

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

It has been so wonderful to have welcomed ALL of our children back to school after the third National COVID lockdown. Our children and families were so happy to return to school; the children have settled back so well and are eager to learn.

We have had a busy term already with a book week, a Science week and of course catching up with the friends we have missed after being apart for such a long time! As part of our book week celebrations we were fortunate to have some local VIP's sharing their dreams and aspirations with us and speaking openly about their journeys (all virtually of course). We also had our very own "Masked Reader" competition organised by our English leader, Miss Brunton. If you have seen the similarly named show involving singers wearing masks you will understand where the theme came from and the idea behind the concept. If you are not familiar with the show, I will explain our version... some of our members of staff recorded themselves reading a favourite story and each class had to try and guess who was reading the story behind the mask. The class with the most correct guesses at the end of the week earned an amazon voucher to spend on books for the class.

The concept of this mask has struck a chord with me. I have been wondering how many times, we as humans, wear our mask and hide our true feelings, when we are sad we might wear a fake smile as a mask or when we are asked if we are OK? We may mask our answer with an all too familiar response of "I'm fine" when really we are not. It is so important that we teach our children to be real and honest about their feelings and not be ashamed to own them; they are one of the few things in life we do get to own! We should encourage our children to not hide behind a mask and pretend they are OK or fine, if they are not. This is important all the time, but particularly after the world events of the past year, I think we can all probably say that this has affected us personally to some extent and has affected the way we feel. This uncertainty can lead to anxiety, so let's encourage our children and each other to not hide behind the mask, but to show and tell us how they feel and accept that this is OK; that it is healthy to share how you feel so that others can help and support you.

I may have shared this next thought before; apologies if I have, but important things should be shared over and over again... I love the Japanese art of Kintsugi. It means literally "to join or repair with gold". Kintsugi is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with liquid gold- built on the idea that in embracing flaws and imperfections and not hiding them, you can create an even stronger, more beautiful piece of art. Every break is unique and instead of repairing the item like new, the 400 year old technique actually highlights the "scars" as part of its design. Using this as a real life metaphor can teach us an important lesson: Sometimes in the process of repairing things that have broken; including us; we actually create something more beautiful, unique and resilient. By being real and not hiding our scars, thoughts and feelings we emerge stronger and more beautiful and also give people around us permission to do the same. So next time you feel like wearing that metaphorical mask and "faking it until you are making it": Stop, breathe, think about Kintsugi and remember that no one is perfect, you don't need to hide behind the mask, the right people will support and love you for who you are and how you feel; right at this very moment.

**'The subject of mask wearing in this message is completely metaphorical and should be viewed as such. We are committed advocates to everyone wearing a face covering in the effort to fight COVID-19 and this piece should be read in the spirit it is intended and NOT as a reason to not wear a physical face mask!'**

*Kelly Martin*

*Head of School*



# PUGWASH



It has been so great to have all of the children back in nursery, they have all settled back in so well and we have seen such great resilience from them. It has been lovely to see them reunited with their friends, as well as making some new friendships.

This term our core text is 'The Gingerbread Man' and our learning theme is Spring. The children have loved our green-grocer role play; where they have been using great number language.

Class Dojo - If you haven't yet signed up to Class Dojo, then please check your emails for the invitation link. This is a really useful communication tool that we use; so it is important that everyone is signed up, to stay up to date with all the information.

Healthy Lunchbox reminder - Please can you ensure that lunch boxes are kept healthy with a variety of healthy items and at least one piece of fruit and or vegetables daily, we also ask that treat items are kept to a minimum. Thank you.



# RECEPTION



The Marvellous Minnows and Super Sardines have been continuing their amazing learning at home and at school this term! We started our topic on Buildings and Homes and the children drew or made their own home; as well as becoming designers for their dream home and looking at homes in other countries. They created cosy dens, experienced the role of an estate agent and completed art work based around their own families and pets. The children have also studied a little bit of history by researching old style household objects and toys and I have heard that they have become excellent helpers in their own homes too!

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, as it was World Book Day, we had a live virtual meet up where we shared our favourite stories and dressed up as our favourite characters! All the adults in Early Years are so proud of everything the children have achieved!



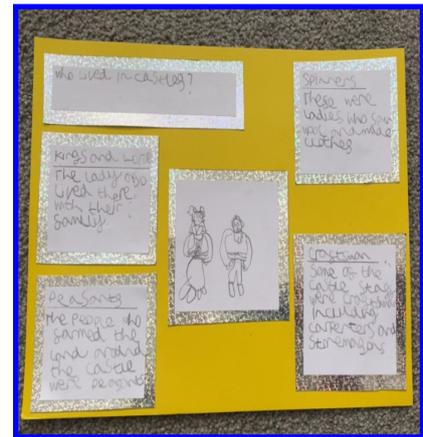


# YEAR 1/2



I am extremely proud of the Clownfish children. The learning they have produced, both at home and in school during lockdown has been amazing.

We are all excited to be back in school learning our new topic, 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets'. The children have been researching about castles and have created some very informative typed up and written pieces.



# YEAR 3/4

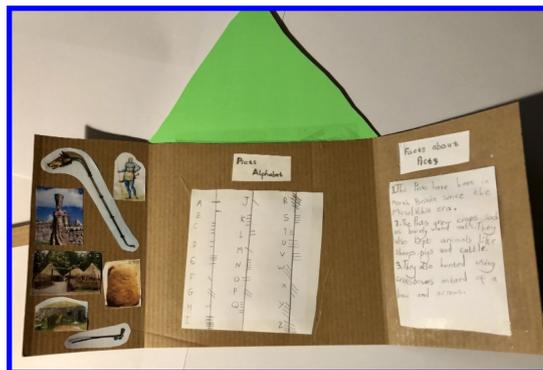


All of year 3 and 4 are super happy to be back at school. We have all missed our friends so much. The children have settled back in very well and are putting so much effort into their work. We are really proud of them.

During our final weeks of remote learning, we learned about the Anglo Saxons. We loved learning about their language and wrote messages using their alphabet.

We have also written our very own version of the famous poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' by Ogden Nash. We used online rhyming dictionaries to help us find good rhyming words.

We also learned a lot about time. Ask us what time it is and we'll tell you!



# YEAR 5/6

The children have returned to the routine of school fantastically well and we are so proud of how well they have settled back into Dolphins class. This term we have been enjoying our topic 'Hola, Mexico!'. As part of this topic, we are learning about the celebrated artist Frida Kahlo, who overcame many personal struggles to become a world renowned artist and women's rights activist. We have studied her artistic style to plan and create our own portraits in the style of Frida Kahlo.



Friday 12th March

Hydrocephalus Awareness Day



Friday 19th March

Comic Relief Red Nose Day



We are noticing an increasing number of adult parent/carers are not wearing masks when dropping off and collecting children. Please do this to protect others even if you do not feel that you need to wear a mask to protect yourself (although the research suggests that mask wearing is a recognised way to help to protect yourself as well as others). We have to rely on adults doing the "right thing" and following this request. The lack of mask wearing is making some of our staff feel deeply uncomfortable; particularly when parents who are not wearing masks are speaking directly to staff members. I have informed staff that they are well within their rights to refuse to have face to face conversations with parents not wearing a mask. We are appealing once again to you all to do the right thing and wear a face mask to protect yourself and others and help to keep our school open and safe!

Have a wonderful Easter and we look forward to seeing you on **Monday 19th April.**