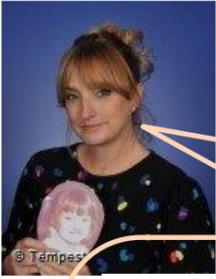


Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, **creativity** takes **flight** and **learning** SOARS TO A SKY OF **opportunity**.



Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn 2 is half way done and the weather is letting us know it's winter! We are looking forward to the Countdown to Christmas and all the festive activities that brings with it, particularly the Christmas Fayre (**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**) which is always a popular event. Please remember to dress the children appropriately for the weather; we always get them outside when it is safe to do so and it's much easier when they are wrapped up nice and snug.

It was fabulous to see so many of you at our Dine for Diwali event which really encapsulated how our diverse community comes together to celebrate. We even had some parents perform an impromptu dance for us which was very well received...plans are afoot for next year's event where we will have a stage set up and ready!

Have a lovely weekend,  
Pippa x

**PE at THS**

The Autumn Term is in full swing now and our BIRDS are making huge strides in Physical Education! EYFS and KS1 continue to improve their physical literacy (love of movement) and are showing a keen interest in dodgeball at the moment. EYFS have been exploring space – continuing to make progress in their movement skills through different space-themed games.

KS1 and KS2 have been exploring attacking and defending through mini-games. Our Year 5 and 6 BIRDS have been exploring invasion games in detail and how to transfer skills across various sports to help them be successful. We have also been looking at; how to play games fairly (including refereeing), how to behave when we win and how to behave should we lose. The children have really enjoyed unpicking feelings that arise when things don't go our way and we are looking at ways we can deal with these situations in a positive manner.



**Football:**



The football leagues and cups are progressing well. THS boys' team progressed through to the next round of the cup with a 5-2 win at St Mary's. They played superbly and came back to school in great spirits! The girls' team went through the drama of penalties in their cup match against Bedgrove and unfortunately came out on the losing side. They battled so hard to come back from 1-0 down and were left deflated after the final penalty was scored. The supporters on the side-lines were super proud of their determination.

**Handball:**

Team THS played their first fixture in the new handball league at Kingsbrook School. The children were in awe as they stepped into the newly-built gymnasium/handball court and showed their class with a hard-fought victory against Brill School. THS Team: Noah, Darius, Ramisa, Aleena, Callie, Guranshvir, Leo and Aaron.



# Achieve the Rainbow



Congratulations to all children that have received one (or two or three) of our badges for consistently displaying these values in PE lessons and around school. I always have my eyes open for children in all year groups showing the values 'when nobody is looking' to ensure these values are at the core of all of our BIRDS





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**Christmas Fayre 7<sup>th</sup> December 4pm**

With so much planned for the Fayre this year, it's difficult to know where to start!



Our Father Christmas slots sold quicker than Ed Sheeran tickets and were all gone within moments of going live. Luckily, Santa has agreed to stay on and read a story to all the boys and girls (and adults!) that weren't able to get tickets. We also have some stall holders who will be selling food and other goodies so make sure you arrive in time to get round them all! There will also be lots of games and activities to keep everyone entertained including karaoke so get those vocal chords warmed up!

We would love some parents/ carers to help with either setting up, running activities or tidying up after the event so if you are able to support in any way then please do get in touch via [dl@thomashickman.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:dl@thomashickman.bucks.sch.uk) and we will happily put you to work!

**YEAR GROUP NEWS**



**Muddy Ducks Nursery**

Our current Field of Study is 'Over the Rainbow' and involves us exploring colours. We have painted beautiful pictures with a variety of colours, using colourful glitter and finding out what happens when we mix colours. The children collected different coloured leaves to make their own autumn collage and enjoyed celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week with additional activities. Please check the Countdown to Christmas for important dates and keep an eye on Tapestry for updates.



**Muddy Ducks Pre-School**

The children are having so much fun with our 'Starry Nights' Field of Study. They have taken flight in rockets, snuggled up in their PJs and even explored a bat cave! We have loved World Nursery Rhyme Week and it was wonderful to see the children acting along to the rhymes and using them to inspire their play. We have learnt more about counting to two and would encourage parents to keep counting at home. A reminder as the weather turns colder that the children need a thick, waterproof coat - we will get outside whatever the weather!



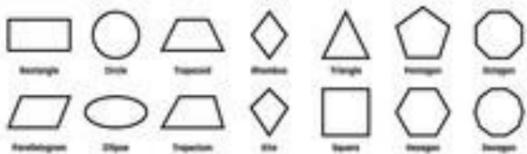
**Reception**

The children have enjoyed our dress up days and exploring a new fairy tale each week. We have learnt all of our single sounds and are continuing to practice sounding out and blending short words to read, write, inc. In Maths, the children are becoming more confident subitising and representing amounts to 5. We look forward to our trip to Aylesbury Waterside Theatre on the 6<sup>th</sup> December! We have started to practice for our Nativity performance which is on the 14<sup>th</sup> December! We look forward to seeing you then. Please remember to add your home learning weekly to Tapestry.



