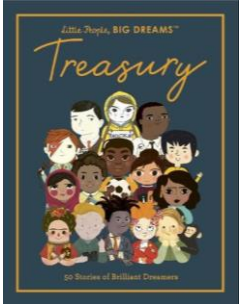




Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Families,

### **Martin Luther King Jnr Day**



On Monday, we met and spoke about Martin Luther King Jnr using a beautiful book donated by one of our families – Little People, Big Dreams Treasury. We looked at information about who Martin was as a child and how these experiences helped shape him into the adult he was – one who made a difference to millions of people with his non-violent approach to ensuring everyone is treated fairly. We thought about what skills he had as a learner. 'Trying his best' and 'being a good listener' were two of the top answers the children shared. We then took time to think about what sort of person we would like to be when we are adults, and how we can make sure we are practising these techniques each and every day.

### **Attendance – for week ending 12<sup>th</sup> January**

RPeterPan	RRosen	1Anning	1Donaldson	2Attenborough	2Johnson	3Rashford
97.7%	97.9%	98.8%	98.8%	95.7%	95.7%	95.7%

3Wicks	4Queen	4Thunberg	5Boseman	5Southgate	6Malala	6Obama
95.2%	97.3%	96.8%	97.4%	91.4%	96.3%	98.9%

What an amazing start to the new term – our attendance is looking fantastic for last week, and our **whole school average attendance percentage for this academic year so far is 93.3%**. We have some ground to make up to get up to the 96% expected by the government for all children and schools, so let's all be more mindful of attendance and lateness this term – remember that a late arrival after 9.20am is classed as an Unauthorised Late and will affect your child's attendance percentage.

Some free fruit snacks were given out this week to the 3 classes with the highest attendance percentage since we returned to school this term – well done to 5B, 3R and 1D, who currently have the highest attendance this term. Scrapples are deliciously crunchy crisps made from wonky apples. They're perfect for kids as each bag counts as one of their 5-a-day, they're allergen free and have no added sugar. Scrapples are currently stocked in the local Morrisons and are on offer until 26<sup>th</sup> January. 😊

### **Welcome Baby Docherty!**

Mrs Docherty has only been able to rest on maternity leave for a few days as her beautiful baby boy was born on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Blake Docherty weighed 6lb 11oz. We send our best wishes to Mr and Mrs Docherty and big brother Leo. We can't wait to meet baby Blake!



### **Phonics Coffee Morning**

Mrs Brown, Ms Slesiona and Mrs Akahoho loved welcoming 16 parents to the hall on Wednesday for our regular coffee morning session. Information was shared about supporting your child with reading and how we use phonics (for younger children). Please see the information shared here: <https://www.summerswood.herts.sch.uk/english/> Scroll down to the end and the pdfs are there: (About us-->Curriculum--> English star).

Please do join us at our next coffee morning on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 9am for a chat and a catch up. There are sessions booked in to look at Maths and Special Educational Needs. If you have other ideas for topics, please do come along and speak with Mrs Brown – our Parental Engagement staff member.

## **Times Table Rock Star Day!**



Wow! Thank you for all the brilliant outfits worn on Times Table Rock Star day! The children did a wide variety of Maths activities. It's so important that the children learn their number bonds in the Early Years and KS1, and their times tables in KS1 and KS2. Mr Flanagan has plenty more learning activities planned to make sure our children are Maths ready! Thanks to Y1 for sharing a brilliant photo of their Rock n' Roll class! Thank you to Mr Flanagan for looking like Rod Stewart and inspiring a great Maths day!

## **Summerswood Kitchen**

Mrs Sullivan, our School Cook, has worked in our school kitchen for more than 13 years and she has been filling plates with delicious food as Summerswood's school cook for about 9 years. Sadly, Mrs Sullivan will be leaving our school on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to begin a new role within the local community. We're doing our best to give Mrs Sullivan a great send-off. If your child would like to dress as their favourite food on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, we'd be really pleased to see this - the children could also be dressed in the colour of their favourite food, if that makes things easier! Please only let your children wear clothes you already have – nothing new is needed. Thank you for helping us give Mrs Sullivan a brilliant farewell!

## **Parent PE Questionnaire**

Please would all parents go online and complete a PE Parent Questionnaire, it will only take about 60 seconds:- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PQMXMLMN> Thank you for supporting us with this.

## **Parking**

On Monday, a resident sent us this photo of one of our parents obstructing their driveway – and this resident was unable to leave their driveway until this parent returned to his car and drove away. Please be mindful and DO NOT park on yellow zigzag lines or across our neighbouring residents' driveways; some of them also have children to get to school. We are advising our neighbours to report inconsiderate and illegally parked cars directly to the Police.



## **World Mental Health Day**



For World Mental Health Day, we asked children, parents and staff to tell us what sparks joy for you, and this is the note for this week – "Cuddles with my dog".

