



## HEADTEACHER'S NOTE

Dear Families



# *Merry Christmas*

We have had a wonderful end of term with all the Christmas festivities. It was great to see so many of you at the Christmas Service, thank you ever so much to those who had to move to the back to allow the children to fit into the church – We will rethink where the children are sat in future – the school population has grown tremendously and this was in evidence in church. The singing and the reading by the children was fantastic – well done all and thank you to Steve, Bethan and Alice.

Last Friday was our Christmas jumper day and Christmas Lunch, a massive effort by Mrs Crisp and Mrs Lockwood in the organising of the tables and June and Hazel in the kitchens. We had some extremely positive comments about the meal and a lot of parents agreed with us that the food since changing providers has improved no end.

Also last week was the Prickly Hay production. The children did remarkably well and we were so proud of them. This is after a lot of children had suffered from a sickness bug; we had a lot of children standing up and taking parts they hadn't learnt before. Huge thanks to Mrs Forshaw and Mr Few for leading the excellent production and also to Gill Humphries and Ian Cumming for their help in playing the piano and filming respectively.





We have had some excellent fundraising through the PTFA – school disco, class hampers and the mince pies sold at the aforementioned production; we also received a large cheque from the Co-op. This fundraising will be going towards some new equipment for the classrooms – hopefully two classrooms will receive new interactive whiteboards and there will be some more laptops in use. The book sale is getting better and better and huge thanks once again to Suzanne Northfield and Aga Opalka. We have also been giving as well as receiving. Thank you for the gifts donated to our 'opposite advent', Jimmy's night shelter were really pleased to receive such a generous array of donations, thank you to Mrs Lockwood for taking the collection to them.

'Times table rock stars' has been purchased by the school for Key Stage Two pupils and I recently rewarded children who were using the resource. It is really important for the children to have these skills to be able to access a lot of the maths curriculum and there is a new times table check which will be statutory for Year Four children from 2020. Any encouragement of your children to use this fun app would be appreciated. Next term we want to reward those children who regularly go on it and I will be starting a lunchtime club for those who may not be able to access it at home or those who want to build upon their knowledge further!

Next term is a science term and we will be looking at Living Things across the school. From studying evolution and inheritance to habitats to farming and plants there is going to be a lot of investigative science happening. We also will be hoping to hold a science week from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March. Any parent who thinks they would be able to talk about science to a class on one of these areas please let us know. We will be asking for your help at the beginning of next term. This holiday we have a great science question for you – does hot chocolate have to be hot? Cold nights towards Christmas with a mug of hot chocolate are often common – but do the children know how the drink is made? Ideas for discussion are on the next page.

Building upon our strong links with the Faculty of Education we would like to welcome Miss Van and Miss Moss who join Squirrel Class in the new year. They will be working alongside Mr Few for the whole of the first half term and have already been in to meet the children.

Lastly, have a fantastic Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in January – don't forget that school is closed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January for teacher training days – we start afresh on the 7<sup>th</sup> January!



Richard Brown

**Highest year group attendance to date: Year 1 with 97.53%**



### Science Question for the Holiday: Does hot chocolate have to be made with hot water?



**This is originally designed for Year 5/6 but use the questions with children of all ages if you are making a mug of hot chocolate – we are not advocating that the child is making the hot chocolate themselves.**

- What is in a powdered hot chocolate mixture?
- How does it turn into a hot chocolate drink? (use the term dissolve – see background science)
- How does the temperature of the water affect how fast a substance dissolves?
- How does the temperature of the water affect how much of a substance dissolves?

How will these things affect the taste of the hot chocolate?

Discuss with older children how they would plan an investigation. Again, this is JUST for discussion not to be implemented, we want the children to think scientifically and consider the planning process:

- What would they measure, and how?
- How would they record it?
- What would they need to do to make sure they are accurate?

What would they need to do to make sure it's a fair test?

#### Background science

Hot chocolate powder is a mixture of different ingredients, including powdered cocoa and sugar. Cocoa powder is a bitter substance left over after cocoa butter is extracted from roasted cacao beans.

It's the sugar in the mixture that makes hot chocolate taste sweet. The sugar dissolves in water because it is soluble. Heat can make things dissolve more quickly. The amount of a substance that can be dissolved also increases with the temperature of the water but there is a limit to how much of a substance (solute) can dissolve in a liquid. When the maximum amount of a solute is dissolved in the liquid, we say the solution is saturated. You'll notice that you've reached saturation when sugar no longer dissolves and remains as crystals. (Tip: if you're experimenting with dissolving sugar use demerara so the children can see it clearly).

The powdered cocoa in the hot chocolate mixture does not completely dissolve because it is a mixture of soluble substances and insoluble particles. As the hot chocolate is stirred, the insoluble particles spread through the water to form a suspension. If the hot chocolate is left for a while, most of these particles will sink to the bottom of the container. That's why you often find a sludgy bit at the bottom of your mug of hot chocolate after drinking it.

(Taken from the explorify website)



## Proposed Dates 2018 - 2019

### Spring Term 2019

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January – staff training days  
 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January – school re-opens  
 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany Service Great Wilbraham—tbc  
 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January – National closing date for Primary places  
 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Census Day - all KS1 children to be offered school lunch  
 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January—Year 5 Health Ambassador Training  
 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Governors Meeting  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January—Oral Health Survey for 5 year olds**  
 Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January—KS2 trip to the Natural History Museum  
 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Squirrel Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February—Parent Forum 9am  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February—NSPCC Assemblies and Yr 5/6 workshop  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February—Team of Year 5/6 to Quicksticks hockey event  
 Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February – school closes  
 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – half term  
 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – school re-opens  
 Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – parent consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm  
 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – parent consultations 4.00 – 7.00pm  
 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March—Bikeability Level 1 for Year 3/4  
 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – PTFA Quiz Night  
 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March—Life Education Centre visit to school  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Hedgehog Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March—Class Photos**  
 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Badger Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look  
 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March—Team of Year 4/5/6 to Tag Rugby  
 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Class Group photos  
 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – PTFA Film Night  
 Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Governors Meeting

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Mothers Day lunch  
 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Easter Service 2.15pm – Little Wilbraham  
 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Spring Concert  
 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – PTFA Cake Sale & Easter Tea  
 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter lunch  
 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – school closes

### Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – school re-opens  
 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Governors Meeting  
 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Fieldmice Class Sharing Assembly and Book Look  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – May Day holiday – school closed  
 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> –Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATS  
 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May—Team of Year 3/4 to mini tennis event  
 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May—PTFA Bingo  
 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Activity Week  
 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Sports Morning  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Y6 Beacon Event  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Open Morning & Picnic lunch  
 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – school closes  
 Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – half term  
 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – staff training day  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June – school re-opens  
 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June—Swimming starts for KS2  
 Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June—Year 5/6 to Quadkids event  
 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Squirrel Class Sharing assembly and Book Look  
 Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screening Checks  
 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Fathers Day lunch  
 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June—Year 3/4 to Sport for All event  
 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – KS2 play—9.30am dress rehearsal and 6pm performance  
 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – KS2 Play—6pm performance  
 Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Governor Morning  
 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Leavers Service 2.15pm  
 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers Assembly 9.15am  
 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July—School closes

