



Madginford Primary School

Egremont Road, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 8LH
Telephone: 01622 734539 Fax: 01622 736566
email: office@mps.kent.sch.uk
www.madginfordprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Amanda Woolcombe
2nd February 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

As we move towards the end of term we have a number of events coming up which we would like to share with you.

6th - 8th February

Year 4 Bikeability is taking place. Check with your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

8th February

Whole School Animal Dash

On Thursday 8th February, we have our dash for the term. This term's theme is animals. The children can come into school dressed as any animal they like. This could be their favourite animal and one that they already have a costume for. There is no need to buy a new costume for this. Face paint and coloured hair spray is allowed, but please bear in mind, we are still in school on Friday.

Half-term

We will break up for half-term on Friday 9th February. School starts again on Monday 19th February.

1st March

PTA Quiz Night 7pm - 9.30pm. Look out for more details to follow.

6th - 7th March

The EYFS hearing and vision screening will be taking place. Information was emailed to parents in November - please check with the office if you would like more help.

7th March

World Book Day. The English team are busy planning and we look forward to an exciting day! Details will follow soon.

11th - 15th March

Science Week. The Science leads are putting together some exciting activities for our Science week. We know the children will enjoy it very much!

Parents Evening: Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27th March



School Improvement Priorities:

1. Reading: to be excellent readers

One of our school improvement priorities this year is reading and I am pleased to say the children have been working incredibly hard with this. On a Friday we have incorporated reading certificates into our achievement awards and it has been lovely to see so many children receiving these. The reading certificates celebrate both the reading in the classroom and reading at home. I would like to say a big thank you to you all for your support with the sponsored reading event - each class has spent the money raised on books for their class and this has been really exciting for the children.

Teaching staff have been working hard to choose stimulating texts to share with their classes during reading lessons and Miss Chaplin (who is one of our English Leads) and I were very impressed with the enthusiasm we have seen from the children when we have visited reading lessons.

In EYFS and Year 1 we are continuing to use Read, Write, Inc as our phonics programme and again the children are working hard learning their phonics.

2. Community - all children to engage in a community improvement project

In the autumn term children planned their community project for the year and we have held our second community week this term where children have been adding more detail to their plans ready for the summer term when the projects will come to fruition.

Our Year 1 have really enjoyed thinking about how to create a safe, snug hedgehog house. They are still experimenting with the materials they find at playtime, exploring the best ways to build homes for hedgehogs and nests for birds. It is lovely to see their enthusiasm.

Year 2 are very busy planning the mural they will create in the summer term to represent the school. This will be very exciting to see and we are very grateful to one of our wonderful parents for her support with this.

Year 3 are going to be conducting a local community litter pick in the summer term and are engaged in planning for this. They are very keen!

Year 5 created 3D portraits of people who inspire them while Year 4 continued to think about their local heroes. Again the children have had some fantastic ideas.

Our Year 6 children are looking at local and oral history and are engaged in researching and documenting stories of relatives and local people.

Children and staff are really enjoying their projects and are looking forward to putting it all together in our final community week later in the year. We will hold a celebration event to share our projects with parents in the summer term when all projects are completed.

3. Ensure all children can recognise and celebrate their successes

By ensuring that provision for **SEN pupils** continues to develop through close partnership with parents and bespoke staff training and support

I am pleased to inform you that we will be hosting coffee mornings for parents with the educational psychologist. This is a service being offered by the local educational psychologist and is a brand new initiative. Madginford will be a host school for schools in the area. The provision will in the first instance focus on Madginford parents before hopefully being rolled out to parents across the area. As soon as we have more details these will be shared with parents.

The school will also be hosting monthly coffee mornings for parents from term 4. These will be led by outside speakers and specialists across a range of fields and will enable us to share information, signpost parents to outside support and of course provide networking opportunities for parents.

Mrs Hodges and Mrs Farrell both hold the SENCO accreditation and are in place as SENCO(s) this year. If you would like to discuss your child's SEND needs please do make an appointment through the school office. Both Mrs Hodges and Mrs Farrell will be inviting parents to meet with them at Parents evening which take place at the end of Term 4 (Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27th March).

Curriculum News

This term, our learning has had a history focus. Children in Year 3 have enjoyed finding out about the Ancient Egyptians while Year 4 had a wonderful time during their 'Ancient Greek' day. Year 5 have been finding out the about the Ancient Maya while Year 6 have been engrossed in their WW2 linked topic, finding out about modern day heroes. There has been plenty of passionate discussion and debate taking place! In Year 1, children have decided that they really wouldn't like going to school in Victorian times while Year 2 have enjoyed finding out all about the people who helped the astronauts walk on the moon.

Reception children have had a busy term with their bikeability visitors. It has been lovely to watch the enthusiasm of the children as they develop their skills on both balance bikes and bikes with pedals. Year 4 are looking forward to their bikeability sessions which take place next week. Year 6 have been working on their fitness, regularly competing against the 'bleep' test while Year 3 have enjoyed their Egyptian themed dance unit. Year 1 have been working with our visiting coach to develop their badminton skills. They've moved from practising with balloons to using shuttlecocks. This week, they're hoping they'll be playing a game against their partners.

It has been a pleasure to see all of the hard work taking place in the classrooms - we're looking forward to seeing what happens next term.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Woolcombe
Headteacher