

Boorley Park News and Updates

22nd March 2024



Boorley Park School

Year 1 Trip to Marwell Zoo

This week Year 1 went on a very exciting trip to Marwell Zoo! This trip provided the children with the experience to see a variety of animals in preparation for our science unit of learning 'why are animal and human bodies different?'.

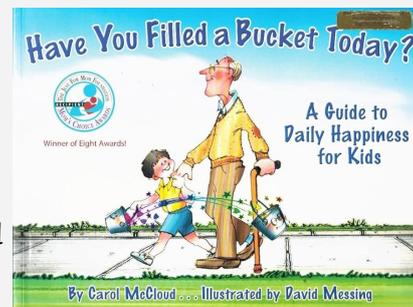

We looked at different species and discussed their habitats and diet. Rabbit Class were particularly impressed by the tiger who came right up to the glass to say hello. Otter Class enjoyed seeing the giraffes and penguins towards the end of our day.



The children were a credit to Boorley Park Primary School and did us proud. We are excited to use our experience to enrich our next science unit!

Our Assembly Theme This Week

In assembly this week, we focused on kindness and the impact that our words and actions can have. We read the book 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today? Today?'



Through the story, we were introduced to the idea that we all carry around with us an invisible bucket that holds our good thoughts and feelings.

When our bucket is full, we feel happy and satisfied but when our bucket is empty we feel sad and lonely. When we do kind or say kind things to other people, we fill their bucket (and our own too) but when we are unkind or hurtful, we empty their bucket (and our own too).



We talked about how we would rather the world was full of bucket fillers and the kinds of things we could do to make sure we filled other people's buckets rather than emptying them. Our teachers followed up the story with some work in class and we have all been using the language of "filling a bucket" this week when children have been kind.

Spotlight on..... The PTA

Our PTA are a small but dedicated group who have been working incredibly hard over the last few years to raise additional funds for the school. Every penny they raise goes towards supporting the school to purchase resources, fund events and support families in need.

So far this year, the PTA have funded:

- The Pantomime at Christmas that every child was able to participate in.
- The author visit from John Dougherty. Every child took part in an assembly with him and the PTA purchased two full sets of his books for the library.
- Resources and games for our wellbeing hub at lunchtime—our wellbeing hub has become an increasingly popular space at lunchtime so the PTA have funded additional games and toys for the room. This week we have taken delivery of lots of Lego, construction sets and board games such as Boggle and Jenga that will be available for all children to enjoy.
- Additional outside resources for lunchtime—since introducing the polydron and loose parts play earlier in the year, the children have become increasingly ambitious in their builds and have been keen to develop them further. We have purchased three additional sets of building resources (such as crates, planks and den building equipment) and two new sets of polydron.
- For the summer term, the PTA have purchased a resource box for each year group to support their learning in history or geography. These artefact boxes are full of replica artefacts that children can use to enhance their understanding and explore the topic further.



Early Years Outside Area

The Year R team are working hard to develop their outside area and are keen to try to reuse unwanted materials as much as possible. They are looking for any of the following:

- Crate covers (to make planters)
- Cable reels
- Pots and pans
- Old kitchen utensils
- Funnels
- Watering cans
- Plant pots
- Seeds and soil
- Logs
- Gravel
- Pipes and guttering



They have lots of exciting ideas for their outdoor area and need help with setting it up. If you or anyone you know is able to support them, please do speak to the school office or the Year R teachers.

Dates for Your Diaries—2023-2024

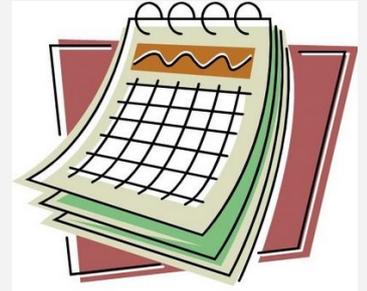
Whole School

Spring Term 2024

- Thursday 28th March—Last Day of Spring 2 Term
- Friday 29th March—Friday 12th April—Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2024

- Monday 15th April—First Day of Summer 1 Half Term
- Friday 19th April—PTA Bag 2 School Day (Non Uniform Day)
- Monday 6th May—Bank Holiday (School Closed to Pupils)
- Friday 17th May—Pyjamarama (come to school in your pyjamas)
- Friday 24th May—Last Day of Summer 2 Half Term
- Monday 27th—Friday 31st May—Half Term
- Monday 3rd June—First Day of Summer 2 Half Term
- Monday 24th June—INSET Day - School closed for pupils
- Tuesday 23rd July—Last Day of Term
- Thursday 24th July—Monday 2nd September - Summer Holidays
- Tuesday 3rd September—First Day of Autumn Term 1



Year R

- Thursday 28th March—2:30pm—Year R Community Rocks!
- Wednesday 17th April—Visit from the PDSA
- Tuesday 7th May—2:45pm—Planting Workshop with parents
- Friday 21st June—9am-12pm-Mill Cottage Farm Experience in school - more details to follow

Year 1

- Wednesday 15th May—Royal Festival and Dress Up Day (inc parent event at 2:45pm)
- Thursday 6th June—Trip to Portchester Castle - more details to follow
- W.c. 10th June—Statutory Year 1 Phonics Screening (more details and parent information event to follow)
- **Rabbit Class** Monday 15th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents
- **Otter Class** Tuesday 16th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents

Upcoming Events and Reminders

Year 2

- Wednesday 24th April—Trip to Sea City Museum
- **Hedgehog Class**—Thursday 23rd May—2:45pm—Art Gallery for parents
- **Fox Class**—Friday 24th May—2:45pm—Art Gallery for parents
- Thursday 6th June—Habitat Hunt in school (for children only)
- **Hedgehog Class** Wednesday 17th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents
- **Fox Class** Thursday 18th July—9:15am—Celebration Assembly for Parents

Year 3

- Year 3/4 Easter Show—Tuesday 26th March—9:15am
- Year 3/4 Easter Show—Wednesday 27th March—2:15pm
- **Deer Class** Tuesday 21st May—2:30pm—Magnets Workshop with parents
- **Mouse Class** Wednesday 22nd May—2:30pm—Magnets Workshop with parents
- Friday 14th June—2:30pm—Family Picnic

Year 4

- Year 3/4 Easter Show—Tuesday 26th March—9:15am
- Year 3/4 Easter Show—Wednesday 27th March—2:15pm
- Monday 20th May- 2:45pm—Parent Event (TBC)
- W.c. 3rd June—Statutory Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (more details and parent information event to follow)
- Tuesday 9th July- 2:45pm—Parent Event (TBC)

Open Conversations at Home

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION



It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



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