

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will be aware that since the beginning of the first lockdown, children at Brantridge have been coming into school wearing their own clothes as opposed to the school uniform. This was in keeping with the advice we were being given by the Department for Education regarding the types of activities we should be providing for children at that time.

Every half term we have reviewed that decision and as you know we have continued with it. As with many of the changes that were brought in due to COVID we are regularly reviewing them and asking whether any of the newer approaches should be kept. This week we have decided that children attending in their own clothes is to be a permanent approach.

Our reasons in summary are:

- Ensuring that pupils are wearing the correct uniform can often become a source of conflict. We felt that this particular conflict was an unnecessary one and therefore unhelpful.
- For some of our pupils the sensory issues that can be caused by certain clothing or footwear is a genuine issue. Given that we are a special school we felt that we should be understanding of these needs.

This however does not mean that any type of clothing is appropriate. On some occasions during lockdown we have seen children coming into school wearing clothes that does not support their learning. These items include onesies, suits and fancy dress and we would strongly discourage you from sending your son into school wearing these types of items. As well as this list we would ask that you not to send your child into school wearing a hoodie as wearing this with the hood up, doesn't create the collaborative learning environment that we are seeking to create.

We do not want to be prescriptive, but we would want children dressed in a way that supports the type of learning that we are trying to provide. We have already mentioned collaboration, but we also have an emphasis on learning through activity – sometimes that will be based at desks in classrooms and sometimes that will be through working outside exploring our grounds. Please try to ensure that your son's clothing allows them to engage in all those ways.

We are aware that the wearing of school uniforms is something that some people hold very strong views about on both sides of the debate however we genuinely believe that for our particular school that this is the right decision. If you would like to discuss this further, please do make contact with me.

Enjoy the long weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

**Dates for your diary:**

- **Bank Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**
- **Half Term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021**
- **INSET day: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## Mercury

This week we have been studying Japan in more detail. We have created a Kamishibai (Japanese story teller) where we have created a story and a mini theatre to tell the story. For Maths we have been looking at place value looking at thousands, hundreds, tens and ones. In Science we have been looking at nutrients and what each nutrient does for our body. For topic we have been discovering how earthquakes happen and we have created our own seismograph to test earthquakes. For cooking we did a spin on traditional sushi where we created sushi but with tortilla wraps instead of seaweed.



## Mars

Another very busy week in class! This week we have been designing our own Pokemon creatures in English and we have had so much fun! We used show me don't tell me to describe how our characters might enter the room. First we used drama and acted out and each guessed the emotions this helped us with our writing to describe how the characters were feeling and how they moved. We loved these and enjoyed sharing them with the group.

In maths, we have continued our investigations into angles. This week saw us using protractors to measure angles on our desks as well as angles that we chalked for each other on the pavement. We learned about different types of angles such as acute, obtuse and right angles.

In history we learned about Hiroshima and heard some stories about the atom bomb from first-hand accounts, after this we learned to fold origami cranes.

We have also been learning about the layers of the earth and we created plasticine models to show this as well as singing songs to help us to remember.

To show how the continents formed we boiled some cream with chocolate powder on to see how the crust moved and formed over millennia.

On Friday we are on a trip to Tilgate Park to use the exercise machines and feed the ducks



## Pluto

Konichiwa,

This week Pluto have been enjoying learning about different methods of addition and subtraction in Maths. We have embarked on our exploration of Japan by learning about Mount Fuji (beautifully rendered in watercolours by the boys) and the tectonic plates that surround Japan. We recreated a level 5 earthquake using a saucepan full of boiling cream (magma) and an earth's crust of cocoa powder. Our finale for the week will be a celebration of Manga, Japanese animation, some of the boys have already started drawing some amazing Manga characters.

Outdoor learning has been very popular with Pluto and the class are raving about the newly created digging area. We have, of course, been out doing our morning mile every day.



Harry pouring the magma into the saucepan.

## Saturn

This week we have been learning about Kamishibai (kah-mee-she-bye). Kamishibai is a traditional storytelling technique popularised by travelling performers who visited rural communities to tell stories using picture boards slotted into a theatre-style wooden frame. The storyboards consist of a set of pictures with the story written on the reverse, designed to be held by the storyteller. The boys in Saturn have created their own kamishibai using the story of Momotaro which means Peach boy: Mamo - Peach and Taro - Boy. This is a famous traditional story told in Japan. Some of the boys decided to create their own story to tell in this format. All of the boys have loved this activity. In maths we have been looking at place value and have had great fun exploring number with games. In topic we have learned some interesting facts about volcanoes and have an experiment planned to demonstrate an eruption. In outdoor learning the children used seed bombs as a way to help save the bees!



