

BCS NEWS

13th January 2023

Fulfilling our potential, achieving excellence together

We are a Good school with Outstanding Early Years Provision

Head's News

Working in a school has a very clever way of making time disappear before your very eyes. Even after 24 years, it never ceases to amaze me how quickly a week can pass. This week seems to have flown by. Every class has had a settled week with their learning, the children are showing remarkable progress just over the 2 weeks we have been back, teachers are commenting on how smoothly the start of term has been. Our two new class teachers in KS2 have found their feet with grace and integrity, reinforcing classroom expectations and making the classes their own.

This week I met with all class teachers to discuss progress across the school. These meetings inform teacher planning and adaptation of learning to ensure your children are getting the best possible 'Quality First Teaching'. The meetings demonstrated just how well my team know your children. Every teacher was able to clearly articulate the learning path each child in their class was on and where they are going. Such deep clear understanding of where children are at shows just how involved the staff are with all the pupils at the school and how well they know the children. These relationships and understandings take time to develop but it is at this point in the year when we really see the benefits of that time being taken. Following the meetings, I am in no doubt that we are an exceptionally lucky school to have such dedicated teachers, taking your children on such rigorous, exciting and creative learning journeys.



Above: outdoor learning fun this week, and (below) learning a dance during Victorian Day.



Key Dates

Friday 20th January
FOBCSA Coffee morning
– 9am

Friday 10th February
INSET DAY – no
children

**Monday 13th February
to Friday 17th February**
Half term

Monday 20th February
Start of term 4

Easter Holidays
Mon 3rd April – Fri 14th
April

Monday 17th April
Start of term 5

Monday 1st May
May Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May
Bank Holiday for the
coronation of King
Charles III

29th May – 2nd June
Half term

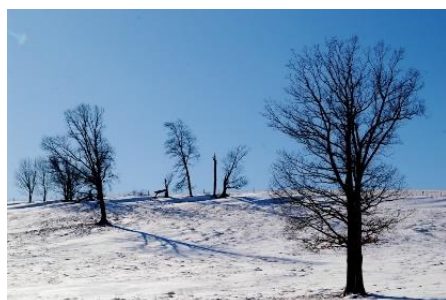
Monday 5th June
Start of term 6

Friday 21st July
Last day of term

ALL [TERM DATES](#) FOR
2022-24 CAN BE
FOUND ON THE
WEBSITE

Pokemon and Football cards

We recognise how much some children enjoy spending their playtimes looking at and talking about Pokemon and Football cards. For many children it is a calming activity during a busy day. Most children use the cards sensibly and we want the children to be able to bring a small number of cards into school as 'their toy', but there have been some cards that have been lost, gone missing, or trading and this has caused huge amount of upset: what 'trading' means to one child, means something different to another child. In order to clarify our current decision, and the one that has been shared with all KS2 children in a special assembly: children can bring in a maximum of 10 Pokémon OR Football cards, however if they are caught trading then all children will not be allowed them for a week. We will then monitor if this keeps happening; if it does we may not be able to allow the cards in school anymore.



Cold weather plans

The weather is forecast to be significantly colder next week and there is a chance of snow. Our [Adverse Weather Plan](#) has been updated with new timings to ensure that parents and carers are notified by **7.15am** to confirm whether the school will open or whether there may be a late start. We are confident that, given the dedication of our staff getting to school during the cold snap in December, we should be able to open unless any snowfall is significantly heavier.

Parking meeting

Mrs Strand, our Business Manager Mr Ley and I had a very informative meeting with local residents at the start of the week. It is clear that the school and the residents are on the same page when it comes to ensuring safe driving and parking in and around the school site at drop off and pick up times. Both parties are in constant communication with the local council about the issues surrounding this and how we can improve systems. While we continue to work together, please ensure you are following driving speeds and parking guidelines respectfully as this will enable us to better maintain a positive working relationship with the local residents.

No dogs

A reminder that no dogs, except Guide Dogs, are allowed on the school premises.



Attendance this Week



This week, we are excited to announce that **2H** have retained the Attendance Trophy with the highest attendance two weeks running: 98.3%! In close second place was 2S with 97.5%, followed by 1C with 96.9%. Well done again 2H, we hope you enjoy the brand new Trophy.

