



## Newsletter

For all parents, staff, governors and pupils  
Thursday 14th February 2019



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[www.dilkesacademy.org.uk](http://www.dilkesacademy.org.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another half term draws to a close and what a busy one it has been! The children have been busy with their learning, there have been numerous sporting and PPT events. We've had visitors to the school and some classes have been on trips out and about. We have lots more planned for the next half term too including parent consultation sessions for all year groups, a Year 5 Trip to Lee Valley and World Book Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please see the Spring Term Programme on the school website and be sure to follow our twitter page for all the latest information.

School will re-open after the break on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Please ensure your children are in school on time so that they can enjoy our 'Magic Breakfast' with their morning work.

May I take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers that the attendance of your child is directly linked to their attainment and our whole school attendance target is 97%. Please make every effort to ensure your child attends school on time, every day. We will be hosting a celebration event for the best attending KS1 and KS2 class again at the end of the school year and children with 100% attendance will receive a badge and a certificate.

I hope that you have an enjoyable and restful half term week and look forward to welcoming you all back on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr R. Latham  
Headteacher

### ATTENDANCE:

The classes with the highest attendance this week are RR and 3N with 99.2%.

Whole school attendance this week is 96% which is slightly down on our school attendance target of 97%.

### BUILDING LEARNING POWER:

The building learning power for the week commencing 25th February is:

**'Perseverance'**

### BIG QUESTION:

Year 1—What is similar and what is different about a bike and a scooter?

Year 2—What if you could become invisible whenever you wanted?

Year 3—What if everyone looked the same?

Year 4—Which are the best sounds you have ever heard and which are the worst?

Year 5—What if trees were made of chocolate?

Year 6—What if you shared a house with your friends instead of your parents?



### **BUILDING WORKS:**

We constantly strive for the best for our pupils and this includes the improving our school environment. Over the February half term there will be a number of projects being carried out to improve the school environment. Follow our twitter page to see pictures of the developments which include the main playground, lunch hall, front office, Year 3 classrooms and the heating replacement project.

### **FREE MAGIC BREAKFAST—RECEPTION TO YEAR 6:**

Following the successful trial this week, we will be offering bagels and cereals to every child in Reception to Year 6 every day, offering every child great fuel for learning. Classroom doors open as normal at 8:45 am, but please note we will stop serving breakfast in class at 8:55 am so please make sure your child is in school before that time!

### **YEAR 5 STEM PROJECT:**

Over this half term, Year 5 have been making a model moving vehicle as part of their work with Ford engineers for this year's project with STEM. Last week, our partnered Ford engineer, who is also one of our school governors, came in to assist with the project. During the session, children were completing their vehicles, wiring them, attaching a motor and looking at gears in order to ensure it successfully climbed a ramp. It has been an experience they have all thoroughly enjoyed. At the end of the school year, the two most successful teams will get to compete against other schools at the Ford celebration event.



### **MERIT AWARDS:**

The following children have achieved their merit awards:  
Louie—6G, Bronze  
Riyana—6G, Silver



### **TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS:**

Ready! Set! Rock! From Monday to Wednesday pupils in Year 2 - 6 were frantically toughing it out in our Battle of the Bands competition on TT Rockstars. In Year 2, 5 and 6 it was boys vs. girls and the brave Year 3s took on the mighty Year 4s. Here are the winners:

Year 6 girls with 41163 points

Year 5 girls with 8681 points;

Year 3 with 12900 points

Year 2 boys with 10472 points.

Don't forget to take part in our February half term competition to win the coveted VIP card!



### **POLICE CAR VISIT TO NURSERY—FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY:**

Today the Nursery class and Reception classes had a Police officer and Police car visit them. The children were lucky enough to be able to sit in the car, hear the different sirens, see the lights flashing and hold all of the equipment the Police officers use. What a great way to end the term!

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Lewin for organising this for us.



### **WORLD BOOK DAY AUTHOR VISIT - FRIDAY 8TH MARCH:**

We are fast approaching one of the most popular days in the school year, World Book day, which we will be celebrating at Dilkes Academy on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. As always, we are inviting children and staff to come dressed as a story book character. If you are stuck for costume ideas, why not visit this website which has images, videos and resource sheets to help make the perfect outfit (no onesies please).

<https://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/dressing-up-gallery/>

Throughout the day teachers will be organising a range of book-related activities. Highlights include:

- An author visit by Jack Trelawny for Years 2 to 6
- Reading for Pleasure activity for parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 - parents are invited to join their children for a reading session from 2.45pm onwards
- Reading Breakfast before school
- Book swap event after school

We look forward to sharing all of these exciting activities and more on the day.

### **NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY—FUNDRAISING**

Thank you to all those who have supported our fundraising coffee morning and pupil fruit sale in aid of the Thurrock branch of the National Autistic Society. Please look out for the grand total raised in our next newsletter.

We are grateful for all the support the school receives and for the generous donations of cakes and fruit to these charity events.

We would like to also thank the PPT who work so hard to support the school with all our events.

*Thank you!*