





Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Carers,



It has been a week of creativity in school! Pens and pencils have been put to paper with poems drafted and edited across the school as the children have worked so diligently on their own poem linked to the book *Here We Are*, as part of our whole school Take One Book unit. Each and every child has worked so creatively and should be so proud of their final draft. It has been a joy to read the children's poems and to see them so confidently use a range of age appropriate poetic devices. Please do come along to our exhibition on **31**st **January 3:30 to 6pm** to see the children's poems proudly on display.

This afternoon we held our annual Take One Book Celebration Assembly where after much deliberation, the Teachers have selected some lucky pupils for awards in the following categories: Best Writer, Progress and Endeavour per class. You can find the full list of award winners below. Watch this space to find out how the school fares at the final awards ceremony on the 8th February at the Broadway Theatre in Letchworth where twelve children will be selected to represent our school (invitations will be sent home next week.) Thank you to Miss Bains for once again facilitating this wonderful, writing experience for our children.

Earlier this week, Year 2 began their new Geography topic on Jamaica. Mrs Lowry's dad came in to talk to them about what life was like growing up in Jamaica. He brought in plantain, ackee and purple sweet potato to show them and taught them about school, weather and the beautiful scenery. Year 2 discovered Jamaica's motto ' Out of Many, One People' links directly to our No Outsiders message of 'All different, All Welcome.' It was lovely to see our children making links with different cultures and their own – thank you to Mrs Lowry and her father!

Also, this week Kirsty from Herts Catering came into school to talk to KS1 and KS2 about the importance of a balanced diet, how food can affect our mood and the importance of eating a variety of rainbow foods. She reminded the children that no food is unhealthy and that some foods are good for us in moderation! The children were shocked to hear that some of their lunchtime desserts are made using cocoa powder, not chocolate and also contain vegetables such as broccoli and beetroot in them and that they had been none the wiser, happily eating these at lunchtimes!







This afternoon we welcomed back a

past student, Lucy Jefford who came into school to talk to Year 6 about her experience of writing and having a book published at the age of 16! Lucy has written a book called 'Elouise' which is a work of historical fiction and she spoke to the children about her writing process – they were fascinated. Well done Lucy - we are always so proud to hear about the achievements of our past students and were thrilled to have her back in school.

Lastly, a BIG thank you to Izzy and Poppy in Turing Class for donating two wonderful books to school as part of the Birthday Book initiative. We cannot wait to read and share these.

Have a lovely, restful weekend everyone.

Kind Regards,

Jeep Roots

Natasha Laskey, Sim Bains & Grace Maynard

Take One Book 2024 Award Winners

Class Name	Best Writer Award	Endeavour Award	Progress Award		
Nadal	Emily	Ashley-Paul	Amelia		
Thunberg	Browte	Eddie	Archie		
Turing	Imogen	Imogen Maisie			
Johnson	Jayden	Reggie	Isaac		
Seacole	Imogen	Eddy	Tallulah		
Nightingale	Bella L	Alfie	Joseph		
Byron	Noah	Damon	Imaan		
Bronte	Jamymah	Ilda	Bow		
Churchill	Maia A	Haytham	Oscar		
Pankhurst	Elisha	Hallie	Fleur		
Rosen	Matthew	Ally	Ava		
Dahl	Ellie S	Ellie M	Lexie		

Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (DEI) Spotlight

No Outsiders

Polly and Charlotte in Bronte Class were so inspired by the text *Red: A Crayon's story* which they explored this week as part of their No Outsiders lesson that they created their very own poster giving advice to the Red crayon in the story.

Advice included was as follows:

No matter who you are, you are amazing!

Don't give up on yourself, be you!



Healthy Eating Spotlight

A big thank you to Caroline Farrell (Registered Nutritionist) for providing our weekly healthy eating spotlights!

Raspberry Jam Thumbprint Cookies

A simple, low sugar, high protein, cookie which is easy to make with little ones. Makes 8 cookies depending on size. Ingredients:

- 140g ground almonds
- 3 tbls coconut oil, melted
- 3 tbls honey (or maple syrup if vegan)
- 3 tbls raspberry jam (I use my chia jam, recipe shared in previous newsletter

Method:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 170°C Fan. Line a baking tray.
- 2. Mix all the ingredients together.
- 3. Roll the mix into balls. I use about 1 tbls mix for each cookie. Pop the balls on a baking tray and flatten a little.
- 4. Make a little hole in the middle with your thumb and fill with jam. Bake for around 10-12 minutes until golden.
- 5. Transfer the cookies to a rack and let cool before serving.