★ Times Tables ★

Do you know the importance of times tables? Does your child know the expected times tables for their year group?

Year 1	Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Recall and use doubles of all numbers to 10 and corresponding halves.
Year 2	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
Year 3	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4, and 8 multiplication tables
Year 4	Recall and use multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12. Children are tested on this and recall needs to be at 6 seconds per question for multiplication facts. The same is expected for the corresponding division facts.
Year 5	Revision of all multiplication and division facts for up to 12 x 12.
Year 6	Revision of all multiplication and division facts for up to 12 x 12.

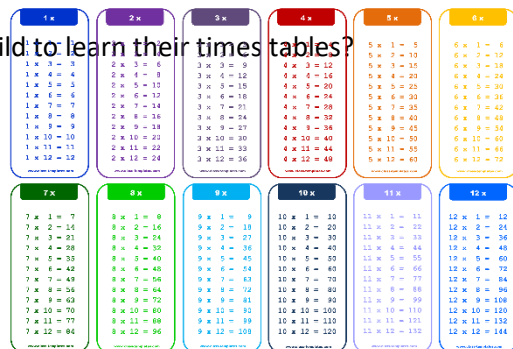
Being able to quickly recall multiplication and division facts (times tables) is essential for all children. The ability to recall these facts quickly enables children to answer related questions with ease. There are lots of different times table games and activities to practise these.

Using some of these games/activities, can you support your child to learn their times tables?

www.topmarks.co.uk

www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/

www.timestables.co.uk



All children will have a Purple Mash log in **stuck to the inside of their reading record.**

There are lots of different games on here to support your child with their times tables.

FOBCSA update

We are busy gearing up for a busy year ahead. Thanks to all the donations, we have a full stock of **second hand uniform**, and hope to hold a sale before half term.

You may see a lot of activity on school grounds next week as the **new trim trail** for Key Stage 2 children will be installed on the field – we can't wait to see it in action!

Finally we are holding a **coffee morning** next **Friday 20th January at 9am** (straight after drop off) in the school hall. Come along and hear about our plans for 2023, find out how you can get involved, or just to say hello and enjoy a free cuppa and a biscuit!



Key Stage 1

Year 1

In English this week, we have been learning further about Syd and Grandad's adventure in our book "Grandad's Island". We have received some letters and written to Grandad. We went on an 'adventure' to visit the island, but the boat left without us and we got stuck on the island! We have written a letter to Mrs Hood to ask for help getting back to school for the weekend.



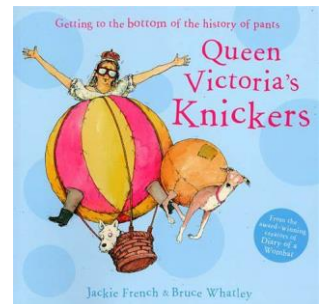
In Geography, we learnt about the capital city of England and some geographical features. We particularly enjoyed learning about the Shard and how you can see an amazing view of London whilst sitting on the toilet!

We had great fun in Outdoor Learning, making model faces out of mud. We linked our Science learning about human body parts, nature and seasons while having fun outdoors.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the term. We have begun our new text 'Queen Victoria's Knickers'. Last week, Queen Victoria lost her royal knickers and couldn't find them anywhere. The children wrote wanted posters using different sentence types to ask the public to look out for her knickers! This week, we have written questions and looked at the features of a newspaper report to begin to write a report on this disaster!



In Maths, we have been focusing our learning on 'money'. The children have learnt about the value of different coins using tens and ones to represent the value, they have made different amounts and have even solved an investigation 'how many ways can you make 45p in different ways, using silver coins early'. Please continue to encourage the children to handle coins and have a go at using coins practically.

On Friday, we had an amazing Victorian Day. The children came dressed up as Victorian children, chimney sweepers and we even had Queen Victoria herself! The children have enjoyed a range of activities, learning about the life of a Victorian. The children made Victorian toys, played Victorian games, went to a Victorian school room, wrote on blackboards with chalk and chanted times tables and even polished shoes, and scrubbed potatoes. The children have had a fantastic day and we hope it gave an insight into the life of a Victorian.

