

Weekly Newsletter

Growing Together: Every Day In Every Way

Value of the month
Responsibility

Year 1 Fruit Kebabs!

Thanks to the January weather, we were unable to go for our geography trip to Mill Plain last week! Instead, the children took part in some additional DT work. As part of the National Curriculum, children need to be able to use equipment to perform practical tasks (like cutting). All of the children, remembering our safety rules for cutting, used knives to carefully cut a wide range of fruit and then assemble it on skewers to make delicious fruit kebabs. The children were all very excited to eat their kebabs and had lots of fun putting them together, as you can see from the photos! Well done Year 1.



Attendance Bear

The Attendance for the week is as follows:

- 1st** Starfish 99%
- 2nd** Penguin & Giraffe 98%
- 3rd** Octopus 97%

Well done everyone!



Philosophy Friday

Have a go at this question at home with a grown-up!

Which would you choose... scary kittens or happy monsters?

Why?

DIARY DATES:

Parent Consultations

Mon 2nd February
Thurs 12th February

PTA Cake Sale

13th February

Last Day of Term

13th February

Half Term

16th-20th February

First Day of Term

23rd February

World Book Day & Big Read (AM)

5th March

Parent Consultation Reminders

We look forward to meeting with families very soon for our Parent Consultations. The dates are as follows:

Monday 2nd February - 3:40 to 6pm
Thursday 12th February - 3:40 to 7pm

Everyone who is meant to have an appointment should have been able to book one now. For children with EHCP's or IEP's, we will hold a full, separate meeting this term so you do not need to book an appointment. **Please be reminded:**

- Children need to be collected promptly so that teachers have time to prepare for the first appointment. Please **leave the site** so we are able to settle children into clubs safely.
- Arrive 5 minutes before your allocated time so you will be able to view some of your child's work until the teacher is ready.
- Try to find alternative child care for your child as it is not always appropriate to discuss attainment and progress in front of your child. If this is difficult, we will have a crèche in Acorns.
- If your appointment is **before 4:30** and our after school clubs are in operation, please **enter via the Year 1 gate**. Please also leave the same way. This will help us to keep our school site secure. For appointments **after 4:40**, please go through the **Year 2 gate** and enter through the hall doors.
- Gardening, Art Skills and Craft Clubs will take place in a different area of the school and parents should collect from the Year 2 gates.

PTA Valentines Cake Sale

Calling all bakers! We need your help. The PTA are organising a Valentines cake sale on the **13th February from 3pm**.

Please bring your baked donations into the school office starting from **Monday 9th** February, and make sure to include an ingredients list with your homemade donations (see attached poster).

All cakes must be **NUT-FREE**.

- The school gates will open **from 3pm** to ease congestion and so our younger children can choose their cakes safely with an adult.
- You may buy cakes before collecting your children, if easier.
- Please be patient as it may get busy. There will be a **queueing system** in-place to help with the business of the sale.
- Please remember to donate cakes as we can only sell what we have.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the day, please contact the PTA via their email address: pta.churchfields@gmail.com



World Book Day & The Big Read

World Book Day takes place on **Thursday 5th March**. We have planned several events to take place to celebrate our love of books and reading.

- For Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, we will be hosting a Big Read from **8:55 to 9:25am**. Children are encouraged to come into school wearing pyjamas and with their favourite (named) books ready to join our 'Bookfast'.
- Nursery will host a **'Stay and Play'** session (with children also wearing pyjamas!) which will include time for reading. The times are as follows:



Morning session 8:45 – 10:00 am

Afternoon session 1:00 – 2:00 pm

(from 12:45 pm for parents of afternoon children)



We look forward to seeing you there!

Year 2 Hockey

In Year 2, our outdoor P.E. sessions have had a focus on developing our fundamental movement skills and teamwork by beginning their hockey lessons. The children have been learning about hand placement when correctly holding the hockey stick, as well as carefully dribbling the ball across the pitch. They have enjoyed collaborating as a team and developing simple tactics for attacking and defending. Keep it up Year 2!



Wet Weather Drop-Off Reminder

Please note that in light to moderate rain, we require children to line up as usual in the playground. Teachers and teaching assistants are very busy during this valuable time preparing for the day ahead.

In cases of heavier rain or more challenging weather, school staff will advise of any adjustments to ensure everyone's safety and comfort.



Please ensure you and your child are dressed appropriately for all types of weather. If you are ever unsure about arrangements at drop-off, a member of staff on the school gates will be happy to advise.

Road Safety

This week, children from Reception, Year 1 and 2 learnt all about road safety with a 'ZOOpa Doopa' Road Safety assembly. They talked about how to stay safe with the different zoo animals, Zoe the Zebra taught us about zebra crossings for example. They also learnt about how to stay safe when walking next to the road (by staying away from the roadside) and the importance of holding the hand of a grown up. They also learnt the four important key words for road safety: Stop, Look, Listen and Think!



