



SPELLBROOK NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents,

As this half term ends, I want to share some of our experiences and feelings about how the start to this year has been. I want to start with a thank you to all of the school community for the manner in which everyone has responded to the issues and concerns that Covid-19 and the return from the lockdown has brought up. The positive and flexible way that staff, parents and especially the children have responded to the changes that we have needed to make to keep everyone as safe as possible, has been very pleasing and everyone should be very proud of constantly putting the needs of the children first.

Settling back into routines, the work ethic and the social requirements of being back in school has been a challenge for some children, but I am very pleased to see that the majority are coping well, always behaving well around the school, working hard and managing their friendships appropriately; and we have seen the focus and attention during lessons increase as the weeks have gone by.

Where there have been any issues, I have welcomed the support of parents, in helping the school to deal with minor problems quickly and calmly. Please do get in touch with the teachers and myself, via an email or phone call to the office if your child does experience any problems so that we can develop solutions straight away. Under normal circumstances, I would have an open door policy and meet any parents with concerns as quickly as they come to my attention. Unfortunately, that is very difficult at the moment, but I am still happy to talk to parents on the phone and could arrange a video call if more appropriate.

This week the teachers and I have been looking at the progress of all of the children. We have put plans in place and strategies to ensure that any lost learning due to the lockdown are responded to and that the foundations for future learning are strong. This includes children at all ability levels including providing extra challenge for those pupils who are able to work at the higher levels and achieve greater depth.

These strategies include specific focus by the teacher during lessons, having booster sessions in the afternoon with the teaching assistants, and focused teaching for Maths by Mrs Walton, who we have employed to come in for three afternoons a week to do this.

I have been most pleased with the progress made across the lower part of the school this term on the Read, Write, Inc. Phonics. The teachers have just re-assessed the children and they have all made a great amount of progress. This is really pleasing and we will be using this information to adjust the groups after half term.

Diamond Class

The children in Diamond class have thoroughly enjoyed their Egyptian topic and immersed themselves in their learning and now show so much knowledge. They have particularly enjoyed the gruesome facts about mummification and have produced some fantastic writing as well as some high quality artwork. We are intended to display some of this on our new website.

The Power Maths has gone very well in Diamond class, and the children have made very good progress in developing the understanding of place value that underpins so many different parts of maths. They now understand the need for fluency with times tables and we urge them to continue with their Times Tables Rock Stars practice. The children have particularly liked the Flashback 4 Maths fluency activities. After half term, Mrs Walton will be focusing some of her time supporting the pupils that we hope to get to greater depth in their SATs.

Diamond Class Project Work on Ancient Egypt



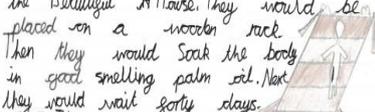
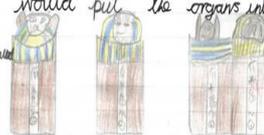
Friday 9th October 2020

To understand the mummification process

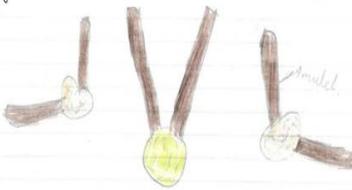
First the deceased would be put into the Beautiful House. They would be placed on a wooden table. Then they would soak the body in good smelling palm oil. Next they would wait forty days.

Then they would get lots of Salt (Natron) and cover the body with it. After that they would make a cut in the left side of the body and take out all the internal organs. They would put the organs into canopic jars.

They put are called: Hapy, Imsety, Duamutef and Qeheswy. Next they would fill the body with sand, leaves and sawdust. They would then dry out the body. Next they would wrap the body in linen and put four amulets inside. Then they would put their body into a wooden case for maybe another wooden case. Then they would put it into the death mask. After that they would put it into the sarcophagus (burial box) and their coffin. Or then into the tomb.

placed with linen or sawdust. The body was then wrapped in linen and every layer of linen they would put in an amulet which they believed would protect the deceased with your class.



Opening of the Mouth ceremony

After the purification process, the opening ceremony of the Mouth ceremony takes place.

The first step in the Opening of the Mouth ceremony is gently tapping the deceased's mouth with a wooden stick which is believed to open up their mouth. The second thing that they do is play instruments which is believed to open up the ears or allow you to hear. They also thimble they would light candles which was believed to open up the nose or allow you to smell. After that, they would put out lots of delicious goods which was believed to allow you to taste.



Friday 9th October 2020

10: To understand the process of mummification

Only wealthy people, pharaohs and people of a high ranking get mummified.

Purification

First, the body was taken to Du (The Beautiful House) to be purified by people called the embalmers. They would cut a hole in the left-hand side of your body and remove your internal organs, the liver, the lungs, the stomach and the intestines. The brain was pulled out through the nose with a hook as it was believed that it was not needed in the afterlife.



Only the heart stayed inside the body, and a process called the opening of the Mouth ceremony. After your internal organs were placed in canopic jars.

After the internal organs were removed, the body was stuffed with a special salt called Natron which dries out the body and gets rid of the moisture. 40 days passed before the body was able with palm wine to make it smell nice. After this the body was rubbed in nice smelling oils which kept your skin and body elastic (keeping you still move). The shipping was moved and then...

