

## CONTACT – The School Newsletter Spring Term (3) 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week – January is flying by. Last week our upper school boys participated in a football competition ran by The Southampton Academy. The boys played brilliantly. Unfortunately, we were knocked out in the semi-finals by penalties. We are extremely proud of our boys and wish them the best of luck next week when they play in the local cluster competition. Our lower school team are also representing the school amazingly; it is a pleasure spending time with them and watching them score and save goals.

### Community Day



We look forward to seeing everyone at the community day tomorrow (**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024**), where school will be open from **10am-2pm**, for conservation work and site maintenance. A final reminder, that we advise anyone attending to wear clothes that will keep them warm, but can potentially get dirty. Please also bring tools if you can (spade, fork, secateurs, saw etc), if not then don't worry, we do have some, but these are mostly child sized. We are also still short of bamboo canes, so if you can spare any of these that would be extremely helpful! Thank you for your support!

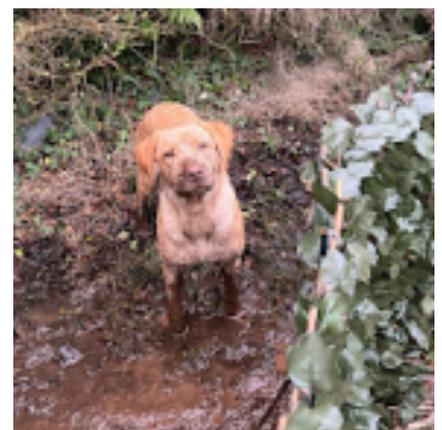
Year 4 and Year 6 children have been assisting Mr Murphy, in preparing the grounds for further tree planting on the community day. Whilst the temperatures have been below freezing, the soil has remained unfrozen, which means our planting of native mixed species hedgerows can continue. This will create a green corridor around the field's perimeter, to encourage more wildlife, especially birds, whilst also soaking up excess water on the field, making the school more secure and improving privacy.

### Buddy update.

Buddy is enjoying spending more and more time with the children. He loved seeing year 5 yesterday when they came to share their maths learning with us. Both 6C and 6G have been amazing with him on their play dates. He is also enjoying his training sessions with Mr Rice - a huge thank you to Mr Rice for volunteering his time. As you can see, he enjoys getting dirty.

### Health and Safety.

We have had an increased rise in nits across the school. Please can we ask that all children tie their back where possible to decrease the spread of nits. Also, children must not wear jewellery for PE and Games for safety reasons. We really appreciate your support in this matter.



# Well done to our values children this week.

We wish all of our families a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Miss L. Wootten  
Head Teacher

Values 17/01/24

*Isabelle  
Bella  
William  
Cory  
Daiya  
Harrison  
Evie  
Toby  
Thomas  
Carter  
Ella  
Felix  
Luella*

## **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch**

This week, Mrs Murphy and Year 4, armed with binoculars and bird identification books, took part in the RSPB's Big School Bird Watch. We had been filling up our bird feeders with sunflower seeds, whilst also putting out dried meal worms and suet pellets, to encourage birds to our school grounds in readiness.

This preparation paid off, as we spotted 12 species of birds, including chaffinches, pied wagtails, a male pheasant, black headed gulls, herring gulls and several birds from the tit family, including blue and great. Our results will be entered into the RSPB's national data base, which helps to build a picture of UK bird populations. Well done Year 4!



We encourage all families to join in, and take part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch at home. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, engage in a fun activity, and assist bird conservation. **Find out more on the RSPB website at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>.**

Sadly, **in the UK we have lost 38 million birds** in the last 60 years (RSPB, n.d), so they really need our



help! If you would like to know more about how you can help birds, please have a look at last week's newsletter on the school website, within which we covered this in detail. Particular birds that you might find in your garden, but are currently declining, are: house sparrows, green finches, chaffinches, starlings and song thrushes. This is mostly due to habitat loss, climate change, pollution and intensive farming, but chaffinches and greenfinches are also affected by a disease called trichomonosis. This is spread easily when bird feeders are not cleaned regularly. Although some birds, such as wood pigeons, nuthatches, great tits, long tailed tits and goldfinches are increasing, due to people feeding the birds and putting bird boxes up. In fact, **the UK puts out more bird food than the rest of Europe**

**combined, which supports 196 million birds** (BTO, 2019), demonstrating just how important this simple act is. Interestingly, one of the fastest increasing species of UK bird has been the ring-necked parakeet, which has spread to Southampton from London, and may soon be seen in North Baddesley!

### Pen Recycling

Eco Committee finished designing their classroom pen bins, and these are now in every classroom. We found out that old pens are taken in bulk to a factory, which chops them up into small pieces, sorts out the non-plastic bits and melts them into plastic boards. These are then moulded into items including garden benches. Eco Committee are now planning fund raising activities, as we would love to purchase a 'Pen Bench' for our school. In the right spot, this could be a perfect bird spotting seat!



## Upcoming dates and events

JANUARY 2024	3	4	5	6	Event
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January		✓			4C Class assembly to parents (10:20 -10:45)
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January		✓			4W Class assembly to parents (10:20 -10:45)
FEBRUARY 2024					
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February			✓		Year 5 Hampshire Fire and Rescue visit in school
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>FONBJS School Disco</b> (Yr.3 & 4: 4.30 -5.45) (yr. 5 & 6: 6:00 – 7.15)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	Last Day of Term
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	HALF TERM
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	INSET DAY
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	Return to school
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	✓				Year 3 Beaulieu Trip
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Parent communication:</b> spring attainment and progress reports sent home.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Parent communication:</b> Parent Evening Consultations 3:30 -7:00
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Parent communication:</b> Parent Evening Consultations (3:30 - 6:00)

## Competition.

In the school office we have entry forms for this year premier league competition. Miss Wootten will discuss this competition in assembly on Monday- if your child wishes to enter, they can collect the form from the school office.

