



February 2024

Platt Bridge Community School

Promote Belief Create Success

CEO & Executive Headteacher's Message



Dear parents and carers,

The arrival of the Spring term has seen our children excited to explore their new curriculum topics: I have been amazed by what they have been learning about.

In February, we took part in Number Day. The children had a fantastic time solving mathematical challenges; finding out about significant mathematicians and their discoveries throughout history and of course dressing up as our favourite numbers! Thank you for your support with our event. Together we raised £220.61 for the amazing cause, NSPCC.

Our Year 4 children visited York this half term as part of their curriculum enrichment to discover more about the Vikings and their way of life. The children were a credit to our school; their behaviour was exemplary.

I wish you all a restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 26th February .

Best wishes,
Mrs Darbyshire
CEO Executive Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

Red Nose Day
15/03/2024

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

Children may wear their own clothes and are encouraged to wear something red or a red nose! Please bring a shiny coin

World Book Day
07/03/2024

**WORLD
BOOK
DAY**

Children are invited to dress as a book character linked to their class novels! Further details and ideas can be found on Class Dojo.

Parents Week Rec-Y6
Week beginning 04/03/2024

See Class Dojo to book an appointment and for further details

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

Superheroes Breakfast & After-school Club

This half term, the children have enjoyed making their own pizzas and celebrating Chinese New Year by trying new foods! We also had pancakes on Pancake Day. We've enjoyed taking part in obstacle courses, skipping competitions and dance offs! If you want to join us, book on Parent Pay.



Nursery

We have been reading our new book, 'We're going on a bear hunt!' We went on our own hunt to find the story using actions to act out the story. We have learnt about lots of different bears including brown bears and polar bears. We made our own masks to act out the story and made cupcakes for our own teddy bear's picnic!



Reception

Our book of the month, 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' has helped us discuss how to care for our environment. We practiced a pollution chant and made our own instruments in junk modelling to perform it. We have been looking at Georgia O'Keefe's artwork and making our own paintings to brighten up our classroom spaces.



Year 1

We have been learning about different forms of transport now and in the past. We went on a local walk to look at what types of transport we could see in Platt Bridge and found transport links on a map. In Art, we explored the work of Van Gogh and have painted our own work inspired by his style!



Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed computing this half term. We have been using algorithms to give clear instructions to our friends and to programme Bee Bot robots to move around the classroom and to different points on a map. In Music, we learnt how to play different notes on the chime bars and a new song!



On 6th February, we took part in Safer Internet Day. The children talked about how to stay safe online and when using devices. You can find more information here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Last week was Children's Mental Health Week. We supported children to remember that their voice matters' and to be confident to express themselves. Children thought about what empowers them to be who they want to be.

Year 3

Year 3 have begun to learn about the Celts in History - we know who they were, where they came from and their impact on Britain today! We are enjoying our new class novel, *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*, and have written some amazing shape poems based on it. We are proud of our achievements in swimming - the children have developed their swimming skills and developed great water confidence too!



Year 4



This half term we went on our curriculum trip to York! We visited Jorvik and DIG to adopt the roles of archaeologists to find out about life in the past in Viking York! We also visited the Castle Museum exploring crime and punishment through British history. In art, we have studied Claude Monet's work and created our own seascape landscapes using pastels.

Year 5

Year 5 finished their class novel, *'The Last Bear'* this half term - we loved reading it and were sad when it came to an end! We have started our new topic learning about China. We have been exploring the geography of the country in Asia whilst also learning about ancient civilizations and hierarchy in the Shang Dynasty. We have been designing our own motorised mechanical cars in DT and can't wait to construct them!



Year 6



We have been working really hard in Y6 and enjoying reading our class novel, *Pig Heart Boy*. The writing Y6 have produced on the text is amazing! The children have shown great empathy with the main character who is having a heart transplant through their diary entries. In History, we have explored how leaders come into power through democracy, inheritance and conquering others. In Geography, we have begun to explore the industrial revolution within Greater Manchester.



THINGS TO REMEMBER



Home Reading

Remember to encourage your child to read at home. Sharing a book for 20 minutes a day is a great way to support your child's development. If you want any support with this, please ask your child's teacher.

Attendance

Getting children to school every day, on time really matters. Please encourage your child to attend and if you need any support or have any questions, contact the school's pastoral team.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE: GAMING

Whether children are playing games online, on devices or on their mobile, it is important they know how to keep safe. Here are some top tips.

1. Choose a safe username

Online games like Fortnite and Roblox can let children play with your friends but also strangers from around the world. It is important your child's username is not their real name and does not include important information like their school name or date of birth.

2. Make sure your password is strong

When choosing a password, make sure it is strong and secure. It should not include your child's name or easily guessable information. Make sure they don't write it down or share it with anyone other than you.

3. Be careful who you play online with

Most online games are open to everyone, that means children could be playing with people much younger or older than them. Make sure your child knows how to get help if they feel someone is being abusive, threatening or trying to bully them online. It is important not to private message anyone online and to know how to report and block someone.

4. Ensure your child takes breaks from online gaming

Lots of children like to play for as long as they can without stopping. But taking short breaks when they're playing games can help them to stay healthier and stop them from getting bored. Set regular breaks for your child especially if they show signs of tiredness or becoming withdrawn from other things they enjoy and friends.

5. Avoid in game purchases

Lots of online games are free to play but often they include add ons like skins, loot boxes or additional lives that you can buy in the game. It is important children understand this is 'real money' and know they must speak to an adult before they buy anything.