

Pilgrim Primary Academy

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11th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure, like me, you have been closely following the news over the last few weeks about the situation in Ukraine. There is no doubt that this is a worrying situation and we have all been saddened to see the impact of the crisis on families and particularly children. Some of our families will be directly affected by the actions taking place in the Ukraine and, as always, we will do everything we can to support them during this time. I have also spoken to many parents on the playground who are concerned that their children are worried about the news stories they are seeing about Ukraine.

In school, we have heard conversations and had some questions raised by children about the crisis in Ukraine. Like other conflicts that are currently taking place in the world, we have not allocated time to specifically discuss the conflict occurring between Ukraine and Russia in curriculum time. We have, however, talked in assembly about children experiencing conflict and our class teachers, who know the children very well, have answered questions in an individual and age appropriate way - I am sure many of you are dealing with some questions from children at home too. In some classes, where children have wanted to get more information, they have watched short clips from Newsround, the news programme specifically for younger children. You might find it useful to see the way in which they tackle the sharing of information about the conflict; here is the link to a useful summary guide of information: [newsround](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround) and there are many more useful articles to be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>

For any families with specific worries or requests for support, please talk to your child's class teacher or contact our Parent Support Adviser, Mrs Harris - we are here to help where we can.

Spring Term Reports, parent/carers consultation meetings and chance to look at books

Today, you will receive your child's **Spring Term report** and information about how we are offering **meetings for parents and carers with teachers** next week. I would urge you to make an appointment as it is an important way for you to keep up to date with how your child is doing in school and to ask any questions that you may have.

In the weeks following the parents consultation meetings, we will also be offering all parents/carers **a chance to come into school to look at their child's books** so please also look out for communication from your child's class teacher about these arrangements. Please note that there will not be a chance to have in-depth conversations with the teachers during this time as we are still trying to keep everyone Covid safe by keeping social distance and limiting visitors to school. However, I hope it will give you some time with your child looking through their books so that you can celebrate together the progress they have made so far this year.

Website Feedback

A few weeks ago, I sent out a short survey requesting some feedback about our current website. Thank you if you responded. The results have been very useful and there are clearly some aspects of the website that you really value such as: Term Dates, information about the curriculum, parent support and wellbeing sections, having access to letters and information about school routines and events.

You have told us that you would like to have links to our social media on the homepage and that you like to have greater access to photos of your children learning and to know more about learning experiences in school. We are aiming for a new website to be in place for the summer term and we will be seeking more feedback from you nearer the time.

Curriculum Focus On: English and World Book Week

It was all about English and books in our first week back to school after half term!

The children were welcomed back after half term and greeted with a celebration of their fantastic writing displayed in the corridors. These wonderful published pieces included some poetry from Y2, information texts about crocodiles from Y4 and newspaper reports about Macbeth from Y6. The children are always very proud to see their writing on display.

This week, the children started their English lessons with a 'hook the book' lesson. This is where the children are given a range of clues (objects, pictures, sounds and words) that link to their new focus text. They have to use the reading skill of prediction to predict what their book might be about. This leads to some great oracy discussions, lots of excitement and anticipation as the children always love to find out how the clues relate to the book as they start to read.

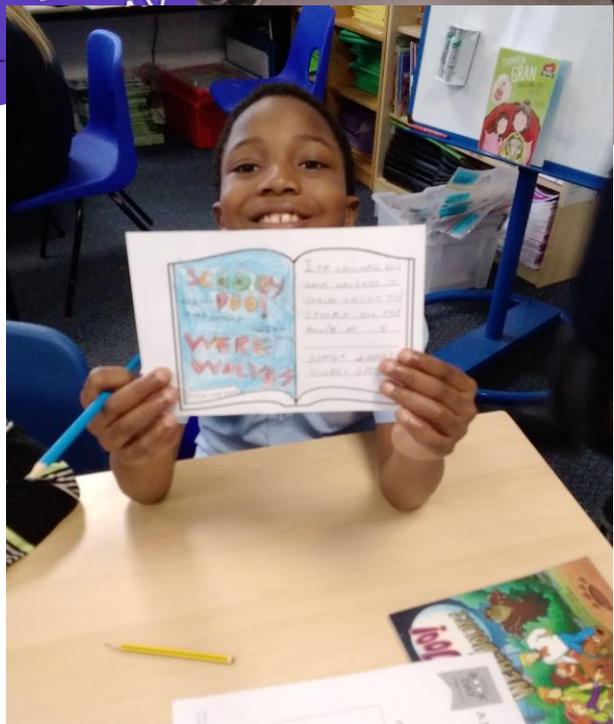
World Book Day was last Thursday and we had a day of valuing and sharing books and stories:



We celebrated World Book Day last week by recommending all of our favourite books. The children and adults bought their favourite books from home and spent the day exploring and sharing the books, talking about why they loved them.

We wrote book reviews and we've learnt a lot about new great books we now want to read.

The children also loved trying to guess 'The Masked Reader'. Could you guess who was behind the mask on our Facebook post?



Term Dates and Dates for your Diary

Comic Relief - Friday 18th March

Like many schools, we will be raising money for Comic Relief this year. We will be inviting children to come to school on Friday in 'Funny Mufti' (however that is interpreted!). We are asking for a donation to the charity of 50p or more per child (details about payment next week).

We are also hosting a school **Talent Show**, just for a bit of fun in the afternoon and we will be giving certificates for some of our best acts! The children have been busy auditioning this week and they certainly have some talents!



Red Noses for sale!

Red noses are here in school and will be sold by the School Council before school at 8.30 am each day next week outside the foyer. They are £1.50 each. We will sell them until we run out of stock - we have 2 boxes but get in quick!

National Science Week

This year Science week is 14th - 18th March with the theme of 'Growing for the Future'. It is based on the ideas of sustainability, recycling, reducing waste and reusing materials. Each year group in school will be looking at different areas of this throughout the week.

Learning Celebrations and Certificates

| Here are the Pat on the Back learners for the Upper Phase: | | Here are last week's Star Learners awards for the Lower Phase: | |
|---|-----------|---|---------------|
| Year 4 RO | Keeley H | Year 1 JP | Jaden M |
| Year 4 KP | Sam B | Year 1 MS | Eva M |
| Year 5 SR | Malak A R | Year 2 TH | Katie-Maie H |
| Year 5 RH | Piotr B | Year 2 RG | Celina L |
| Year 6 SS | Asma S L | Year 3 BF | Alicia-Maie H |
| Year 6 LJ | Lily J | Year 3 CB | Jethro F-K |

Enjoy the weekend and here's hoping the rain stops for us all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mrs L Meek'.

Mrs L Meek
Headteacher