**Year 1**

In year 1 we have had a fantastic time reading lots of different stories, especially fairy tales. 'The true story of the three little pigs' seemed to be the favourite! The children loved trying to work out if Mr Wolf's version of the story was real or a really big trick. We are coming to the end of our shapes unit in maths and soon will be moving onto place value within 20. Please continue to access both Maths and English homework on Google Classroom as this supports the children's learning in school and we love to share what the children have been doing with the rest of the class. Exploring toys from the 1950's and 60s at the Buckinghamshire Museum was great fun; the children also enjoyed the Roald Dahl Gallery while there too. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to come along on our trips this term!



**Year 2**

This half term we have been continuing our field of study, 'Unlimited'. We have learnt about significant explorers such as Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. We have made timelines of their lifetimes and thought about the impact of their journeys and discoveries. In English we have read poems. We used our knowledge of nouns, adjectives and verbs to write our own 'diamante poems'. We are now writing our own autobiographies! In maths we have moved onto addition and subtraction. We have focused a lot on our number bonds to 10 and linking these to 20 and 100. In Science we have continued to use our investigative skills to study the uses of materials. We even made our own plastic out of milk!



**Year 3**

In Year 3 we have finished learning about the Stone Age and the Bronze Age and have arrived in the Iron Age! We have discovered how inventions and ingenuity in the Bronze Age changed the way people lived, worked and played. We have learnt about hillforts and how they both protected and defended the settlements inside their walls. We are looking forward to inviting you in for our Parent Pitstop on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December to help us build Iron Age roundhouses! In English we have been authors, crafting our own mystery stories based on The Great Storm and set in the village of Skara Brae. We have also written non-chronological reports about the coastal birds, auks. In Maths we have been developing our calculation skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have been very busy BIRDS!





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**Year 4**  
We had a brilliant time on our trip to Wallingford Museum & Castle. The children loved exploring the real-life artefacts and asking lots of questions. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to come with us! In maths, we've finished our learning about addition & subtraction and area. We've moved onto multiplication & division. Please practise on TTRS as often as you can. In English, we've been reading 'The 1000 year old Boy' and have enjoyed writing an alternative chapter. Next we will be journalists writing our newspaper reports.



**Year 5**  
This week, the children have been working really hard on their ability to add and subtract fractions! They have also written diary entries, learnt about parenthesis and even had a go at some drama activities! The highlight of our fortnight, though, has to be the exceptional Bangra dance workshop we were fortunate enough to attend as part of the incredible Diwali celebration organised by Mrs Drakard. The children LOVED IT! The adults had a pretty good time too....and we all made it through despite having been swimming in the morning! Year 5 BIRDS are super resilient!

Ask your BIRDS to help you solve this calculation!

$$\frac{9}{10} - \frac{7}{10}$$

**Year 6**  
We continue with our busy curriculum in year 6; fully immersed in our FOS Stand up, Stand out. This term focuses on human rights and equality to rid discrimination. We invite parents to our Finale on Wednesday 6th December at 2:30pm in the hall. As this is a short performance, please arrive promptly. Year 6 enjoyed the dance workshops for Diwali when we learned a Bhangra dance and then many of the children had fun at Dine for Diwali cafe. On Friday 17th we all had a fabulous day at The Houses of Parliament and learnt so much! What a memorable day! This week we have had a practise at doing SATS papers, so we are familiar with the question types. Every afternoon the children explored their creativity in an African art project.



## Count Down to Christmas



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>27<sup>th</sup> November</u>	<u>28<sup>th</sup> November</u> Year 4 Finale 1.15pm – 2.00pm 2.15pm – 3.00pm	<u>29<sup>th</sup> November</u> Muddy Ducks – Christmas Art & Crafts with parents AM/PM Year 2 NSPCC workshop Year 5 & 6 NSPCC workshops	<u>30<sup>th</sup> November</u> Deadline for Christmas jumper donations Yr3 Pit Stop – Iron age Roundhouse 2pm- 3pm	<u>1<sup>st</sup> December</u> Tree lighting (children only)
<u>4<sup>th</sup> December</u> Christmas Jumper Swap Shop	<u>5<sup>th</sup> December</u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> December</u> Reception- Theatre trip Year 6 Finale - "Undeafated" Performance in hall	<u>7<sup>th</sup> December</u> Christmas Fayre 4pm	<u>8<sup>th</sup> December</u> Year 1 Finale – Story of my life so far Year 3 Finale – Come and make Iron Age round houses.
<u>11<sup>th</sup> December</u> Year 5 Finale – Soap carving	<u>12<sup>th</sup> December</u> Year 2 Nativity 10.00am Year 2 Nativity 2.00pm (separate letter to follow)	<u>13<sup>th</sup> December</u> Christmas lunch Christmas jumper day Wassailing/carols	<u>14<sup>th</sup> December</u> Reception Nativity 10am (separate letter to follow)	<u>15<sup>th</sup> December</u> 3:15pm - Break up for Christmas Holidays