Kind regards,

Sarah Kneller  
**Headteacher**

## Dates to Remember

Wednesday 31st January	<b>9am: 5Boseman class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Friday 2nd February	<b>Dress as favourite food for our School Cook, Mrs Sullivan – see above</b>
Wednesday 7th February	<b>9am: 5Southgate class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 14h February	<b>9-10am: Coffee Morning – ALL parents/ carers welcome to pop in</b>
Friday 16th February	<b>School finishes at normal times for Half Term</b>
Monday 19th February – Friday 23rd February	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 26th February	<b>Start of Spring Term 2</b>
Wednesday 28th February	<b>9am: 4Q class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 6th March	<b>9am: 4T class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 13th March	<b>9-10am: Coffee Morning – ALL parents/ carers welcome to pop in</b>
Wednesday 20th March	<b>9am: 3R class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Tuesday 26th March	<b>Last day of term - for Nursery Children only</b>
Wednesday 27th March	<b>Last day of Term - school finishes at 1.30pm</b>
Thursday 28th March	<b>INSET DAY – no children in school</b>
Monday 15th April	<b>Start of Summer Term 1</b>
Wednesday 1st May	<b>9am: 3W class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Monday 6th May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Wednesday 22nd May	<b>9am: 2A class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Thursday 23rd May	<b>School finishes at normal times for Half Term</b>
Friday 24th May	<b>INSET Day – no children in school</b>
Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May	<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 3rd June	<b>Start of Summer Term 2</b>
Wednesday 12th June - Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Y6 PGL residential trip</b>
Wednesday 12th June	<b>9am: 2J class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 19th June	<b>9am: 1A &amp; 1D class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 26th June	<b>9am: Y6 PGL assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Wednesday 3rd July	<b>9am: RP class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Friday 5th July	<b>#WOODFEST 2024</b>
Wednesday 10th July	<b>9am: RR class assembly – all parents/ carers welcome</b>
Monday 22nd July	<b>Last day of term - for Nursery Children only</b>
Tuesday 23rd July	<b>Last day of Term - school finishes at 1.30pm</b>



## **DSPL6 & Hertsmere Schools' Partnership SEND Parent Information & Support Group**

**Are you the parent / carer of a child / young person with SEND?**

Come along to our monthly parent / carer support groups in Potters Bar and Borehamwood. Each session consists of an informal chat with other parents/ carers and the chance to speak to our SEND Family Support Workers.

We run the groups in 2 locations – please feel free to attend either or both.

**Next week we are in Borehamwood for our support group.**

**Please come along for a coffee and chat!**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**10 Leeming Road, Borehamwood, WD6 4DU**

**9.15am – 10:45am**

Please email [SendHSP@mountgrace.herts.sch.uk](mailto:SendHSP@mountgrace.herts.sch.uk) for more information and to register your interest – but no need to book in advance – feel free to just turn up on the day. Refreshments will be provided.



# TALKING FAMILIES



**Thursdays 9.45-11.15am** Course: ID 622  
**8th, 15th, 29th February & 7th, 14th  
21st March 2024**

**NOW ONLINE!**

**6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-12 sharing tips on how to:**

- **Manage challenging behaviour with consistency**
- **Encourage positive behaviour**
- **Build your child's self esteem**
- **Set and maintain boundaries**
- **Respond to tantrums and difficult feelings in children**
- **Develop a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future**

**Groups are delivered by Zoom and are open to parents, carers, grandparents and guardians living, or with a child in school, in Hertfordshire.**

**'Every parent should do this course! It has taught me so much about how to deal with family life.'**

**Booking essential**

**Please quote the course ID**  
**To check eligibility and book a place, contact Supporting Links on:**

**07512 709556**

**[bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk)**

**[www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)**



These courses are provided free to participants by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



# Help to manage the cost of living

See all of the support, advice and services available to help you stay safe and well. Visit:  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterhelp](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterhelp), call 0300 123 4044 or scan the QR code

We're  
with you  
this winter



## HertsHelp

Trained advisors offering free, confidential advice on local services and support

Call: 0300 123 4044  
Email: [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)  
[www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

## Community spaces

Find a community space near you, locations all across Hertfordshire

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/communityspaces](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/communityspaces)

## Mental health

Advice and support for your happiness, wellbeing and mental health

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth)

## Money and benefits advice

Free guides on debt and benefits, disability, bereavement, housing, retirement and carer support

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/moneyadvice](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/moneyadvice)

## Citizens Advice

Free, local and confidential advice on benefits, money and credit problems, employment, housing and family issues

Call: 0800 144 8848

## Help for households

Central government is offering support with energy bills, transport, childcare and household costs

[www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk](http://www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk)

We're  
with you  
this winter



# SEN SOFT PLAY @ FURZEFIELD

For Learning Disabled Children up to 11 years old

**PRE BOOKING REQUIRED**

(Reduced capacity: limited to 40 children)



Furzefield  
Leisure Centre  
Mutton Lane  
Potters Bar  
EN6 3BW

**SATURDAY 27TH**

**JANUARY**

**9AM TILL 10AM**

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levels of fun for  
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explore, stay safe  
and interact

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Taking place  
@  
**Furzefield**  
Leisure Centre

**PARENT/CARER SUPERVISION NEEDED**

**RSVP to Adam by Wednesday 24th January**

**[development@hertsmeremencap.org.uk](mailto:development@hertsmeremencap.org.uk)**



# SCRAPPLES

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packed lunches  
& snack times!



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