Note: contains nuts so cannot be brought into school.

Notices & Reminders

St Martin's Church Car Park – restricted car parking

Starting 29 January for six weeks, there will be building work at St Martin's Church, which will mean restricted availability of the car park.

St Martin's Church car park will be unavailable for drop-off during this time, and accessible to Parish Centre users only. We anticipate that school collection (3pm-3:30) will not be affected – though with limited space. Note that on Monday 29 January the car park will be closed all day.

Public parking is available in the adjacent North Herts Council car park, where parking for drop-off is free until 9:15am <u>https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/st-martins-road-car-park</u>.

A reminder that to protect the air quality for our children, do not leave your engines running when parked.

Thank you



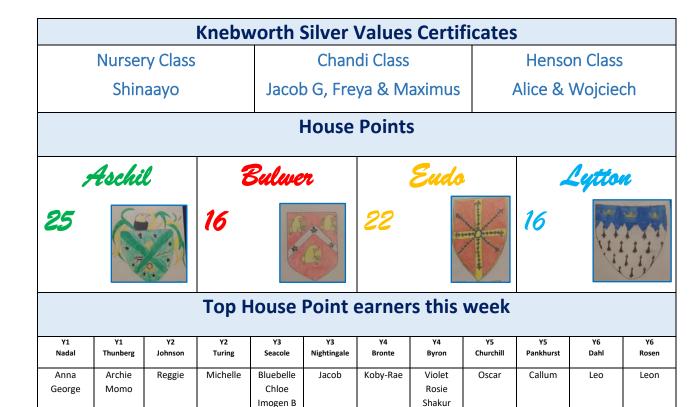
The next Messy Church in St Martin's Parish Centre after school at 3.15pm on Friday 2 February. Fun craft activities, time in the church, and finishing with a delicious cooked meal for all, all for just a donation. Hope to see you there.

Attendance Cup

Congrat	ulations	to our wi	nning cla	ss this we	eek: Nigh	ntingale C	lass!				
Y1 Nadal	Y1 Thunberg	Y2 Johnson	Y2 Turing	Y3 Seacole	Y3 Nightingale	Y4 Bronte	Y4 Byron	Y5 Churchill	Y5 Pankhurst	Y6 Dahl	Y6 Rosen
97.0%	95.7%	99.0%	99.0%	97.0%	99.3%	94.5%	92.8%	96.2%	97.8%	94.1%	91.3%







Children's Achievements

Alfie



A BIG congratulations to both Meadow (Byron Class) and Lucca (Dahl Class) for achieving their yellow and green belts respectively in Taekwondo. They both worked hard to learn and perform their patterns in front of the judges. They had a great time and are looking forward to moving up to the next belt. We are so proud of you both!



In November 2023, Chiedza (Johnson Class) successfully completed her Primary Ballet Exam. Her results are in and we are thrilled to announce that Chiedza achieved a Distinction, the highest possible grade!

This achievement is a testament to her dedication and months of rigorous practice, especially in the weeks leading up to the exam when she committed to daily rehearsals. Well done Chiedza – we are all so proud of you!



Recently, Year 6 had to create an Anderson shelter as part of their homework. They all worked really hard and produced fantastic models. Well done to everyone involved and a special mention to Alice, Isla, Olivia and Joel (Dahl Class) for their efforts.

Key Dates for your Diary – Spring Term 2024

Details for upcoming events will be sent nearer the time where and when applicable

New/amended dates are highlighted in yellow

31 st January	Take One Book Exhibition
3:30 to 6pm	
19 th February to	February Half Term & FOKS Sponsored Read & Young Bookworm Award
23 rd February	
2 nd March	FOKS Book Bonzana
6 th March	FOKS Mother Day Stall
4 th March to 7 th	Year 4 Cycling
March	
7 th March	World Book Day
14th March	Year 3 trip to St Albans Cathedral
14 th March	FOKS AGM
15 th March	Red Nose Day
26 th March	Spring Term Parents Evening Consultations – children's books/learning will be
3:40 to 6:40pm	available to view on this date.
27 th March	Spring Term Parents Evening Consultations - children's books/learning will be
3:40 to 6:40pm	available to view on this date.
28 th March	End of Spring Term
	Nursery – 12pm
	Reception & KS1 – 1.10pm
	KS2 – 1.20pm