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Churchill Gardens Primary Academy Journal



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A message from Mrs Tylee

Dear parents and carers,

As always, there has been so much to celebrate this half term! We have had World Book Day, Mother Language Day, 'bikeability' lessons, a residential trip to Wick Court Farm and all this in addition to all the excellent teaching and learning that happens day in and day out.

I would also like to give a huge shout-out to my staff team: their commitment to school life and their care for each child and family is second to none, and I am sure you will all agree that we are incredibly lucky.

A huge thank you to all the parents who have put their names forward for the PTA committee. The voting-in for these roles will happen straight after Easter and we will be in touch.

We are also very happy with the increase in parents attending our workshops. We really want to work with our families to give our pupils the very best support, since research shows that parental engagement has a high impact on pupil attainment and progress.

As it is the end of a long term, we will be sending out termly letters regarding your child's attendance. Any pupil whose attendance is under 90% is considered a permanent absentee and, as such, we must work with our families to improve on this. We ask you not to worry if you get a letter from us. However, we do have to make all families aware of their child's attendance and the long-term impact this can have on a child's education. The school is here to support and communication is key.

After Easter, we will start the preparation for the range of primary assessments for our pupils; dates for this can be found below. Workshops have already been held or will be held for these regarding how best to support your child, but if you do have any questions please contact the office. As ever, the most important thing is that your child is in school every day.

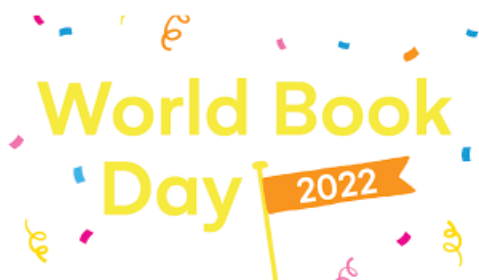
We break up today at 12:30 and return on Tuesday April 19th at the normal time.

Best Wishes

Mrs Tylee

World Book Day – March 2nd 2022

“World Book Day is my favourite occasion of the year.”



Every year, at the beginning of March, we celebrate World Book Day at Churchill Gardens. In the weeks leading up to the event, we discuss our favourite book characters eagerly and think of ways to transform ourselves by using our creativity. Some of the best costumes are made by finding things that we may already have at home and creating props from cardboard, paint, silver foil and other materials to accessorise our outfits. This year, children dressed up as a suffragette, Roman soldier, Polonius (from Hamlet), Mary Poppins, Charlie (and the Chocolate Factory), Frankie (from Frankie’s Magic Football, and the list goes on.....

We had lots of fun in school on World Book Day, including a ‘Book Treasure Hunt’, where the children had to hunt for clues that were scattered around the school building and discover the favourite books of teachers in the school. We also did ‘Buddy Reading’ where KS2 children were buddied with KS1/EYFS and then had fun reading books together. Everyone also had a chance to showcase their costumes and tell the rest of the school about their book character at our World Book Day assemblies. We held a best costume competition and here are the winners.



At Churchill Gardens, we know that reading for pleasure is very important and World Book Day always gives us an opportunity to share our favourite books and authors. We can’t wait for next March to come around again!



Wick Court Farm

In mid-March, a Year 4 class of Londoners made their way down the M4 to the remote Gloucestershire countryside. There they spent a week working at Wick Court Farm, looking after the animals, learning about food production and exploring the local terrain. It was a hugely enjoyable week, not only because the farm itself was lots of fun – but it was wonderful too to see the development of the children's independence, maturity, and ability to overcome difficulties together. Parents and carers: the key takeaway from almost all of the children was that they would now help more with jobs at home. They are all now able to make and strip their beds, to fold their clothes, to set and clear the table, to sweep the floor; and they have gained some cookery skills. What you do with that information is up to you!

Highlights of the week were grooming the horses (and mucking out their stables), herding and holding the sheep, weighing the pigs, and Mr Ridley failing to crack an egg. There were revelations too: not least, what happens to the animals in the end; and how exactly milk is extracted from cows (by a technologically astonishing but rather undignified industrial robot). The children were proud of themselves for their bravery in the face of errant pigs, for their strength in carrying heavy buckets around, for their open-mindedness (and often surprised pleasure) in trying new food, and for their resilience in the face of adversity (whether that be home-sickness, waking up early, getting in and out of wellies, or a lack of electronic devices). Really impressive to see was how the children supported each other through these challenges and never lost sight of the fun to be had.