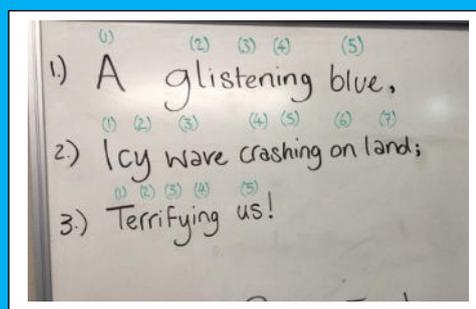
## Galaxy:

It was superb to be able to gain access to the Hawth Gymnastics centre in the K2 at Crawley. Galaxy 2 were utterly brilliant in their behaviour, manners, efforts and engagement throughout all the activities. We practiced forward and backwards rolls down some large foam wedges to help us rotate easier. We then developed our control in the air by making tuck, straight and straddle shapes in the air off of springboards before heading to the big trampoline where on the third jump the boys showed their shapes in the air and landed in the foam pit. As I said, I was extremely proud of the behaviour and efforts the boys showed.

Back in school, there has been lots of lovely social play where boys have gravitated towards each other in a positive manner, playing endless games of "higher or lower" with the supersized card deck. It has been fabulous to watch them negotiating and working so nicely together for long periods of time. In other activities, boys have been on lovely long walks, observing the flourishing bluebells and other spring flowers.

## Neptune

In Neptune this week, we have been working on fractions. We used bars of chocolate to explore the meaning of a fraction. The boys discovered that the fraction of chocolate they received reduced when they had to share it with more boys (the bigger the denominator the smaller the fraction)! They have found equivalent fractions, fractions of shapes and compared fractions and have used all of this knowledge to work as a team to solve a fractions mystery game. In English, we learnt about syllables and synonyms all of which helped us with writing a Haiku (Japanese style poem). We had some lovely creative writing from this exercise. We have been working on friendship and giving compliments to each other in PSHE and in art we explored hot and cold colours and primary, secondary and tertiary colours. The boys had great fun mixing paint and seeing what colours they could create.



## Titan

It has been a fantastically positive week in Titan class; the children have been amazing in every way! We have had lots of kindness and respect shown from the children this week!

In maths we have started looking at decimal numbers, ordering, comparing and solving problems. In English the children did some research on Japan, then decide how to present their findings; either PowerPoint or word document, using facts and information on Japan as well as pictures.

In PSHCE we started a new topic and this week we looked at Global citizenship and what it means, which ties in with our Geography topic of Trading, Imports and Exports.

The children had a fabulous PE lesson, where they played different types of outdoor games lead by our amazing coach and teaching assistant Sean.

In Science we have started a new topic too and we are looking at materials and their properties - the children did some investigation and predicting this week on types of materials and their properties.

## Outdoor Learning

In outdoor learning this week we are trying to help to save the bees. So we have learnt why we need to save the bees and how we can help. We have been making seed bombs and then bombing them into an area that we have set aside for a 'Save the bees garden'. There has also been much excitement as we have set up a digging area, where the boys can safely dig holes with spades which is proving hugely popular.



## Safeguarding Information - TikTok App

To Parents/Carers,

It has come to our attention that a number of our pupils have referenced using the app TikTok since returning from the Easter Break. TikTok is a free social media app that lets you watch, create, and share videos -- often to a soundtrack of the top hits in music -- right from your phone. With more than 100 million users in the United States alone, TikTok has innovative video-editing features, viral dances, and celebrity cameos that make it incredibly popular. And though the app has generated controversy, it can be a fun, creative outlet for tweens and teens (and parents!) when used safely and responsibly.