Weekly Maths Challenge

Reception

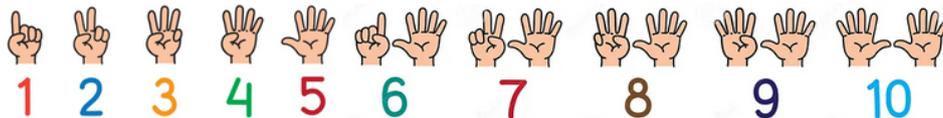
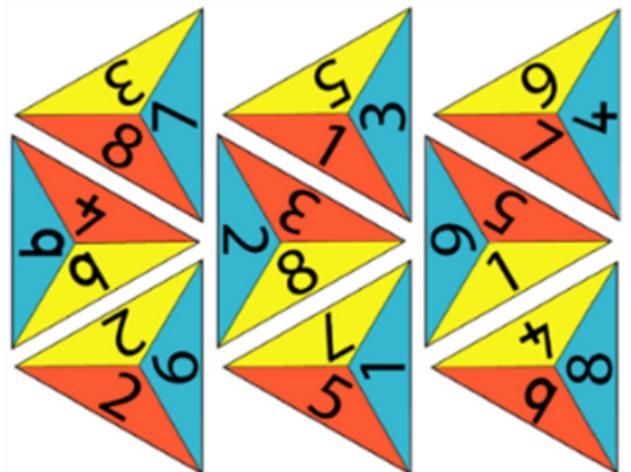
Our Reception children will receive their login details for NumBots alongside this newsletter. Can you support them in logging in and having a go at one of the subitising with small numbers or adding/subtraction within 10 activities? We can't wait to see how they get on!



Have a look at the attached guide below if you need support with using the system.

Years 1 and 2

Here are nine triangles. Each one has three numbers on it. Your challenge is to arrange these triangles to make one big triangle, so the numbers that touch add up to 10.



E-Safety Tip of the Week!

Top Tips for Managing Screen Time

Please see attached an informative poster about managing screen time effectively at home; this includes lots of advice and helpful tips.



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HOW THE GAME WORKS

BEFORE THE GAME

Children are welcomed to the game with an opening video, where they are introduced to the central character, “Rusty”. In the video, Rusty asks for help in his quest to find new parts to upgrade him to a diamond robot, so he can “shine inside and out, like a Diamond”. Next, the child will be able to choose a bot name they will play under, as well as their own robot character.



PLAYING THE GAME: STORY MODE

The game starts in ‘Story Mode’. There are 18 stages - from Rust to Diamond - and each stage is made up of a number of levels. Players start at Rust level 1 and, to unlock the next level, they need to earn at least 2 out of 3 stars.

To earn the 2 or 3 stars required to pass the level, children must demonstrate a level of fluency when answering the questions. This means they must be accurate and timely with their answers; if children get 0 or 1 stars they need to answer more quickly. The game ensures that learners don’t move on to the next level until they show they are prepared for it. Story Mode starts with very basic maths (subitising numbers) and progresses steadily and rigorously to addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers.



PLAYING THE GAME: CHALLENGE MODE

When players complete Stage 3 (Tin): Level 35 in Story Mode, they will unlock Challenge Mode. Here they can race the clock to test themselves on how many questions they can answer correctly in one minute. There are 20 different challenges to choose from; each challenge testing a different skill, for example number bonds to 10, adding single digits or subtracting double digits.



HOW THE GAME WORKS

THE CUSTOM SHACK

For every maths question answered correctly, the child will receive coins to spend in the Custom Shack. Here, they are able to purchase new parts to upgrade and personalise their own robot character. As well as earning coins, children are kept motivated throughout their NumBots journey by collecting badges and winning trophies to reward their achievements.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

We recommend children get 3 minutes a day four or five times a week. There will be times when they need your help understanding what to do (to help with that, there is an info slide before each level begins) or even with typing in the answers. They may need encouragement from time to time and they may benefit from being reminded that making mistakes is something perfectly natural.

They could also reach a point in the maths that is beyond their reach for now; if it feels like they’ve reached a blocker, we’d recommend returning to earlier levels and trying to complete them with 3 stars. If they are regularly struggling to achieve 2 stars, it may be worth speaking to their teacher about possible strategies and asking them to change the Story Controls for your child, which will give them longer to pass each level.



CHURCHFIELDS PTA

VALENTINE'S CAKE SALE

FRI
13
FEB

We would be incredibly grateful for your donations of homemade or shop-bought cakes for our Valentine's cake sale.

Please ensure all donations are nut-free.

These can be left at either school office from Monday 9 February.

Please include a list of ingredients with your homemade donations, otherwise they cannot be sold.

INFANT SALE: 3PM

JUNIOR SALE: MORNING BREAK

FOR JUNIORS: PLEASE SEND YOUR
CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH 50P OR £1



Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

BUY MILK

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday