Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2019!
The term started with the wonderful Year 3 Creativity Days which saw the children making the most of our fabulous school grounds to immerse themselves in their Stone Age topic. At the same time, we also had 90 Year 5 children plus staff dressed up as Ancient Egyptians to launch their new unit of work. Collective Worship that day was quite a sight!

Also this term the Year 4 children spent a day at RHS Wisley as part of their Anglo Saxons work and Year 6 had an opportunity to talk to the Imam about Islamic rituals and routines during their visit to the Medina Mosque in Southampton. You can read short reports from each year group later in this newsletter.

This term the new OFSTED draft inspection framework has been released for consultation, detailing a much greater emphasis on professional discussion about the ‘wider’ curriculum and pupils’ experiences of learning across all subjects. At school we are proud of the way in which everyone engages so enthusiastically with the topics covered by each year group and we really try to plan our ‘Stunning Starter’ days along with visits and visitors to hook the children into each unit of work.

Thank you to all parents/carers for your support with home learning projects and in preparing costumes for dressing up days!

World Book Day
We will be celebrating World Book Day on March 7th but will not be asking the children to dress up as we are aware that it is Red Nose Day the following week. We are excited that we will be having the children’s author, Will Mabbit, in school on the 22nd March.

School Closure Emergency Procedure
In the event of icy conditions the front playground will be closed off and children/visitors will be asked to follow the gritted path to the gate at the top of the playground and to the main entrance. In extreme conditions if a decision is taken not to open the school, a message will be sent to all Parents/Carers who have signed up to the school email system and will be posted on the school website. We will endeavour to make a decision as early as possible in the morning, by 7.30am at the latest. In addition we will notify BBC Radio Solent although, from experience, we know that there can be a time delay in getting the message broadcast. Please do visit the school website for the most up to date information.

Danger of trips and slips around the entrance to the school site
Please be aware that there are signs and markings at the front of school to warn visitors about uneven kerbs. Please also take care in wet weather as the artificial grass surface at the side of the gate can become slippery. We carry out daily checks around the site and will cone the area off in such circumstances but please do take extra care.
Year 3 - Creativity Days

Year 3 started this term with two creative days linked to their new topic- The Stone Age. Throughout the two days the children took part in a variety of activities to help them understand what life was like during the Stone Age including; den building, weapon making, cave painting and scavenging for food. Staff and children had a great few days and the activities have really helped them with their history work in class.

Year 4 Visit to RHS Wisley

Last week saw Year 4 embarking on a fantastic educational visit to RHS Wisley. Despite the drizzle, Year 4’s spirits were high on the long coach journey, with eye spy, singing the 6 times table and spotting various fast food restaurants keeping us occupied. Time flew by during a day filled with activities aimed at supporting our learning on the Anglo Saxons and a brief reminder of our work on biomes earlier in the year. We were engaged and excited at the opportunity to dye wool using natural dyes that would have been available during Anglo Saxon times. Children used pestle and mortar to grind materials, mix them with water, microwave and reveal colourful results. We followed instructions to measure and mix ingredients that would have been available to the Anglo Saxons and made tasty flapjack style cookies. The Anglo Saxons didn’t have sugar but used honey to sweeten their cooking! Our expert guides showed us around the grounds and pointed out plants that would have been used for medicines, in cooking and to build shelters. We also spotted plants in different green houses that would grow in different biomes around the world. We left tired but inspired to continue our learning at school. We have already completed some field work based on information gathered at Wisley and are enjoying using our experiences to help write stories set in Anglo Saxon times.
Year 5 Ancient Egyptian Day- Stunning Starter

On Monday 7th January, pupils in year five returned to school eagerly anticipating what their Ancient Egyptian Day would entail. It was wonderful to see so many pupils and staff in Ancient Egyptian inspired clothing and this really helped the pupils get into the spirit of the day. After a year group introduction to the world of Ancient Egypt from Mr Banham, and an opportunity to look at everybody’s costumes, the three classes split off for their day of activities.

The activities included: making Ancient Egyptian papyrus paper to decorate with traditional Ancient Egyptian designs; learning about the mummification process through drama; and investigating how to best ‘mummify’ a tomato, using mixtures of salt, bicarbonate of soda and Milton anti-bacterial solution. Pupils really enjoyed the mixture of cross-curricular activities - history, art and science!

Thank you to all of the parents who contributed to the day by providing their child with an ancient Egyptian themed costume - your efforts are much appreciated! Some of the pupils’ papyrus artwork is on display in the year 5 classrooms and shared area, and children will be bringing them home to share with you at the end of our unit if they have not done so already.

Year 6 Visit to Medina Mosque

On Tuesday 15th January, Year 6 had a year group trip to the Medina Mosque in Southampton. In R.E. Year 6 have been learning about rituals and specifically about the rituals and routines in Islam.

The Imam, Saleem, spoke to us for the morning about his beliefs and also about the significance of rituals in Islam. We learnt about the times of prayer, the pillars of Islam and the importance of the Prophets. We were able to ask questions and discovered that Islam shares many of the same beliefs as other major world religions. It was also interesting to demystify a religion that for many of us is not part of our regular lives.

