

# Year One Newsletter Spring 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas holiday and that everyone is returning to school refreshed and ready for the new term. During the spring term we will continue to focus on the children's well-being, social and communication skills, as well as encouraging the children to be as independent as possible.

## **Learning through play**

Children will continue to spend most of the day following their own interests in play. They will be able to explore areas such as water, construction, small world and workshop in the classroom, with bigger and more physical play encouraged outside. Through play, children learn vital skills such as sharing, negotiation, perseverance and resilience.

## **Focus Children, Observations and Parent meetings**

The system of weekly focus children and a meeting with parents/carers the following week will be repeated in the spring term. Some dates or times might not be available as staff may have meetings or other commitments, but if none of the suggested times are convenient for you, do please suggest another day and time.



## **Reading**

Our aim is to foster a love of books and reading for enjoyment and information and we will continue to share stories at school. Reading stories to your child is a great way to increase their vocabulary and understanding. Year 1 will visit the newly refurbished library every Monday morning, when they will be able to change their library book. There is also a box of library books in the classroom and they can change any time they like. Don't expect children to be able to read this book to you, though some may be able to read parts. This book is intended to foster a love of reading and talking about stories or information. Children will also bring home a book from our reading scheme. They will have read the book 3 times at school during the week, so should be able to read most of it with little or no help from you. If they struggle with a word, it's fine to help them sound it out or tell them what it says. We send this book home so that the children can show off their increasing confidence and skill, so do celebrate their achievements. You can record comments in their planner if you wish.

## **Maths**

Maths this term will cover subtraction within 10, numbers to 20, addition and subtraction within 20, numbers to 50 and measuring weight, volume, length and height. We will continue to use lots of practical activities, real objects and games to help children embed mathematical concepts. Talking about maths and explaining what you know, why and how, is a vital part of maths learning and something that it is very easy to help with at home. Lists of sums are definitely not necessary! There will be ideas in the homework menus.

## Science

The children will be learning about animals including humans. During the term, they will also be learning about seasonal change through lots of outdoor activities. We will be taking part in the RSPB's Big Schools Birdwatch, so there will be some bird-related activities going on. We will have a visit from the Teddy Bears' Hospital which introduces children to health and hygiene in a fun and friendly way. It is run by medical students from the university and is always a big hit with the children.

## Topic

Our topic this term is **Superheroes** which we will be exploring through stories and games. We will be having a superhero day. Children will do superhero activities and can dress as their favourite superhero, either real life (eg doctor, firefighter) or imaginary.

## Religious Education

Year 1 will be exploring sacred places in different religions through stories and creative activities.

## Jigsaw (Personal, Social and Health Education)

Our Jigsaw theme this term is **Dreams and Goals**. We explore children's ideas through circle time, games and discussions. The whole school works on the same part of the theme each week and there is a celebration of everyone's success in our Friday assemblies.

## Physical Education

Year 1 will have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**. However, it is important that your child has full PE kit in school at all times as occasionally it is necessary to change the timetable at short notice. The PE kit can also be useful as a change of clothes in case your child gets wet. Some PE lessons will be outside, so please ensure your child has clothes suitable for the colder weather.

Please check your child has the following items in a **named** PE bag for indoor and outdoor activities:

- white t-shirt
- dark shorts **and** jogging bottoms
- dark sweatshirt
- socks
- spare pants
- trainers
- spare hair bobbles

Stud earrings should be removed or taped up. Please provide micropore tape for this. We cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to have **all** their clothes and shoes clearly **named**. This makes them so much more confident and independent and means you get them back if they are misplaced.

### **Forest School**

Year 1 forest school sessions are on **Wednesday afternoons**.  
The children will need clothes appropriate for the weather:

- wellington boots/snow boots
- waterproof trousers
- warm, waterproof coat with hood
- extra warm socks
- extra layer eg fleece
- hat /gloves/scarf



Wellies may be kept on the wooden rack outside the classroom and waterproofs etc in lockers, but if you prefer to take them home each week do remember to bring them back the following Wednesday. Remember to name everything so that mislaid items can be returned to the right person.

### **Homework**

Homework menus will be sent out by Parentpay. They will give children a choice of practical activities they can do at home. The menu will include some ideas for practising spelling and we will suggest a few key words each half term to focus on.

### **Things to remember:**

- School starts at **8:40am**. The cloakroom door will close at **8.50am prompt**. A member of staff will be at the door to welcome children.
- We have fruit and water freely available for the children throughout the day. If you would like your child to have milk, please visit [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) to set up payment.
- Children should have a book bag/plastic wallet to keep their reading book and planner in good condition.
- School finishes at **3:15pm**.
- If your child is going home with someone who is not on your list of adults collecting please write it in their planner and ensure an adult knows.
- Please let us know if you wish to add adults to the list of who can collect our child.