Emerald Class

Over this half term, Emerald class have become experts in the Bronze Age and Iron Age. They have studied artefacts, learnt about the importance of each time period and even reconstructed their very own Stonehenge out of biscuits (renamed as Biscuit Henge) which they all thoroughly enjoyed, particularly the demolition! They have been working unbelievably hard this half term for Maths and English. The assessments for Maths that we completed early in September have helped identify gaps and the children have been working through Power Maths. Our focus has been cumulating to their final writing piece this week. They have all written their own portal stories, sending their characters on journeys to other worlds. Mrs McDonald is very proud of each and every one in Emerald class for their hard work, determination and resilience this half term!

Sapphire Class

Sapphire Class have been thinking about the history of food and have loved their cooking (socially distanced and risk assessed, of course) and food tasting. They have gained a lot from their weather stations that they constructed and have been monitoring and recording the weather. They have enjoyed predicting which way the wind will blow and have become adept junior meteorologists. Mrs Smith has also been really impressed with the behaviour for learning in Sapphire.

Ruby Class

Ruby class have all settled in really well. They are following the routines and engaging with their learning. They have started the phonics programme and enjoy saying the letter sounds and the phrases that help remind them. They have been engrossed in their science, particularly testing with magnets. Thank you to the parents for all engaging with the Tapestry and well done to those who have added observations from home. Miss Green reports that this year's parental involvement with Tapestry is "the best yet".

School Dinners

I have been in the dining hall where children are eating most days, and I'm pleased to see that many children are making more healthy choices. If your child gets a lunchtime sticker, this indicates that they have been eating their vegetables and fruit. The kitchen staff are pleased with the increase in the number of children taking and enjoying school dinners.

We hope you all have a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming you all back at school on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Jeremy Fisher

Deadline to submit Secondary School Applications

A reminder to Year 6 parents that the deadline to submit applications online is **Saturday 31st October 2020**. Parents can make an application online or on paper but Admissions would recommend that parents complete it by Friday 23rd October, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline.

Parent Consultations

Due to the restrictions this year, we will be having our parent consultations by phone with each consultation lasting approximately 10 minutes. Consultations will take place the week beginning **Monday 9th November**. Hard copies of appointment letters have been sent home in children's book bags

Day	Time Slot	Class	Teacher
Monday 9th	3.00 - 5.00 pm	Emerald	Mrs McDonald
Tuesday 10th	9.00 - 12.00 pm	Diamond	Mrs Cook
Tuesday 10th	1.00 - 3.00 pm	Ruby	Mrs Le Duc
Tuesday 10th	3.00 - 5.00 pm	Sapphire	Mrs Smith
Wednesday 11th	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Sapphire	Mrs Smith
Wednesday 11th	2.00 - 4.30 pm	Diamond	Mrs Cook
Thursday 12th	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Emerald	Mrs McDonald
Thursday 12th	3.00 - 5.00 pm	Ruby	Miss Green

Well Bean Gardening Club

The Gardening Club will be back after the half term and is open to children in Year 5 and 6. The club will run every Wednesday from the 4th to 25th of November (3.15 to 4.15 pm) and costs £18.00. If you would like your child to attend, please fill out the forms emailed to parents.

Dinner Menu

Please see the menu for the week beginning **Monday 2nd November 2020**.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Fish Fingers	Burger in a Bun	Roast Chicken	Beef Lasagne	Pizza
OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato

Attendance for this week

Whole School Attendance – 99.4% Whole School Target Set – 96%

Please contact school on the first day of any absence. This can be done by calling 01279 723 204, option 1 and then leaving a message on the absence line. If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

Birthdays over the Half Term

Lexie (Sapphire)
Tristan (Sapphire)



Stars of the Week

Reception: Lyra
Year 1: Millie
Year 2: Elise
Year 3: Michal
Year 4: Finley R
Year 5: Paige
Year 6: Rocco S



Head Boy/Girl Award: Alice (Sapphire)

The Collective Worship theme for this week was 'characters from Black History who have been role models of generosity, giving their time, talents and even their lives for the benefit of other people'.

The 'Great Expectation' for the week beginning 2nd November is Reading.

PE Days

Diamond Class – Monday and Wednesday

Emerald Class – Wednesday and Friday

Sapphire Class – Tuesday and Friday

Ruby Class – Tuesday and Thursday

Dates for your Diary

23.10.20	Inset
26.10.20 – 30.10.20	Half Term
31.10.20	Deadline to submit secondary school applications (Year 6)
02.11.20	Pupils return to school
09.11.20 – 12.11.20	Parent Consultations
13.11.20	Nasal Flu Vaccine (Rec – Y6)
18.12.20	Last Day of Term
21.12.20 – 01.01.21	Christmas Break
04.01.21	Inset
05.01.21	Inset
06.01.21	Pupils return to school
15.02.21 – 19.02.21	Half Term
22.02.21	Inset
23.02.21	Pupils return to school
19.03.21	Red Nose Day
26.03.21	Last Day of Term
29.03.21 – 09.04.21	Easter Break
12.04.21	Pupils return to school
31.05.21 – 04.06.21	Half Term
07.06.21	Occasional Day
08.06.21	Pupils return to school
08.07.21	Secondary Transfer Day
22.07.21	Last Day of Term
23.07.21 – 31.08.21	Summer Break