The children were exceptionally well behaved and the trip has supported their learning in class. Many thanks to the parent helpers who were able to attend the trip.
Freegrounds Junior School Association

The Openbox Theatre Company came in to school on Friday 11th January to perform their seasonal panto. The children had an amazing afternoon. Thank you to the FJSA who contributed half the cost of this performance from money they have raised over the last year.

NSPCC Number Day 2019

Dress in Digits!

Friday 1st February

Cake Sale 20p-50p

Maths Day

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in their Number Day on Friday 1st February 2019 at Freegrounds Junior School.

Children will be participating in a range of fun mathematical based games and activities throughout the day, working with a mixture of pupils and staff from across the school.

Children are invited to wear non-school uniform, and are encouraged to wear an item of clothing or accessory that features a number. E.g. a sports shirt, fashion top, birthday badge or something homemade.

We are asking for contributions to our cake sale to be brought into school on Friday 1st February in order to raise vital funds for the NSPCC. Children will have the opportunity to purchase cakes throughout the day. Any left over cakes will be on-sale after school.

We’re looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise will make an enormous difference to children today and help change the lives of children tomorrow.
Spring Term 1

Happy New Year to you all, and a very busy term to get us started. Our first week back saw us compete in the Year 5/6 Swimming Gala at Wildern with us finishing fourth overall in a group of 8 schools. Annual winners Bishops Waltham finished first with us placed behind Botley and Durley. Great effort guys!

Thanks to our fantastic inclusive basketball programme, we have had a massive group of children represent the school at the two Basketball events. Firstly, our A Team entered the Hampshire Games qualifier, and rather sadly didn’t get past the group stage. It was rather disappointing as we were by far the best team in our group, dominating all three games we played in, having no luck whatsoever. It seemed like the hoop was too small for the ball!! Fantastic play but deserved better!

At the next event we were able to field three teams and had a fantastic evening, with our Red team losing in extra time to Droxford. They had to beat our Blue team who finished fourth overall and our Green team who finished third! Fantastic depth in the quality of players throughout the year group just shows that time invested in practice improves results!

The next two weeks see our Hockey teams take on the cluster at Hamble, and our Football team play against Purbrook in the quarter final of the Hampshire cup. Good luck guys and well done to all those who have represented the school so well.

Lunchtime Awards

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We would like to share with you the names of the pupils who have been nominated for a Lunchtime Award.

Congratulations to all pupils.

We hope you enjoyed being on the Top Table.
2018-19 Diary Dates

January 2019
Friday 18th January 9.30am - 11.30am - Family Links Nurture Programme with Mrs Carpenter - running for 10 weeks every Friday - all welcome
Wednesday 23rd January - Year 3 visit to Portsmouth Cathedral
Thursday 24th January - Year 6 - Height and Weight checks by School Nursing Team
Monday 28th January - INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

February 2019
Friday 1st February - NSPCC Number Day - Non school uniform and cake sale
Monday 4th February - Year 3 - Warburtons Bakery in school - Ash Class
Monday 4th February - 3.30pm - 7.00pm - Year 6 ONLY Parents' Evening
Tuesday 5th February - Year 3 - Warburtons Bakery in School - Elm Class
Thursday 7th February - 3.30pm - 5.00pm - Year 6 ONLY Parents' Evening
Friday 8th February - Year 3 - Warburtons Bakery in School - Oak Class
Thursday 14th February - 2.30pm - Year 6 Parents’ Afternoon

Half Term - Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February

March 2019
Tuesday 12th March - Year 5 River Hamble Country Park visit - one class
Wednesday 13th March - Year 5 River Hamble Country Park visit - one class
Thursday 14th March - Year 5 River Hamble Country Park visit - one class
Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day - Further details to follow
Friday 22nd March - Author visit - Will Mabbitt - whole school

April 2019
Thursday 4th April - Year 5 Openbox Theatre visit in school - Amazon Rainforest workshop
Friday 5th April - INSET DAY - School Closed

Easter Holidays - Monday 8th April - Monday 22nd April

Tuesday 23rd April - First day of the Summer Term

The school website www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk has a link to the calendar on the front page.

Lost Property

We are aware that some of our children were fortunate to receive expensive watches / fitbits for Christmas. Please can we ask that they do not wear these expensive items to school as we cannot be responsible for them if they are lost or dropped. Please can we also ask for ALL clothing to be named so that any misplaced items can be returned to their owner.
Thank you

Health & Safety

With the cold weather well on its was can we please ask that you ensure your child wears a named coat to school as all children go outside at lunchtime and breaktime.

Staying hydrated even in the winter months is very important. Please can all children bring a named water bottle to school everyday.

Please note that we are a NUT FREE school. Please take care to check that items in packed lunchboxes do not contain nuts.

Parking - Please can you respect our neighbours when parking before and after school to collect your child/children.
Train to Teach with us

The Wildern Partnership SCITT offers an established, outstanding teacher training programme working in partnership with local schools, colleges and universities.

We offer school-based, high quality, cross-phase teacher training which is adapted to your individual needs.

The full-time, one year programme in both primary and secondary commences in September. Successful completion of your training with us will result in Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), along with a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) at Masters level.

www.wildernpartnership.co.uk