

Friday 14th January, 2022.

Dates for your diary:

- INSET Day: 31st January 2022
- Half term: 21st February to 25th February 2022
- Last day of term: 8th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Like many schools, the staff team here have been learning more about a 'Trauma Informed Approach' to supporting pupils. 'Trauma Informed Schools UK' who we have been working with, have in their mission statement the following sentence that summarises their approach:

"Our objective is to bring about a whole school /organisational cultural shift where the wellbeing of all is the highest priority. We implement many interventions to ensure the relational and emotional health of all. Our interventions are evidence based with the backing of over 1,000 research studies from psychology and neuroscience."

Essentially at the heart of the approach is an acknowledgement that if children have, or are experiencing difficulties in their personal lives, such as parental separation, mental ill health or bereavement in their family, that these kind of experiences will have almost inevitably, have an impact on that child's learning.

The situation for our pupils is even more complex due to their particular special needs. It is a known fact that children with an SEN diagnosis are more likely to experience mental health challenges than their neuro-typical peers. In view of all of this we feel that it is right that we work alongside evidenced based organisations such as 'Trauma Informed Schools UK' to support our pupils now and in their futures.

In our INSET in November we spent some time learning about the impact of trauma on children and as part of our INSET in January we will be developing our understanding of what it means to be a school that is 'trauma aware'.

You may be interested in looking at the following website:

[Trauma Informed Schools UK](#)

On a different note, we have had children bring in sweets and chocolates recently and then want to give the packet to a friend. As you can imagine this leads to lots of issues, not least the fact that we are a nut free school as some of our children have very real allergic concerns in this area. Please can you ensure that children bring in appropriate snacks and understand that those snacks are to be eaten by them.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

Mercury

This week Mercury had continued to work on the festival 'day of the dead', creating masterpieces of art to finally put on display with the altar which was made by Mercury class. The boys had put great effort into creating such a thoughtful altar with creative pieces of art that consisted of clay skulls, skull masks and bunting of flags that were put up for the school to visit. A lot of painting and hard work was put into the learning about Mexico and their culture. The boys have learnt what it would be like to visit Mexico and the traditions they have set in place as well as trying and making food for the other boys in school to taste. We had created a film with specific roles we each had to present to the school. We had went on a world tour in school to try other foods from other countries. In geography they learnt where Mexico was on the world map, what the capital city was and had completed fun activities. The boys continued practicing their phonics skills and absolutely loved swimming! They are so excited to be able to go again next week to learn how to swim and have a bit of fun! The boys had floats to race and play with after the swimming lesson was done. In PE, the boys are enjoying dodgeball at the moment and are actively moving. Looking forward to next week!

Pluto

This week Pluto have continued to learn about India and Diwali as part of the WOW start. For English they performed their play of the Story of Rama and Sita using stick puppets. They learnt about the ways Diwali is celebrated and for cooking created an Indian celebration sweet called Khajur Burfi.

This is date and condensed milk, heated until it sticks together then rolled into balls and coated in coconut. Pluto created Diwali welcome mats using coloured rice and rangoli patterns that are used in the festival of Diwali to welcome the Goddess Lakshmi. For Geography they learnt where India was located and what its flag looks like using an Atlas and coloured in the flag. In Maths Pluto have been learning ways to add using a number line and column addition.



Mars

Mars have been very busy this week again for our second week of our Wow starter.

We have been researching and creating African inspired jewellery, we have been cooking amazing and tasty Ghanaian food which we have loved, we have also been learning traditional Ghanaian dances such as the Adowa, the Bamaya before finally deciding to learn the Kpanlogo which we have preformed for one of our films.

We have learned traditional folk tales about Anansi the spider which we read out and filmed and we were half way through filming a drama that we had written a screen play for when absence meant that we have been unable to complete this in time for our whole school celebration day on Friday, but watch this space...



