine dropped off at the school office, not with the class teacher. If your child is attending breakfast club, medicines can be left with Kidzone staff. Forms are available from the school office, Kidzone and can also be downloaded from the school website.

