

Dear Parents/Carers

This newsletter is a mixture of March and April events due to the very short 4-week half term we had this year.

Since the last newsletter many of our families have celebrated Easter and Eid. Our thanks go to many members of our school Muslim community who very kindly provided Eid Gift bags to all of the children in school; we are grateful for their generosity and for the time it must have taken them!

We are now fully into Spring and despite the mixture of weather we have had everywhere is bursting with new life especially in our grounds. Classes visiting our wildlife area and pond have seen Great Crested Newts, Caddisfly Larvae and Dragon Fly Nymphs. We are very lucky to have all this on our doorstep and hopefully as the weather improves the children can be on the fields more enjoying the space. This does mean that children often take off jumpers, cardigans etc when they are outside playing and as we all did when we were children but then forget to pick them up at the end – please can we ask that you name these so that we can return them at the end of the day. Our Lost Property box seems to be filling up quickly each day – please check through if your child has lost something.

As you are aware we are now part of the Bradgate Education Partnership multi academy trust. I would just like to reassure you that there will be no changes to our school uniform, or the timings of our school day as some parents have asked about this. Our school website is in the process of being updated and we will send out a link this once it is ready – most of the information remains the same.

It is hard to believe that we are now into the last term of the academic year. This is always a busy term and there are a lot of events scheduled and many deadlines to be met, some of which you will see at the end of this Newsletter in the **Diary Dates** section below. We hope you will be able to join us for some of these.

Please read the PSA information below. Many of the extra opportunities we want our children to experience would not happen without them and any support is always welcomed.

Thank you for your continued support to the school, we are a partnership in this stage of your child's education and working together means that we are giving them the best chances we can.

Thank you
Iona Mock

Diary Dates

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday school closed

Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May

Year 6 SATs week

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May

Half Term school closed

Sports Day (these will all start at 9.15am)

Tuesday 11th June

Year 3&4

Thursday 13th June

Year 1&2

Friday 14th June

EYFS

Thursday 20th June

Year 5&6

Get involved with the PSA

The school's Parent Staff Association is a group of parents and staff members who volunteer their time to put on events and run fundraising activities. The money we raise buys equipment and funds those special extras which the school budget can't stretch to. This includes things like the annual theatre visit, Scootfit, workshops, playground equipment and a contribution to transport for school trips.

At the end of this school year, several members of our committee will be standing down as their children move on or they take a well-earned break from volunteering. We are looking to recruit a new Chair and Treasurer as well as extra committee members.

Volunteering with the PSA is great fun and very rewarding. You don't have to attend every meeting and event to be part of the committee. Volunteering can fit around your work and other commitments and there will still be experienced volunteers on the committee to help.

If you think you might like to get involved then please leave your name and number/email at the school office and we'll get in touch with more information. You can also email MountfieldsPSA@hotmail.co.uk. Even if you don't want to join the committee you can still help in other ways.

We will need lots of volunteers for our **Summer Fete on Saturday 15th June**. Please get in touch if you would like to be part of this event.

Scoot Fit

All classes took part in Scoot Fit sessions this month and had a fantastic time! Thank you to the PSA for helping to fund this great opportunity.

They were shown how to ride scooters correctly and then had fun scooting around the playground and playing a new sport ScootBall!

A great way to exercise and have fun at the same time!





Ducklings in EYFS

There were new additions to the EYFS classes last week as they excitedly welcomed four new fluffy pupils!

The children have loved watching the ducklings hatch in the incubator, grow and gain their little personalities! Having the ducklings has also encouraged the children to do some independent writing, they have written sentences describing the ducklings and both classes wrote to their buddies and invited them to come and see them. The year 4 buddy classes thoroughly enjoyed this too!

Visit from Parliament

Our KS2 children had an assembly led by an Education and Engagement Officer to explain how the UK Parliament operates.

The children learnt about the difference between the House of Commons and House of Lords and the roles each of these have. It was explained to them how new laws are proposed, discussed, voted and then either agreed or refused.

To reinforce this idea a bill proposal was acted out with some of the children in the role of Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords and Speaker.

The proposed bill was 'Should the school week reduce to four days?' After lots of discussion and 'hear hear!' a vote was undertaken and the bill was passed!

We wonder what parents views on this would be?