Jupiter:

Another busy WOW week in Jupiter. As a class, we have continued learning about New Zealand including their traditions, Waitangi Day, food and art. In Food Tech we created meringues to add to our Pavlova as well as chocolate-coated fruit, we are also making sweet potato chunks. For Art we finished off our clay bone pendants, painting them white and adding string. We also made our own Tiki masks with some of us drawing them and others painting templates in vibrant colours and adding feathers. As a group, we learnt the HAKA dance and created our own Maori skirts to use in the routine. All of the above has been in preparation for our own class stall where we will show off all of our hard work, art and food! We can't wait for people to see and try our delicious food!

Saturn

We have continued working on our wow week celebration of Loy Krathong and Thailand as a country. We've learned about the elephant sanctuary and created some lovely art work. We have also worked on an acrostic poem using the knowledge and facts we have learned about Thailand. In maths, our focus has been on place value. As the grand finale of our learning we have created our own exhibition for the other classes to see and we got to look at all the other classes learning and discover information about lots of other celebrations. I have been so impressed by how well the children have remembered the facts they have learned.

Galaxy:

A lovely crisp winter's week with a wonderfully wide range of activities and learning. We headed off to the woods, on foot and on bikes to explore and make dens; finding out why invaders of the past settled where they did and what were the "bear necessities" of life that were most important to them.

As part of our fabulous WOW start, we have been exploring facts and celebrations of Brazil, comparing landscapes, monuments and the famous Rio Carnival. We have explored their currency, languages and lifestyles and made some fabulous masks in the style of the Carnival. Well done Galaxy, another week of increasing focus and progression.

Titan

We have been busy on Titan this week preparing for the whole school WOW start presentation on Friday. The pupils have written poems, riddles, and instructions on how to make pizza from scratch for the other classes to see. We then recorded some of the poems, with the pupils wearing their carnival masks which they made, and improved/added on, this week.

In PHCSE we have looked at how to make and keep friends this week and created a recipe on what you need for a friend, for example, kindness, helpfulness and care.

In Topic, the pupils have created a one page profile, both English and Italian about themselves, as well as boarding passes and an Italy snapshot to use for our presentation.

In Maths, the pupils have worked on recalling addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as rounding and problem solving.

Neptune

In Neptune class we have been working on preparing our Spanish exhibition for the end of the week's 'Celebrations' festival. We finished our Gaudi salamanders – painting them with very bright colours and the boys created some amazing drumming riffs which you can access on tapestry.

We have started working on dividing by 10 and 100. The boys have grasped this concept really quickly. Having the place value grid on the floor of the classroom has really helped as they can physically move up and down the grid the way the digits move.

In English, we have worked on similes and the boys created some lovely atmospheric sentences inspired by our class book – The Eye of the Wolf.

We started golf this week and the boys went straight out onto the putting green and learnt how to control the club and direct the golf ball through a variety of obstacles. I was really impressed with their resilience and their determination to improve – some of them spent well over 10 minutes just working on one particular obstacle!

DINE

WITH MIQUILL

**WEEK
ONE**

DINE
WITH MIQUILL
Main Meal

Dessert
STOP 

Sweet choices

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Meat Free Monday
Roasted Vegetable
Jambalaya
Garlic Bread
Cauliflower

Sausage & Mash
Pork Sausages with
Creamy Mash, Peas,
& Gravy

Roast Chicken
Chicken Thigh
Crispy Roast
Potatoes
Carrots & Green
Beans

Battered Cod
With
Chips, Peas &
Bake Beans

Grab & Go
Crispy Fish Fingers
Or
Crispy Bacon
In a Roll
Chunky Chips

Fruity Flapjack

Carrot Cake

Apple Crumble
Pouring Cream

Sticky Toffee Pudding
With
Toffee Sauce

Oaty Cookie

JACKET POTATOES WITH VARIOUS FILLINGS & BAGUETTE/ WRAPS WITH VARIOUS FILLINGS

ARE AVAILABLE DAILY.



This menu will be served on: 17th January, 14th February, 21st March