I have missed so much this half term with my surgery and being ill! The school has been very busy with lots happening! I am very pleased to be back!

As I write this there are lots of Ancient Greeks walking into the building ready for their day of experience!

The younger children have enjoyed ‘travelling around the world’ learning about different countries and Year 3 and 4 have made some beautiful pieces of art from Ancient Civilisations!

We have also welcomed 3 new members of staff this term. I am sure many of you will have already met Mr McGuffie in the office. We have also said hello to Mrs Holley and Ms Gallego who are working in classes across KS2. Both Mrs Collier and Mrs Beach are back from their maternity leave and have already settled back in.

As I have been off we have not managed to do our new ILP day this half term. We have rebooked this for 7th and 14th and will be in touch with those parents involved straight after the half term to book appointments. We also have Parent Consultations on 7th and 12th March—the sign up sheets are in the entrance hall.

The keyboard and drumming lessons have started and are going well.
**Class Highlights Spring 1**

In Class 2 we have been learning about Africa and all the different animals and all the different things you can do. We have looked at different continents and hot and cold countries. In maths we’ve been learning about grams and kilograms and weighing. We have looked at how light and heavy things are. In English we’ve been learning about ‘The Snail and the Whale’ – the snail goes to different places on the whale’s tail.

By Eva and Alfie

In Class 5 we particularly enjoyed the pottery because we all got the choice about how to make and design our pots. We had a coach for our P.E. lessons who taught us rugby, we got really muddy on the field! We have been learning the recorder in music lessons and have learnt to play ‘Hot Cross Buns’. We’re getting quite good now because we started in Year 3. We are looking forward to our science experiments next term about different types of materials.

By Dylan and Rosie

In Class 6 we have been learning about Ancient Greeks. The Battle of Marathon was really fun and we wrote it up in the style that we wanted. Benji chose to do a diary entry and Siena chose to write it as a story. We liked doing the dance because we had to interact with each other and make sure everyone was included. We are looking forward to performing it to parents this afternoon. We also enjoyed creating our pots and being free with our designs. We are looking forward to France next term and finishing our class text, “Who Let the Gods Out”.

By Benji and Siena

In Class R we have been making crowns. We made jelly, when I put my spoon in it bounced out again! We have listened to the story of Goldilocks and the three bears, we ate the porridge.

By Sarah and Daisy

In Class 1 we have been doing lots of measuring. We have been making necklaces out of paper plates because we are learning about Africa. We have been doing an information booklet about animals in Africa.

By Kira and Artemis

In Class 3 we’ve been doing some maths—we do morning maths every morning when we come into school. It opens up our brains! We have been running our finger around a shape to remind us about perimeter. Our English has been about life on an Ancient Egyptian farm, we’ve done the opening for our diaries. This term we have reached 4000 whole class Dojos so next term we will watch the end of Shrek!

By Camilla and Millie

Class 4 enjoyed making ancient civilisation sculptures for the museum.

We really enjoyed writing spooky sagas for the competition.

By Sarah and Daisy
We enjoyed researching and making ancient civilization powerpoints and presenting them the class.

We enjoyed ketchup fractions!

We enjoyed doing plasticine fractions and decimals.

We liked the Horsham museum visit when we mumified the Princess dummy.

We enjoyed the evaporation experiments.

**Teacher highlight**

Mrs Mallaband’s highlight this half term was getting to the end of a chapter of the class book and closing the book to the sound of children begging her to continue reading!!

I am so pleased that the children are so excited by the texts that have been chosen for their topics! I may have to have a read of ‘Who Let The Gods Out?’ myself!

**Staff Learning**

Once again lots of staff members have been training so that we are all doing our very best for all our children.

Mrs Mallaband and Miss Newport have been on ‘Talk for Writing’ and are now sharing this practice with the rest of the staff— this looks like a great way to engage and excite the children with texts and writing.

Mrs Wooding has been visiting schools looking at their Maths teaching to further develop our good practice.

All staff have been online, carrying out Safeguarding training to ensure we are all up to date.

**Book of the week**

Book of the Week for the older children must be ‘Who Let the God’s Out?’ by Max Evans.

This book has really excited Years 5 and 6.

The younger children have loved ‘Wombat Stew’ by Marcia K. Vaughan!
**St. Mary’s Sports!**

Congratulations to the gymnasts who took part in the gymnastics competition recently! They performed their routines brilliantly—and won! The children will be taking part in the finals at the K2 Leisure Centre in June.

**Uniform**

Mrs Sadler-Lambert is just finalizing the change of uniform supplier. She will contact you all in the next few weeks with their details—they should provide a much better service.

This does mean that there will be a slight change of the colour of the ties. We are not expecting anyone to buy new ties to unless they need one and expect to see a mix of colours for some time yet!

**Values**

Well done to the children in Year 6 who demonstrated our Christian Value of Service by creating and selling pom-poms to raise money for Water Aid—our International Charity for this academic year. We have just sent them £108.48—fantastic!

**Attendance**

Class attendance Sept to Feb 8th 2019
- Class R—97%
- Class 1—94.5%
- Class 2—96%
- Class 3—97%
- Class 4—96.5%
- Class 5—97%
- Class 6—97.5%

**Prayer Space**

Thank you Lord for loving me. Thank you for my family. Help me to learn more each day and to be kind at work and play. By Eesha, Mia and Mia, Class R

**Upcoming Dates**

28th February—Charlotte’s Web Show
1st March—School Association Quiz Night
7th March—World Book Day, Parent Consultations, ILP Day
11th March—Class Photos
12th March—Parent Consultations
13th March—Pause Day
21st March—Voice in a Million
1st—5th April—France Residential
5th April—Stations of the Cross

**Fairtrade Teddy Trail**

For the second year running, Fairtrade EG is running a Teddy Trail competition during Fairtrade Fortnight which runs from Monday 25 February until Sunday 10 March. Teddies wearing a Fairtrade logo and a letter of the alphabet are to be found in various places in East Grinstead. Spot the teddies and make the letters into a word. Forms are attached with this newsletter or can be collected from the School Office, or EG Library from the w/e of 23/24 February onwards. The correct three winners will receive a Fairtrade Easter Egg as a prize. Completed forms should be returned to EG Library by Monday 11 March.