6th February 2020

Dear Parents

‘Narnia’
This term’s topic, Narnia, has been truly magical! Our ‘hook’ days certainly engaged the children who had a wonderful two days. Our first day, with a trip to Dorchester Abbey, proved exciting and informative. The following day the children came to school as evacuees and entered Narnia through the wardrobe. It was a truly amazing experience and I’m sure you’ll join me in thanking Mrs Cullum and Mrs Alderson for all the hard work they put into turning the school into Narnia! (please remember to keep your child’s evacuee outfit ready for Maidenhead’s Got Talent!!)

**Next Terms Topic is ‘Chocolate’:**

On Thursday 27th February the amazing ‘Burchetts Green Chocolate Factory’ will be opening its doors, for one day only, to the pupils of Burchetts Green!

Each child must bring their ‘Golden Ticket’ which they will receive the day before. The grand opening will be at 8.45am; so don’t be late! This event will launch our topic for the term. It will be a delicious day full of surprises where we explore Science and DT through chocolate and get very creative!

Later in the term the children will be learning all about the rainforests where chocolate originates from, how the fruit becomes chocolate and how it gets to our shops; they will also be looking at what healthy eating is!

We are all looking forward to a delicious term!

**Lent and Lent Books**

The first official green Lent campaign from the Church of England starts this year.

Instead of giving up chocolate or alcohol for Lent, people are being encouraged to think about taking action such as switching to renewable power, making at least one journey by foot or planting a tree.

We are sending home a small booklet for your child to complete with you, daily during Lent. This has a number of tasks that you might like to do as a family. We would love to have completed books back at the end of Lent to look at together.
World Book Day

On Thursday the 5th March is World Book Day. We would like to invite all the children to bring an old book to go into our school book swap. They can donate their old book and chose a different one from the donations to replace it. One book only per child please.

Staff will be bringing in one of their favourite stories and the children will get the chance to listen to two stories of their choice during the day. The storytelling stations will be all around school including the offices and library as well as outside. All staff members will be reading stories they love to the children.

Children are invited to come to school dressed as a Roald Dahl character. This can be from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory or from another Roald Dahl story. This will be a lovely opportunity to celebrate books at Burchetts Green.

Coffee Mornings with EP

This term we have arranged for our Educational Psychologist to deliver two information sessions for parents and carers to attend. These will be an informal opportunity to have a coffee morning in school whilst learning about a topic that may be of interest.

1/ Wednesday 12th February 9.15-10.15am 'Dyslexia'
- What does dyslexia mean, how is it identified, and what do we do about it?
- Supporting your child to develop their literacy skills
- What you can do if you are worried
- Opportunity to ask questions and discuss

2/ Wednesday 18th March 9.15-10.15am 'Autism'
- What is autism?
- How is autism diagnosed?
- Supporting your child to develop their social interaction and communication with other people
- What you can do if you are worried
- Opportunity to ask questions and discuss

Maidenhead’s Got Talent!

Don’t forget Maidenhead’s Got Talent! Here are the details for Friday 6th March again – we look forward to entertaining as many of you as possible during the afternoon. The children will travel with staff by coach.

The show starts at 3.30pm (this is the matinee performance) and parents and siblings are invited to join us. We have requested to be in the first half of the show as the children are very young. This means that you will be able to take your child home during the interlude. This is a longer day than usual for the children, but we hope that, as it is a Friday afternoon, it will not interrupt routines too much. We are so lucky to be able to take part as this is a lovely opportunity for the children to perform to a wider audience.
Tickets are available to purchase NOW at [http://rotary-in-maidenhead.org.uk/gottalent](http://rotary-in-maidenhead.org.uk/gottalent). Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the event, subject to availability. The prices are:

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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
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<td>Under 16 and senior citizens</td>
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<td>Pre-school age children</td>
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**Parents’ Evenings**

Parents’ Evenings have been arranged for Tuesday 24\(^{th}\) March from 3.30 – 5.30pm and Thursday 26\(^{th}\) March from 4.30 – 6.50pm. Each appointment lasts for ten minutes and out of respect for those whose appointment follows yours please try and stick to your allotted time (we can of course arrange additional meetings if deemed necessary).