World Book Day 2024

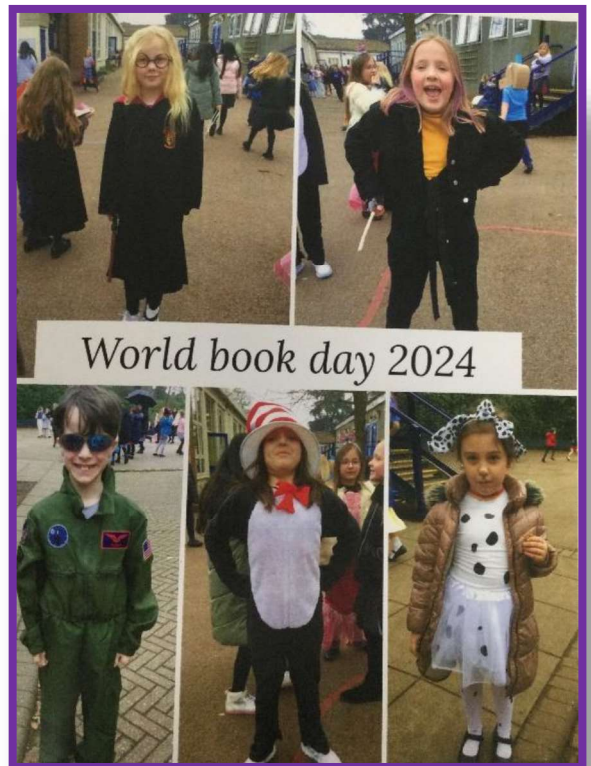
Thank you everyone who dressed up, donated and participated in World Book Day 2024! We had a lot going on throughout the day and everyone agreed that there was a real reading buzz around the school.

We had some fantastic and original costumes from pupils and staff, with everyone referencing their favourite books or authors. We managed to get our key stages together for assemblies in the morning and to see everyone's costumes. Our theme for the day was 'Read Your Way' and there was lots of talk of the different ways children like to read from Audio books to reading upside down!

The Stories in a box were amazing and such a lot of effort had gone into them. Winners were chosen from across the key stages and won a book voucher for the book fair. The stories in a box have been displayed in the library for the whole school to look at.

We were lucky enough to have the Scholastic Book Fair during World Book Day this year and many of you used your World Book Day token to pay toward your book. We sold over £1500 worth of books and this will generate plenty of rewards which we can use to buy new books for the library. Thank you to everyone who came and bought a book.

Thank you again to those who helped make World Book Day 2024 a great success for Mountfields Lodge.



Sporting News

It's been a busy few weeks for Mountfields' teams at local competitions.

Leicestershire and National Primary Schools Cross Country Championships

Several of our children represented North Charnwood in these Championships at Prestwold Hall recently. After all the recent rain, the course quickly churned up, making it very challenging and leading one of our runners losing her shoe in the mud! All our runners performed brilliantly. Well done Harriet, Esme, Zeynep, Georgia and Kaiya (representing Leicestershire) in the Year 6 Girls race, Darcy (Year 5 Girls), Jack and Ralph (Year 4 boys) and Penelope, Vaila and Grace (Year 3 Girls). The year 3 Girls were delighted to win a County bronze medal and the Year 4 boys a County silver medal. Congratulations to Vaila too who won an amazing silver in the County and National Open event!



Quicksticks Hockey Tournament

We took two Year 5/6 teams to this competition in March. Both teams played incredibly well winning three out of their four games and progressing to the semi-finals. Competition then proved too tough and both teams lost against St Paul's and Booth Wood, meaning that we were drawn against each other in the play-offs for the bronze medal! This was a little less stressful for Mrs Newport for once, watching both teams playing well and knowing that a bronze medal was guaranteed to go to Mountfields Lodge.

Well done to both teams who played some great hockey, adhered to all the game's safety rules and supported each other throughout.



Bee Netball Tournament.

A week after the hockey tournament, it was back to Charnwood College, this time for a Year 5/6 BEE Netball competition between 12 local schools. Winning all their 4 early games, Mountfields progressed to the quarter finals and beat Holywell 9,0. The semi-finals, however, was a closely fought game against Sacred Heart and we lost 4,3. Drawn against St Winifred's in the play-off for the bronze, the tired Mountfields team drew upon their final energy stores to win the game 4,2. Well done netballers – you were all amazing!



