



# Featherstone Academy Newsletter- Week Ending 17/02/2023

## A Message from the Headteacher

As you receive this newsletter, we are now half way through the year, where has that time gone?! At school, our environment continues to evolve, particularly in our Early Years where significant work and investment has been undertaken. With our Looking into Learning week upcoming, Parents Evenings upcoming we hope to give parents a chance to see these improvements. We had our first Parent Forum this week, which was really beneficial in regards to ensuring we are offering the best education to our children and the best service to their families. I wish everyone a good half term break where our children will benefit from some rest and quality time spent with their families. I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 27th February for a 5 week half term through to 31st March.

## Parent Forum

Thank you to those parents who attended the parent forum this week. Lots was discussed. We will be aiming to have another one, with the same information discussed at a different time of the day very soon and then another in the Summer Term where the same parents may wish to return.

The main discussion points were around:

- A clearer, simpler overview of what is being taught each term would be helpful - we will begin to do this and share these here
- An example of something being learnt in every year group each week would help for conversation about school at home - we will start this after half term
- Could improve how EYFS parents see more of their child's development - from September we will be using Tapestry (an app for this purpose)
- An offer of after school clubs which are not all necessarily sporty - we will try to offer this, but would love if any parents would volunteer to do one

- More community events: discos, quizzes etc. - We would love to do this. Our staff will attend and support any and all events but we need community support with this as we do not have the capacity to organise these without having a detrimental impact on education provided in school
- I shared information about the introduction of new site security measures, including CCTV and higher/improved fencing
- Information was shared about further opportunities for parental engagement and that we should share information around what volunteers do and how flexible it is
- Some parents are not always aware of what they can and cannot request from school - for example out of school meetings and discussions. There is not much we won't offer, so please get in touch
- It was shared that some parents communicate with school through the MCAS app or the school website contact page. Unfortunately, those messages do not go anywhere. We are trying to fix this, but please communicate with us through the office via phone/email (information@featherstone.uwmat.co.uk) or through me directly.
- We discussed whether introducing parents to Celebration Assembly (R-6) would take away the surprise for their children winning. We agreed the benefit of the parent being there if possible, outweighed this. After half term, we will be looking at inviting parents of those in receipt of a certificate with at least a few days notice. We understand it won't be possible for all.

All conversations were of benefit and as you can see, parental voice is valued and actioned.

## Parents Evening Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th March

We look forward to welcoming you to our next parents evening on Monday 6th March and Tuesday 7th March.

These are for Reception to Year 6. Nursery and Little Learners will be in touch separately. Please click on the following link, as normal, to book in your time. Please contact the office if there are any issues.

Please note, you will need to type the word **class** and the number not just the number, E.g. **class 4**

<https://featherstoneacademy1.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

## After School Activities and Tutoring Cancelled 6th & 7th March

Please note on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March, after school activities and tutoring will be cancelled due to Parents Evening. Our paid, after school care club will be run as usual. The activities and tutoring effected will be:-

- Basketball Year 2 & 3
- Football Year 3 & 4
- Year 1 Phonics

- Year 6 Reading
- Year 6 Maths
- Year 6 Maths (Third Space Learning)

All activities will be resume as normal the following week.

## Early Reading - Year 1 Phonics



# READING AT HOME

At Featherstone Academy, we know just how important reading at home is for our children. The more support our children receive at home, the quicker their reading progress will be. Together we want to get all children reading, as soon as possible.

We want to update you about some changes you will see in your child's book bag. Books bags will contain 3 books that need to be in school each day:



**1**

Core Story Book  
The first book is a core storybook; your child will have been taught how to read this book over a whole week in school. Children have focused on reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension and will be able to read this book like a storyteller.

Book Bag Book  
The second book is a matched Book Bag Book, this book will link in some way to the core storybook, but it will not have been taught in school. Both books will be fully decodable for your child.

**2**





**3**

Sharing Book  
As well as the RWI books, your child will also bring home a library book that they have personally selected, to read for pleasure. This book will not necessarily be a fully decodable story, so it will be a book to share with your child. Please enjoy this story together.

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

Emilie Buchwald

## Key Dates

27th February - **Year 2 SATS Meeting** (3:30pm)

2nd March- World Book Day - **Whole School**

6th/7th March- Parents Evening **Reception to Year 6** - 3:30pm-5:30pm

6th March-Parents Evening **Nursery**-3:30pm-4:30pm

7th March- Parents Evening **Little Learners**-3:30pm-4:30pm

14th, 15th & 16th March - Book Fair - 3:30pm - 4:30pm **Whole School**

17th March-British Science Week-**Whole School**

20th-24th March-Parent 'Look into Learning' Week (info to follow)

21st March-World Down Syndrome Day- 'Rock your Socks'- **Whole School**

29th March- Easter Bonnet Parade- **Little Learners, Nursery and Reception** 9:30am

30th March- Easter Celebration led by **Year 3 and 4**- 9:30am-(year 3/4 parents welcome to attend)

## Year 2 SATS Meeting - Reminder Monday 27th February

Year 2 SATS will be taking place in May. To ensure that you and your child are fully prepared for the content of these assessments and how they will run, I am holding a Year 2, parent/carer SATs workshop at, 3.30pm, on **Monday 27th February in school.**

During the workshop, we will discuss the following:

- An overview of the assessments detailing the tests that will take place
- How the tests will be administered in KS1
- What you can do at home to support your child in the weeks leading up to SATS

## Charity Fundraiser- Years 5 & 6

This half term we have been learning about how to support our community in our PSHE and RE lessons. As a result of this, we have been working on different ways of raising funds for certain community projects.

