

Friday, 4th December,
2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are all aware that protecting our own mental health as well as children's mental health is becoming an increasing challenge. This is something that has always had a high priority at Brantridge, but I wanted to outline some steps the school has recently taken to enhance our provision in this area. Some of you will already be familiar with some of this:

- **Mental Health Advisor:** Since September we have had Ms Mary Townsend working in this role. She works weekly with each class, educating the children through various activities regarding simple steps they can take to take care of their mental health. She also works with individual children and small groups throughout the week.
- **Art Therapist:** Again since September we have had Mr David Elliott working with us for three days each week. Mr Elliott is an Art Psychotherapist. He works with individual children for a series of sessions over various number of weeks.
- **Counsellor:** Since November we have employed Clare Bell each Monday in this role, where again she works with individual pupils.
- **Walking:** A growing number of classes walk each week around the village of Staplefield. Walking through the beautiful West Sussex countryside provides opportunities for mindfulness exercises as well the numerous health benefits of exercise in the fresh air. (Interestingly these walks have led to excellent curriculum learning opportunities, particularly in terms of Science.)
- We look for any and every opportunity within the curriculum to make learning links to individual wellbeing whenever possible.

We recognise the importance of doing everything we can to give our young people as many strategies as possible in the area of managing their mental health. We know that this is key to their general wellbeing both now as children, but also as they progress into adolescence and adulthood.

Should you want any further information about some of these recent approaches, please let us know.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

Upcoming dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 16th December 2020- Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
- Friday 18th December 2020- Last day of Autumn term
- Monday 4th January 2021- First day of Spring term
- Monday 25th January 2021- INSET day

For other important dates, please see the calendar on the website.

Mercury

This week, Mercury have started work on finding facts out about Neil Armstrong. This is to start making an autobiography on Neil Armstrong. We have started end of term assessments which the boys have been working hard on. In maths, we have been working on 24 hour time and how to read bus/train timetables. The boys have been very engaged in music and working on making their own sounds/songs. They have been telling others what instruments would make each sound in the song.

Saturn

This week Saturn have been working on forces and motion in Science. We explored the classroom with magnets and learnt about gravity and force.

We have had our end of term assessments this week, the boys have shown resilience and focus to complete these and have tried so hard. I'm really impressed with their efforts.

In maths we have been looking at doubling. We played a game using mirrors to see how numbers double.

In English we went on a sensory journey and used our senses to describe what we could hear see, taste, smell and feel. We are doing really well at using adjectives in our sentences. Some of us are using pictures to prompt and some are using their own words.

In science we explored magnets and learnt about what a force is and the effects of gravity.

Pluto

This week Pluto have completed their end of term assessments which involved taking a test every day. This has been tough but the boys showed excellent focus and patience in each test. They have earned a special treat on Friday, details TBC...

In Maths we have been learning to handle data using tally charts, pictograms and pieces of toilet roll as a 3D resource. In science we made our own compasses using a bowl of water, a lid and a magnet (see below). We are working on a fabulous art project to create a space picture using batik, our masterpieces will be displayed next week!



A homemade compass, do try this at home!

Mars

Full steam ahead in Mars Class this week! First of all in English, we have finished off our fabulous biographies on female astronauts. We have all worked incredibly hard to complete these and are rightly proud of our achievements which included research, independent writing with time connectives, themes across paragraphs, adverbials and much more. In maths this week we have been learning about multiples and factors, everybody has made lots of great progress with these and really enjoyed the activities. We have spent time this week playing social games to help us to practice turn taking and winning and losing. We have had lots of fun playing things like wink murder, keeper of the keys as well as board games all of which help our social interactions.

In art we have painted our clay animals and in DT we have continued to work on building our king sculptures and dressing them in very fancy clothes. Next time we will be adding crowns and jewels to give them their royal status!



Titan

We have started a new topic in Maths this week, and that is money; the children have had to add / subtract money, give change, solve money problems as well as reasoning money problems and converting from pounds to pence and vice versa. It has been a successful week, as it has been a pleasure to see how much the children know about money.

In English, the children have done some work on similes, metaphors and personification; they have had to create sentences using the three writing features, as well as explaining what each one of the is. In comprehension, we have focused on inferring meaning from texts, author's choice and language.

In PHSCE, we looked at confidence and what strategies we can use to help us become more confident in ourselves.

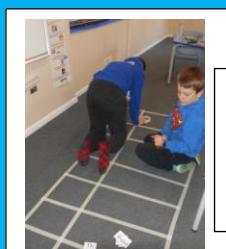
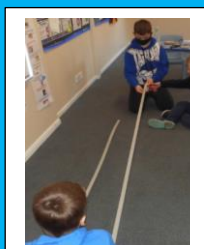
Science this week, we looked at life cycles for different groups of animals and in Art we have started creating our kings for the community art project.

Galaxy:

In Galaxy class this week, we have been starting to complete our termly assessments. I have been very proud and incredibly impressed with how each of the boys engaged and attended to these important tasks. A crisp, clear and cold day greeted us at the lake on Tuesday, but we were fully prepared for it and managed to land seven carp, the biggest one being a whopping 10lbs!! Once again, the boys cooked their own lunches, making bangers, mash and beans; learning how to use utensils carefully as well as a range of appliances such as the hob and microwave. Some of the boys endured the horrid weather to visit the local park. They played carefully and nicely, using the apparatus safely. Well done for being so resilient Galaxy!

Neptune

In Neptune class, we have started work on our termly assessments. The boys have been amazing, putting lots of effort into completing all their tasks. In between all this assessment work, we have been able to have lots of fun learning time. We have explored magnetism in science. I think the part the boys loved most was discovering that two like poles on a magnet repel each other and they used this knowledge to get the magnets to spin around their tables. We managed to squeeze a walk into the shortened week; taking a different route this time. It is amazing how much learning can go on in one walk. We were able to explore local history in the church graveyard finding a grave of a soldier who died in 1916, we learnt about solar energy as we passed a field of solar panels, we found lots of different coloured fungi and much, much, more. In maths, we are working on multiplying by powers of 10. The boys made a big place value grid on the classroom floor (This involved a high level of team work and planning to make sure they got it right). We then used this as a visual aid so they could physically see what was happening to the digits when we multiplied by 10 and 100. Because, they had put so much effort into creating the grid, there was a high level of engagement in the maths learning.



Awards of the week

Saturn		Mercury	
Being Kind award	Freddie	Being Kind award	Charlie, James
Being respectful award	Cayden, Toby, Freddie, Freddy	Being respectful award	Riley-John , James, Aymen
Being your best award	Freddie, Freddy, Callum, Cayden, Toby	Being your best award	Riley-John, Charlie, Aymen, Morgan
Pluto		Mars	
Being Kind award	-	Being Kind award	Jamie
Being respectful award	-	Being respectful award	Alfie
Being your best award	Zak, Reagan, Harry	Being your best award	Jamie
Neptune		Titan	
Being Kind award	-	Being Kind award	-
Being respectful award	-	Being respectful award	Joshua
Being your best award	Rhys, Jacob	Being your best award	Bobby, Cohen
Galaxy			
Being Kind award	Floyd		
Being respectful award	Ryan		
Being your best award	Floyd, Riley		

Outdoor Learning

This week we have been having outdoor learning 'freetime' due to the boys working really hard on their assessments in class. We have had all the outdoor learning equipment out and boys have been encouraged to choose what they want to do.