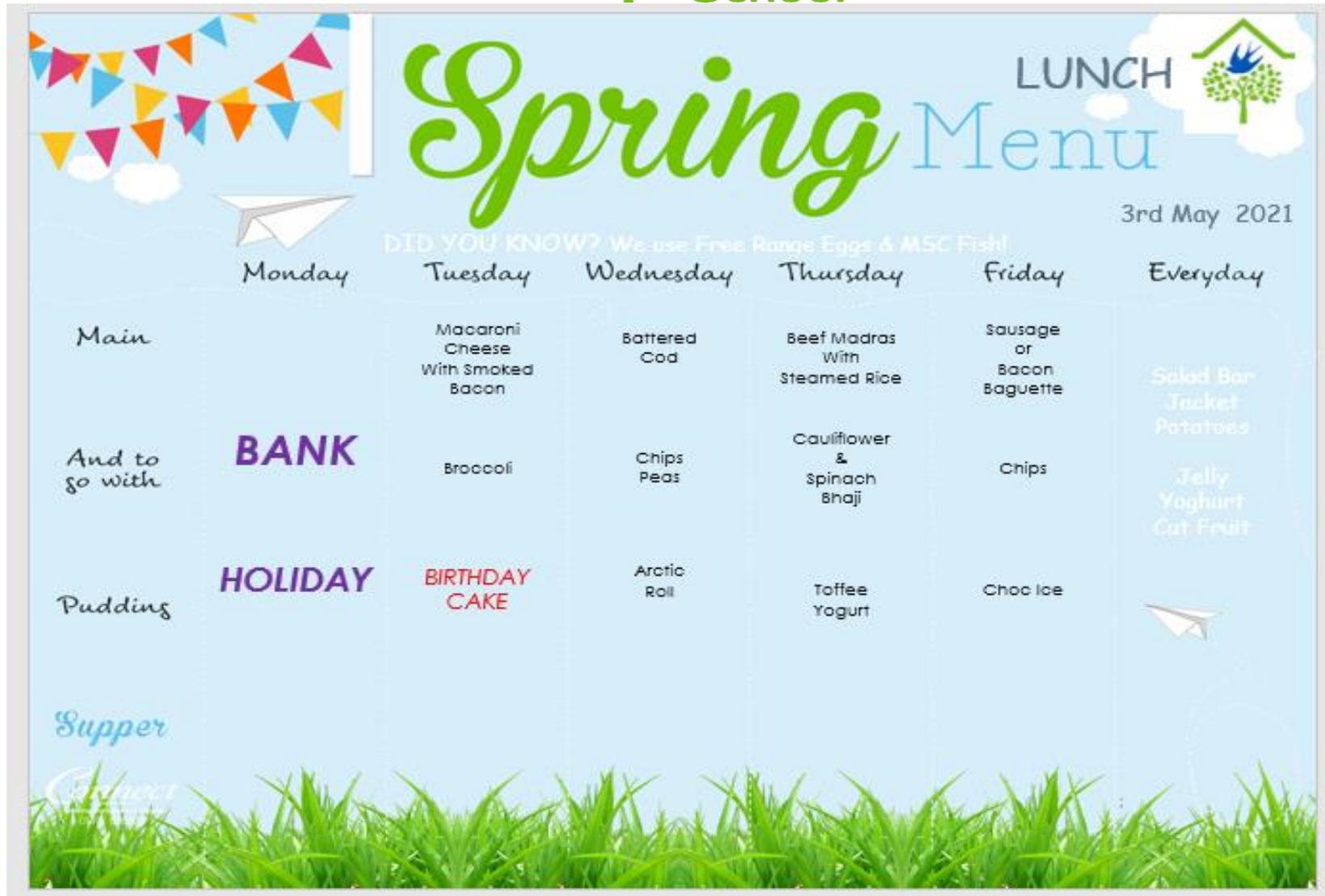
While much of TikTok is harmless fun, there are real concerns about children using the app. As with any social network, you have to use privacy settings to limit how much information you and your children are sharing. Because you can post videos immediately without first reviewing or editing them, children can upload impulsively. And other issues have dogged the app: reports of online predators using the app to target younger users; an FTC suit for violating children's privacy law; and serious software glitches -- including one that could have allowed the company to collect user data.

We highly recommend that you do not allow your child to have access to this app, or only ensure it is accessed when there is adult supervision at all times due to the dangers listed above. Please see the link below for further safety information:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

Many thanks

Robert Chowns (Designated Safeguard Lead)



**LUNCH** 

# Spring Menu

3rd May 2021

DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main		Macaroni Cheese With Smoked Bacon	Battered Cod	Beef Madras With Steamed Rice	Sausage or Bacon Baguette	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes
And to go with	<b>BANK</b>	Broccoli	Chips Peas	Cauliflower & Spinach Bhaji	Chips	Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Pudding	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>BIRTHDAY CAKE</b>	Arctic Roll	Toffee Yogurt	Choc Ice	
Supper						