Final Charnwood Cross Country League

46 children from across KS2 took part in the final Charnwood Cross Country League at Charnwood College against 11 other schools. On a bright sunny afternoon, it was wonderful to have so many parent spectators cheering on our children, and they all performed brilliantly, battling for every position to achieve their highest position so far in the League. Team results are just in, and we are delighted to say that we have retained the Charnwood Shield for the second year running amassing a huge 874 points from across the 3 League races, beating Sacred Heart with 754 points and St. Paul's with 660 points!

This is an amazing achievement. Individually we also achieved a gold in the Year 3, 4 and 5 Girls races (Vaila, Bea and Darcy), as well as silvers in the Year 4 Boys (Ralph) and Year 6 Girls in the Year 6 Boys and Girls races (Noah and Abbigail). Well done to everyone!!



Year 3 and 4 Multi-skills Festival

Just before Easter, 8 Year 3 and 4 children took part in a fun multi-skills festival with 5 other schools.

Throughout the morning, they rotated around 6 different activities, which had been designed and were led by Charnwood College Sports Leaders. These activities sought to improve movement and equipment manipulation, as well as build confidence. The children had lots of fun and were certainly tired out by the end of the morning! Well done Revae, Finlay, Crystal, Teddy, Hughie, Fenn, Liam and Lexi.



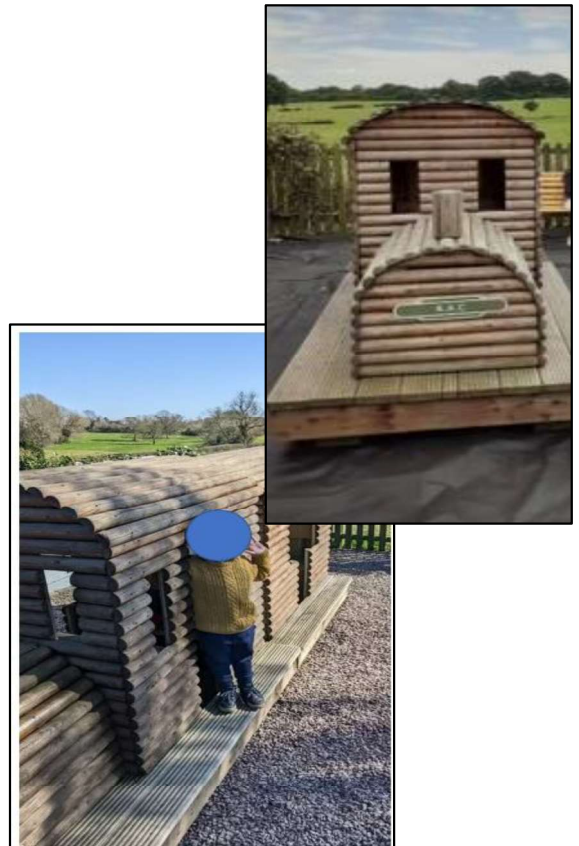
Choo! Choo! - Can You Help us Collect This?

We have been offered a wonderful wooden play train free of charge! The only condition is that we need to collect it!

We will need a large van/truck, preferably flat bed, to collect it (it could be partly dismantled first) and it is located in Thurstaston, near Cropston.

It would be a lovely addition to our play equipment.

Please contact Mr. Coleman through the office if you have access to a vehicle that would help us to move it. Maybe the place you work would like to help a school?



A Few Reminders ...

PE Uniform

On PE days the children come to school in their PE uniform which consists of

For indoor PE:

- A pair of PLAIN black shorts, football or cycling-type;
- A PLAIN white T-shirt;

For outdoor PE:

- A PLAIN black, grey or blue sweatshirt;
- A pair of coordinating tracksuit bottoms in black, grey or blue;
- A pair of trainers.

We will be sending reminders home if children are not in the correct PE kit

N.B. If, for religious reasons, black shorts for girls cannot be worn, a pair of close-fitting black PE leggings should be worn instead

Jewellery

We ask that children **do not wear jewellery at school**, as it can be dangerous on the playground and difficult to trace if it is lost. However, if earrings are to be worn they must be small, plain studs.

Attendance & Absences

There is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement.

It is important that children attend school regularly in order for them to make the best possible progress whilst in education.

In real terms:

1 day off per school year = 99.5% attendance

10 days off per school year = 94.7% attendance

20 days off per school year = 90% attendance

90% attendance = 4 whole weeks off school during the school year

90% attendance throughout year's 1 - 6 = half a year off school