# Step into Spring 1.....

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>4th January</u> School opens 8:30am	<u>5th January</u>
<u>8th January</u>	<u>9th January</u>	<u>10th January</u>	<u>11th January</u> Reception and Yr6 Height and Weight	<u>12th January</u>
<u>15th January</u>	<u>16th January</u> Yr2 Our experience - Past productions King and queens day	<u>17th January</u> Yr4 Trip to River & Rowing Museum (Henley) Reception -Science Oxford trip	<u>18th January</u>	<u>19th January</u> Yr5 – Kew Gardens
<u>22nd January</u>	<u>23rd January</u>	<u>24th January</u>	<u>25th January</u>	<u>26th January</u>
<u>29th January</u>	<u>30th January</u> Yr6 Spirit of the Wild with animals from the Polar Tundra – Frozen Kingdom	<u>31st January</u>	<u>1st February</u>	<u>2nd February</u>
<u>5th February</u>	<u>6th February</u> Parents evening	<u>7th February</u> Reception – Finale Invention Convention	<u>8th February</u> Parents evening Yr4 Pit Stop @ 2:15pm Yr6 Pit Stop - Northern Lights Art @ 2:30pm	<u>9th February</u> Break up for half term Yr5 – Pit Stop experience Yr2 – Pit Stop



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## In the community

**Buckinghamshire Family Learning**

**Help your child manage their Wellbeing with these FREE online workshops**  
**Mondays 7pm-9pm**  
 for parents and carers with a child in Years 7-11 only\*

**Years 7, 8 & 9**

- 15 January: Help your child build confidence and resilience (FMWB056)
- 22 January: Help your child cope with stress and anxiety (FMWB081)
- 29 January: Help your child to develop positive friendships and manage peer pressure (FMWB087)
- 5 February: Happy, healthy and safe online-tips to help your child (FMWB092)

**Years 10 & 11**

- 8 January: Help your child cope with stress and anxiety (FMWB105)

\* For parents and carers with a child in Years 7 to 11 at one of the following schools: Aylesbury UTC, Beaconsfield School, Bourne End Academy, Buckingham School, Chiltern Hills Academy, Cottlesloe School, Highcrest Academy, Mandeville School, Princes Risborough School, The Grange School and Thomas Freemantle School

SCAN the QR code, CLICK on the course date link or PHONE 01296 383582 with the course code (eg. FM.....) For more information, text Kathryn 07770 641997

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**Buckinghamshire Family Learning**

**DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF FAMILY LEARNING?**

**Maths**  
 "I'm more confident to support my child. I met fantastic mums and my tutor is the best teacher. I loved doing this course."  
 100% said that the teaching was good or excellent.

**Reading**  
 100% enjoyed the course.  
 "Supportive, enthusiastic and committed. Always going above and beyond for us. I've learnt alot and it was fun."

**Stories**  
 100% of learners said that the range of activities and resources on the course were excellent.

**Writing**  
 "Thank you for being a great tutor and mentor on this Early Years journey."

**Crafts**  
 94% of learners are better able to support their child.

**Wellbeing**  
 98% of learners thought they made good or excellent progress compared to when they started the course

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**Buckinghamshire Family Learning**

**FREE ONLINE SCHOOLS COURSES for PARENTS and CARERS**

To book your place - SCAN the QR code, CLICK on the course title link or PHONE 01296 383582 with the course code (eg. FM.....)

**RECEPTION**  
 Support your child with phonics and reading: FMPR063 (5 weeks)  
 Choose from (9:30am-11:30am):  
 • Monday 8 January  
 • Tuesday 9 January  
 • Wednesday 10 January

**YEARS 1 & 2**  
 Support your child with phonics and reading: FMPR064 (5 weeks)  
 • Monday 8 January, 7pm-9pm  
 • Tuesday 9 January, 12:30pm-2:30pm  
 • Wednesday 10 January, 9:30am-11:30am

**YEARS 3 & 4**  
 Support your child with maths - shape, data and measure: FMMS048 (5 weeks)  
 • Monday 8 January, 9:30am-11:30am  
 • Tuesday 9 January, 12:30pm-2:30pm  
 • Wednesday 10 January, 12:30pm-2:30pm  
 • Thursday 11 January, 6:30pm-8:30pm

**YEARS 3, 4, 5 & 6**  
 Happy, healthy and safe online tips to help your child: FMWB090 (5 weeks)  
 • Tuesday 9 January, 9:30am-11:30am

**YEARS 5 & 6**  
 Develop your child's writing, grammar and punctuation: FMWG094 (5 weeks)  
 • Wednesday 10 January, 7pm-9pm  
 • Thursday 11 January, 9:30am-11:30am

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