

Year One Newsletter Spring 2023

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 some 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. In Year 1 they record what they have been learning using writing, pictures, maps and diagrams.

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 library every Tuesday afternoon, when they will be able to change their library book. Don't expect children to be able to read this book to you, though some may be able to read parts. This is 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 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.

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.

Topic

Our topic this term is **Adventures** which we will be exploring through stories and games. Children will be learning about real-life explorers and their adventures, what it might be like to go off on an adventure to a distant place and what might be needed on the adventure, eg a map. Details of trips happening this term will be sent out when dates have been finalised.

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 half term is **Dreams and Goals**; next half term's theme is **Healthy Me**. We explore children's ideas through circle time, games and discussions.

Physical Education

Year 1 will have PE on **Mondays** 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 please do remember to bring them back the following Wednesday. Remember to name everything so that mislaid items can be returned to the right person.

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 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.

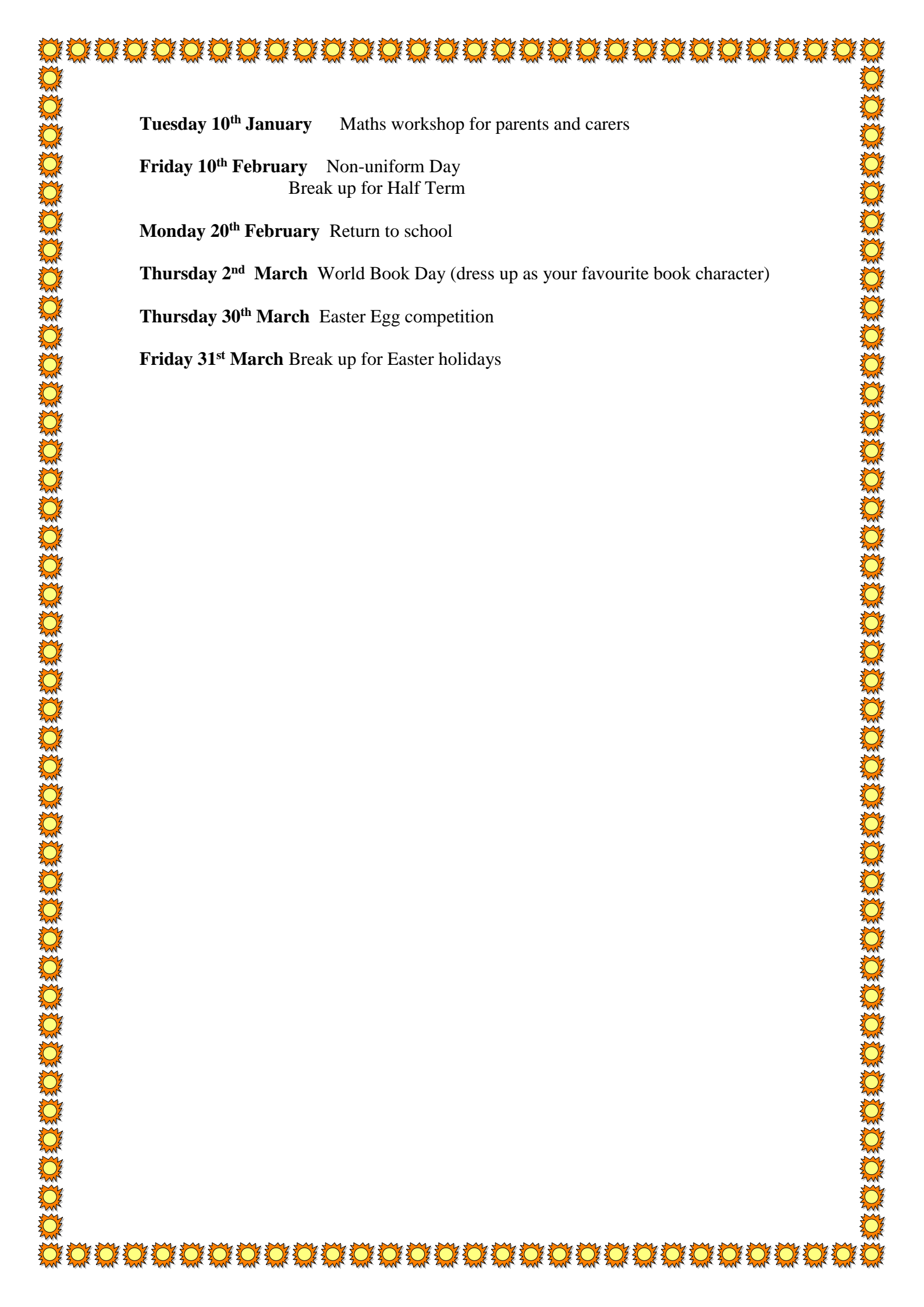
Quick messages can be passed on when you drop off or pick up your child or you can arrange to speak to us in person or by phone if you would like. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email any time. We are really looking forward to another term with the class and to watching all their continuing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

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Tuesday 10th January Maths workshop for parents and carers

Friday 10th February Non-uniform Day
Break up for Half Term

Monday 20th February Return to school

Thursday 2nd March World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character)

Thursday 30th March Easter Egg competition

Friday 31st March Break up for Easter holidays