



SPRING TERM

The first half of spring has flown over! Although covid inevitably disrupted the school again, particularly in Key Stage 1, it's generally been a good term: we welcomed Mrs Harper (C3) and Miss Smith (C2) to the staff - and said goodbye to Mrs Forster, who is off to a new role; completed a cold but successful Year 3&4 residential trip to Alston; put Year 5&6 through Bike-a-Bility; welcomed keen adult learners for a primary maths primer; and restarted after-school gymnastics.

We hope to get more wind in our sails during the second half-term, before finding out how children have done in spring assessments in just a few school-weeks' time.

We will welcome Mrs Davis back from maternity leave next month and from 23rd March there are also sessions at the Learning Forest for early years and KS1 pupils to look forward to. In addition, we've got World Book Day coming up, as well as the annual Easter Egg competition and the Eden Rock climbing competition to close out the term *eggcitingly*!

SPRING PROGRESS EVENINGS

As we have a short term ahead, we will undertake assessments towards the end of it. We will hold progress meetings *after* the Easter break on 26th and 28th April so that we can refer to test results.

They are likely to include online and face-to-face sessions again, similar to the autumn arrangements. As always, teachers can arrange ad-hoc meetings outside school hours to discuss any pressing concerns.

AIR AMBULANCE

The next collection will be on **Friday 25th February** - the first week after half term.

Bags have been distributed this week, or can be collected from the school gate as usual.

PARENTPAY BALANCES

With the financial year end approaching next month, we ask that parents make payment for outstanding balances for *meals, nursery or wraparound care* by February 28th.

If you require support accessing your Parentpay account, or need to discuss an outstanding balance, please contact Miss Sloane by phone or email.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Rather than just dressing as an Avenger, we ask pupils to create a *vegetable-based diorama* based on their favourite book.

These will be displayed in the hall on Thursday 3rd March, with prizes for the best in each class.

All children will receive
Book Day book
vouchers, as usual, to
be used at a bookshop.



JOTTER APP - SCHOOL CALENDAR

The **School Jotter** app includes a **school calendar**. This can also be found on the **website**.

If you haven't already, search **School Jotter** in your phone's app store and then select Fir Ends School.

ADULT LEARNING – NEXT COURSES

After covering SPaG, reading, phonics & mathematics, we're moving onto 'resilience' next half term.

The '**I Can Do It**' programme covers all aspects of 'bounce-back-ability' and is intended for parents of pupils aged up to 9.

Janette will show parents how to help pupils (and adults) overcome challenges, and teach fun strategies to build resilience.

It is a four-week programme, starting **Monday 28th February**.

We can offer a pushchair crèche for babes in arms!

SPORTS DAY PLANS - JUNE

Looking ahead into the summer term, we are planning for summer sports days for June, which will be a bit of a break from tradition...

EY and KS1 will have a sports day in *school*, as usual, with a mini-Olympics theme. We're aiming for the afternoon of 10th June for this.

KS2 pupils will take part in a sports WEEK, culminating in an early afternoon event at the *Sheepmount* on Friday 17th June, with parents cheering them on.

We just need to order appropriate weather next!

BUILDING WORK UNDERWAY

You may have noticed a Postlethwaites van onsite over recent weeks.

The council are kindly building us a new KS2 accessible toilet at the rear of the school, which should be completed around Easter.



ROTAKIDS CHARITY WORK

After raising money for School in a Bag with their pre-Christmas 'guess the value' competition, the Rota Kids will be launching a new fundraiser next half term.

They're switching to raising money for the Penny Jones Animal Hospice for this one.

EASTER EGG COMP

Next term will end just before the Easter period begins, on 1st April.

We invite children to decorate an egg for the annual Easter Egg competition (**Thursday 31st March**), which will have chocolatey prizes provided by the Easter Bunnies; they might even make a visit to school to see this year's entries.

There's plenty of time to get cracking with grand designs before then!



PTFFE - CALENDAR

Calendars are still available to purchase at £5 each, whether as a keepsake or a useful wall decoration!

SPRING ARRIVALS!

There have been a number of new additions to the school community this term, including Mrs McKenna's baby boy in January. Congratulations to all our new parents and to newly-promoted big brothers and sisters!

PLAYTRAIL UPDATE

Long awaited playtrail repairs will be starting over half term.

Assuming no surprises are lurking underground and the weather co-operates, we hope to have the new surface laid by mid-March...