On the coach back, children were already excitedly asking when their next trip would be. It is to Outward Bound in September, so parents and carers, please encourage your child to go. These trips are such wonderful opportunities, and the memories they bring last a lifetime. A story, called *Jemima the Pig and the 127 Acorns*, by the children's writer Michael Morpurgo, and one of World Book Day 2022's featured paperbacks, tells the story of his (and his daughter's) trips to Wick Court Farm, and the wonderful time that they both had. It's testimony to how significant these experiences can be.

KS1 Playground Leaders

This term, we held class elections to appoint Playground Leaders in Key Stage 1. The children showed excellent participation, with lots of nominees, ideas for new playground equipment and collaboration in creating the rules for playtime.

The aim of our Key Stage 1 Playground Leaders is to:

- Develop confidence and a sense of responsibility in our Year Two children
- Empower them to be able to organise their own playtimes in a way that is enjoyable for everyone
- Support their younger Year 1 peers when playing.

Coach Lucy has trained our leaders, and their responsibilities include:

- Organising and bringing out the correct equipment into our reading and play zones, and tidying it away
- Giving children ideas on games to play
- Ensuring that all equipment is well looked after
- Helping younger children to play and modelling safe and kind behaviour in the playground

Quotes from children:

“We love having new equipment in the playground, it’s so much fun” – Y2 child

“The playground leaders help me whenever I feel lonely” Y1 child

“It’s so nice when they play games with us” Y1 child

Senate Elections go down to the wire

Senate elections go down to the wire.

In February, our annual Senate elections were held. Each class voted for two children to represent them in our equivalent of a school council, and there was no shortage of tension as the votes were counted. In fact, the voting in some classes was so close that the ballots had to be counted twice.

Our Senators for 2022 are as follows:

Year 6: Deisy Cordeiro Alverado and Meesam Hasan

Year 5: Hannah Jamal Abdullah and Yunus Miah

Year 4: Luan Galali and Daniel Gonish

Year 3: Sade Alexander and Rihan Rouf

Year 2: Zara Akter and Zayn Ahmed

Year 1: Muhammad Benkacem Sarah El- Sayed

The Senators have started work already, debating which charity they will raise money and awareness on behalf of, and deciding which areas they will focus on. They will begin campaigning and lobbying over the coming weeks.

The Year 2 senators said, "We are excited to be senators for Year 2 because we can help everyone think of ideas to make our school better. We can be responsible and help everyone to learn."

The Year 6 senators added, "We can't wait to start campaigning on behalf of the school and the causes that matter most to the children in our community."

Please note, that these dates are subject to change and more workshops may be added throughout the year. We will be in touch with any additions to our key dates so do please make sure your contact details are up to date!

Tuesday 19th April 2022 – School reopens for term 5

Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 8:45am – SLT Coffee Morning

Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 3pm – Supporting your child through SATs with Ms Clark

Monday 2nd May 2022 – May Day Bank Holiday

May 2022 – Y2 English and Maths SATs

Wednesday 4th May 2022 at 3pm – E-safety with PC Joe Panton

Monday 9th May 2022 – Y6 SATs English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2

Tuesday 10th May 2022 – Y6 SATs English reading

Wednesday 11th May 2022 – Y6 SATs Mathematics papers 1 and 2

Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 3pm – Science at Churchill Gardens Primary Academy with Ms Lattore

Thursday 12th May 2022 – Y6 SATs Mathematics paper 3

Wednesday 18th May at 3pm – History at Churchill Gardens Primary Academy with Mr Somerset

Wednesday 25th May at 3pm – KS1 Maths at Churchill Gardens Primary Academy with Ms Alves

Friday 27th May 2022 – Term 5 ends

Monday 6th June 2022 – Term 6 starts

Monday 6th to Friday 10th June – Y1 Phonics screening check week

Monday 6th June for a 3-week period – Y4 Multiplication Tables check