Year 5 will be raising funds for our local community centre, as we have already taken part in planting trees and looking after the local environment. The money raised will help them to continue to support this fantastic initiative.

Year 6 will be raising funds for the local chapel, who offer a weekly Friendship group meeting to those members of the community who are alone or need friendship and support.

Our fundraiser will be in the form of a sponsored walk around the school field in our PE lessons on Monday 27th February. If you are able, we are asking that donations would be gratefully received in a sealed envelope and given to either class teachers or the school office. These are fantastic local causes and gives our children the opportunity to become more aware of how the community we live in supports us all. Thank you.



## World Book Day 2nd March



**World Book Day**

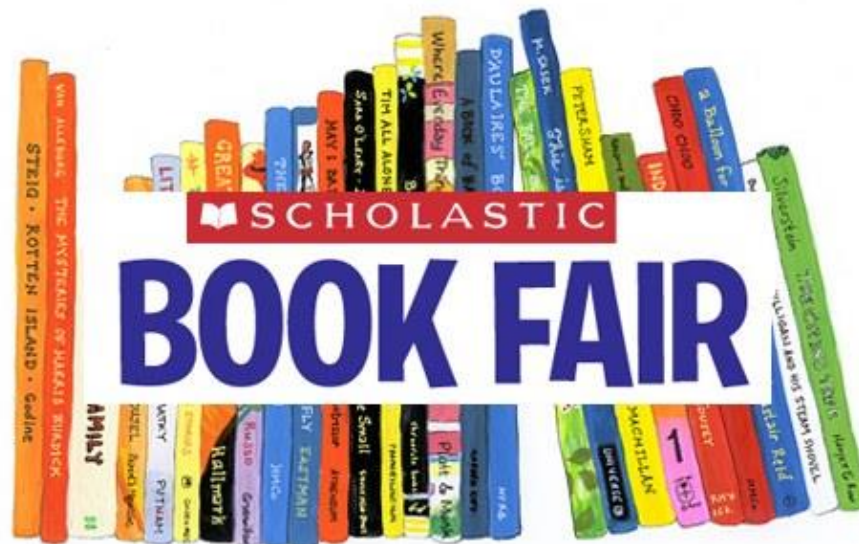


World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Its mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. Spending **just 10 minutes a day** reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their future success and it's fun for all involved.

World Book Day 2023 will be on **2 March 2023**, children of all ages will come together to share the joy of reading for pleasure. We are asking on that day for all children to come in dressed as their favourite character from a book they love. We are so excited to see who walks through our door on World Book Day as see where our reading takes us!

## Book Fair 14th, 15th, 16th March



### Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Featherstone!

Do you want the best new children's books? They're coming to our school soon!

Join us on **Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th March** at 3.30pm and find your next favourite read. Not only will you be getting your hands on the best new children's books, you will be supporting our school as every book purchased will help to fill our classrooms and library with free books!

Scholastic have reworked their entire book fair price range with book prices starting as low as £1.99 and 30% of the books now under £5 and under £3. Children can also use their World Book Day tokens towards the cost of a new book.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION; THIS IS A CASHLESS BOOK FAIR CARD ONLY PAYMENTS

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Easter Bonnet Parade 29th March

### Easter Bonnet Parade

Let the decorating begin!

Easter bonnets are part of a long, established tradition of wearing new clothes on Easter that first originated in parts of Europe. As well as celebrating the coming of Spring, it would be a time to mark the end of Lent and signal new life.

At Featherstone Academy, we are inviting Little Learners, Nursery and Reception to create an Easter bonnet at home to then bring into school for a parade on **Wednesday 29th March at 9.30am**. Parents and carers of children in Little Learners, Nursery and Reception are welcome to attend. We may even have a special visit from a hoppy little friend! 🐰

We can't wait to see what amazing designs you create at home.



## Golden Book

A big well done to;

The Hive- **Jax Bethell**

Little Learners- **Carter Lawrence**

Nursery- **Maisie Spilsbury**

Reception- **Cobey Atkinson**

Year 1 - **Ella Jones**

Year 2- **Anushka Sharma**

Year 3 - **Layla Tarbuck**

Year 4- **Lottie Tuckwell**

Year 5- **Maryam Rashid**

Year 6 - **Chloe Haywood**

Headteacher Mr Gatrad- **Jax Bethell**

Deputy Headteacher Mrs Steatham- **Sophia Humpage**

Miss Heath- **Madie Trow**

## Contact Us

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