This year we are using a new electronic ‘sign up’ system which we hope you will find helpful. You will receive an email on Monday 2\(^{nd}\) March advising the booking system is open. Please do look out for the email on this day and check your junk mail box if you haven’t received it.

**Moldova Mufti Day and Assembly**

During the Easter holidays Mrs Dale and her husband will be taking a group of teenagers from Jubilee Church out to Moldova, where they will spend a week working with a church there to support and care for underprivileged and neglected children with many needs.

We have supported them in the past when they have been on previous trips there, and would love to do the same again, so we will be holding a mufti day on 31\(^{st}\) March. Children can come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a donation of £1. On this day some of the Moldova team will also come into school and will take the assembly sharing some of the activities they will be doing on the trip with the children.

There will be a further assembly after their return where the children will be able to see photos of what their contributions have helped to buy and the impact that helping others can have on their lives.

**Children’s Valentine Party**

A reminder from the FOBGS team that they have arranged an evening disco for the children on Thursday, February 14\(^{th}\). The event will take place at Hurley Village Hall from 4.30 to 6.00pm.
**Parent Workshops 25th February 3.15pm – 4.15pm**

**Maths**
We have two parent workshops on the horizon. The first is for the parents of all year groups and will be led by Mrs Thomas. Mrs Thomas will be explaining some of the ways that the new maths curriculum is taught. We hope this will help you support your child’s learning at home.

There will then be the opportunity for Y1 and Y2 parents to go with their child’s class teacher to hear about the government SATs and Phonics screening tests that take place during May/June.

**SATs**
Mrs Miller and Mrs Fennell will be giving a short introduction to the SATs assessments that your child will be taking during May.

**Phonics**
Mrs McNamara will be leading a short session for the parents of Y1 children with information regarding the Phonics Screening test.

Mrs Dale is very kindly supervising Burchett Green pupils as they watch a film during this time. Unfortunately, we cannot supervise any siblings. We realise that not everyone picks their child up after school so we will make sure the information goes on our website as well. If you have any questions that are not answered in the information pack, please contact the school.

**Gymnastics Display**
On April 1st 2020, Mr Smith, our PE teacher, has arranged for the children to give a short gymnastics display, during their usual lesson times, to show the skills that the children have learnt this term. You are welcome to attend and see the progress your child has made over the term.

The times are:

TO - 11.00am - 11.45am

BO - 1.00pm - 2.00pm

SO - 2.00pm - 3.00pm

**Car Parking Reminders**
Once again I would like to thank you all for your considerate parking over the last term especially when the weather has been bad. The Walk to School Wednesday does help with congestion too which is good news.

May I please remind you not to park in the staff car park even if you arrive late and it looks empty? If you have an exceptional need then we will of course be happy to help where we can,
please pop into the office and explain your need to Mrs Derrett who will note down your car number. In the past we have been able to accommodate mothers with new-born babies, physical disabilities and people who car share with another family (meaning that they have a group of children they are responsible for).

If you have permission to park in the car park please remember to reverse park for the safety of the children – we have had a couple of near ‘bumps’ in the past as children have not been seen. Thank you.

Thursday Through the Thicket

Following a very successful two terms walking to school through the woods we are now going to start walking through The Thicket. Our walk will become more and more beautiful as the season turns to spring. To make it even more of a special walk we will be taking in the butterfly trail. Please do join us, especially as the weather improves.

Some news in advance...

Easter Gardens Monday 30th March 2020

We will be making Easter gardens with the children on 30th March 2020. A letter with more information from Mrs Dale, who will be leading this event, will follow later in the term.

Easter Service Thursday 2nd April 2020

This year our Easter service will be in school. More information will be available later in the term.

Beatles and Building for Parents’ Day! Tuesday 2nd June 2020

This year we are celebrating Parents’ Day! We will create a fun filled morning of den making and other family activities followed by an early picnic lunch here at school. We are combining this with our Beatles Day – so come dressed in your 60s gear (man 🎵).

The children will be making tie dye t-shirts the term before so that they can wear these to school that day. During the morning there will be a short presentation by the children. Please bring a picnic to share with the children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Sheppard