Quick messages can be passed on when you drop off or pick up your child or you can arrange to speak to us in person or by phone if you would like. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email any time. We are really looking forward to another term with the class and to watching all their continuing progress.

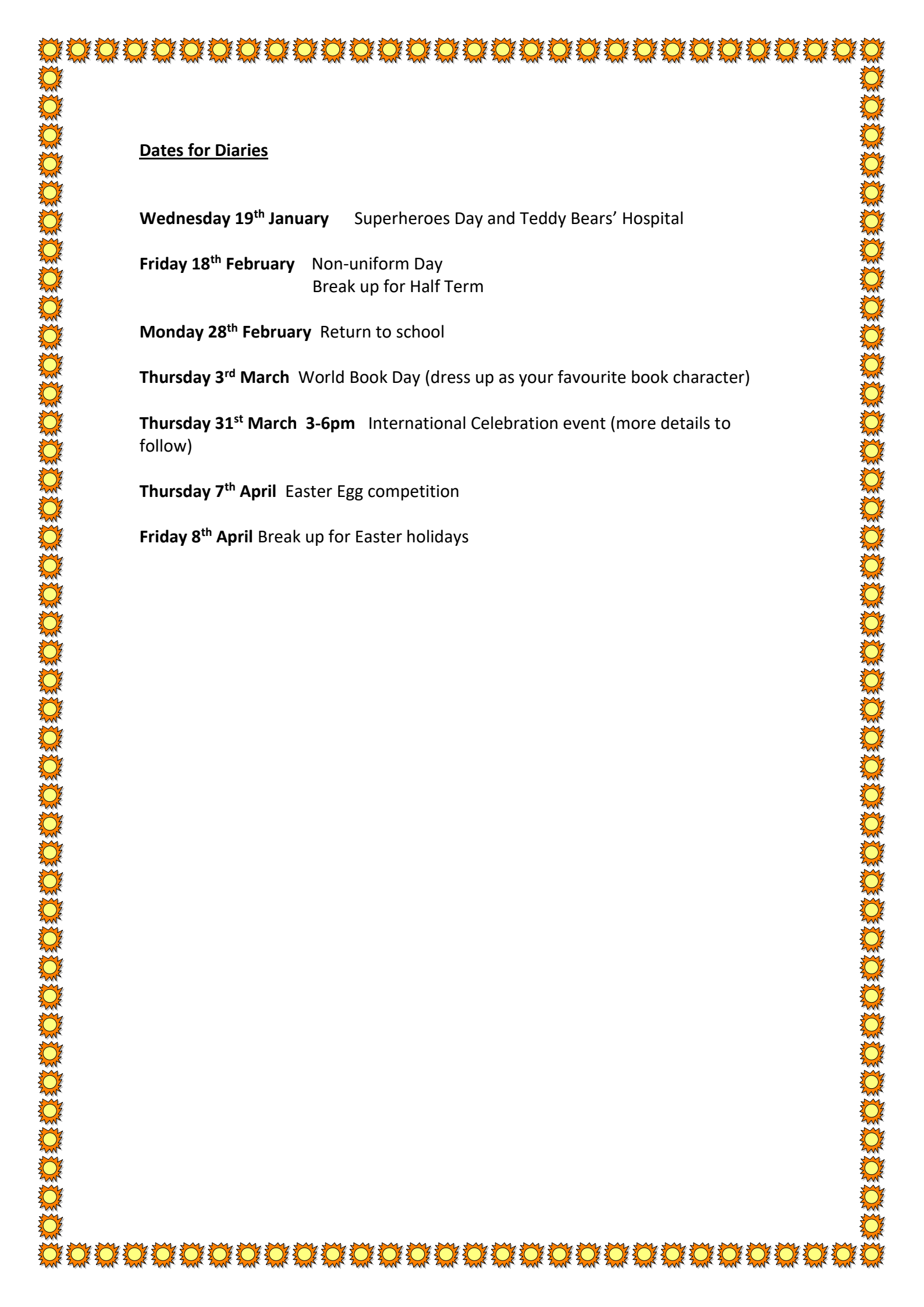
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**Dates for Diaries**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January** Superheroes Day and Teddy Bears' Hospital

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February** Non-uniform Day  
Break up for Half Term

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February** Return to school

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character)

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 3-6pm** International Celebration event (more details to follow)

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Egg competition

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April** Break up for Easter holidays