

14th June 2019

Darwin: In maths, we've looked at the number 9, and we are beginning to think in depth about subtraction, subtracting single digit numbers from other single digits and finding fun ways to represent this including using lots of finger rhymes that count backwards from a given number. Can your child teach you the ones we've been learning? In Literacy we have begun our 'Talk4Writing' sessions using simple, highly structured stories, firstly learning to recall the story and then beginning to retell it, innovating new characters and events. This will help us with both our Reading and Writing. Our topic focus continues to be animals and we are learning new vocabulary to create our animal fact files. Finally, the children have engaged very well with PSE sessions focusing on how to resolve disagreements with peers. We are busy practising for Sports Day in PE on Friday afternoons - please ensure your child has their full PE kit including outdoor trainers every Friday.

Kandinsky: This week we have been finding out more information about carnivals. We have been using atlases to spot the different countries where carnivals take place. We have decorated our own carnival mask in preparation for our Samba dance lessons which will start next week.

In literacy, we have read a poem called 'Samba School' by K.White and used some of the repeating phrases to write our own Carnival poem based on video clips and photographs we have looked at. We have also been practising our juggling skills for our STEAM challenge!

Our maths fluency lessons have been focused on using our addition and subtraction facts for 10 and 20 to answer questions for quick recall. We have used talk partners to peer assess our work.

Identifying, writing special and best friends in our phonic challenges to help us to decode and read words has been a major part of our week in phonics, with much success!

Seacole: Seacole class have spent the week finalising the centre piece for People's Park. They showed great creativity and although disappointed that they would not be able to plant on Thursday, they were determined to have the best piece in the flower beds. Watch this space to find out the results in the competition... Our topic this term is Beat, Band and Boogie and this week we have been learning about what a beat is. Year 2 went on a sound hunt around the school and found lots of interesting sounds. We are planning to use some of these to make some music. In English this week we have planned and written a fact file all about Banbury's history. The children enjoyed selecting what facts they would like to use in their writing and they all thought carefully about their audience.



This week we have also been merging our maths and science lessons together. The class have learnt how to read and compare temperature using thermometers and then they have used this skill in a scientific investigation. Seacole class were investigating what the best material was to insulate a cup of tea. They enjoyed planning and carrying out the experiment and really showed off their knowledge of reading a thermometer.

Valentina: This week in Valentina has been all about the Greatest Showman! We have done a lot of singing this week and we are getting much more confident with the words. Over the next few weeks, we'll be learning more about performance skills and how to include choreography in our singing. We have been learning about how to find change from different amounts of money and our reasoning has really improved. We are nearly ready for our next Golden Write, which is an alternative version of Goldilocks. We have been practising all of the writing skills we have learned in Year 3 so hopefully this will be our best write so far! In our topic lessons we have been learning all about Martin Luther King Jr. We have discussed the meanings of activism and civil rights, and everyone has thought about what their dream for changing the world would be. The future is in safe hands with Valentina class' strong sense of right and wrong!

DaVinci: DaVinci have had a fabulous week, they have been really focused and have produced some excellent writing and maths work. In our English the children have read our book, 'Phileas's Fortune' a story about a world in which you have to buy the words you want to speak. The children have been enthralled by this idea and thrilled when the two main characters were able to find the words to show each other how much they cared for one another. The book inspired some great descriptive writing and writing in role. In our maths we have been continue to look at converting units of measure, with a focus this week on hours to minutes and days to weeks. In our art work we began preparing for the visit of our printers next week, taking pictures that we would like to go on the front of our STEAM T-shirts. Have a look at some of our efforts:



Shakespeare: Shakespeare class have been building, making, painting, singing, and acting in preparation for the Key stage 2 production of The Greatest Showman.



Sports Day: On your marks, get set, go! Sports Day, our summer term highlight, is quickly approaching. The children have already been practising their running, jumping and throwing in their PE lessons. We warmly invite all parents to come and support the children during this event. **Please do join us from 12pm for a picnic.** From 1pm the children will be involved in a carousel of activities representing their house, during which you can follow your child's group as they compete at the different activity stations. After this there will be a series of competitive races for all the children. There may even be a chance for a parent's race! So please do come and join us from 12pm on Wednesday 3rd July.

Just a note that nursery children are already 'sorted' into houses and for Sports Day this means that they can easily join in with the older children. If you are unsure what house/colour, please see Mrs Duckett. For those children who will be joining us in Reception next year, now may be a good time to purchase a PE top in their house colour ready for next September – you can buy these in Cross Embroidery in Banbury. This is **not compulsory** however and certainly not for any children who will be going to other schools or staying in nursery for another year.



Top of the Pops! "William Morris has the best teaching and curriculum I have seen in a very long time" - Russell Bennett, GLF Schools Director of Education, May 2019. In a recent visit from our Academy's central team, the Director of Education was simply blown away by what we have achieved and what we do so well day in and day out. Personally, I have been teaching for over 15 years, and I have not been a part of something quite as amazing as our STEAM curriculum and our educational offer here. We are quickly becoming the place to be, places are filling up quickly in terms of children joining our school but also teachers choosing to work with us.



School Finances: Education is facing an unprecedented financial challenge. The current government has cut pupil funding 8% in the last 4 years. Funding has been cut and costs have increased. This ultimately means that schools and Headteachers are having to make difficult decisions and prioritise like never before. Having a full school is quite simply the only way to save and maintain the high quality staff we are used to and that we have recruited for next year. Please make sure you support our events like the summer fayre, please read previous letter.

Expansion: In exciting news, we are expanding our nursery! We have traditionally joined nursery with reception. Next year we have agreed with GLF that it is time we spread a little further and had our own full nursery. We have a very talented and capable EY team, overseen by Mrs Obinna to staff our Early Years unit. Nurseries are a VERY important part of school life. Nurseries mean that we can start working with children and families much sooner and it also means that we are able to grow our school from very early on. This is a particularly important strategy financially. Schools are under enormous financial pressure, as mentioned before. Please spread the word far and wide, we need to fill up our nursery! Every space needs to be taken and we need your help. We offer places for 3 years up 15 hours funded or 30 hours funded.

Staffing updates: As is always the case in schools, the summer term often ushers in some sad goodbyes whilst welcoming in some very exciting 'hellos'. Although not a goodbye, Lucy Bailey will be teaching over in Didcot next year. Lucy will still be visiting William Morris regularly though, she can't escape! As previously mentioned, Claire Martin will still be leading some areas of William Morris but will be working at Longford Primary next year as will Kelly DeSantis. Both Claire and Kelly will be leading English and Maths at William Morris and so will be around every week. Claire Richmond, as I am sure you have noticed, will be having her baby in September and we wish her the very best as she starts her maternity leave. Although it feels like there are some staffing changes, no-one is actually leaving us so we are thrilled to maintain all this skill and expertise within our schools' teams. We are now truly seeing the benefit of working over more than one school. The strength and depth in our leadership and teaching team is second to none in the area and it is something that sets us apart from everyone else.

This year saw an absolute triumph in recruitment! Not for many years have we enjoyed such a wide selection and the luxury of choice when we have gone to interview. This year we had 30+ applications to come and work at William Morris, I have not seen this for a long time and never before at William Morris! In an age where recruitment of teachers is extremely difficult with nearly 40% of new teachers leaving the profession by their 3rd year, it is almost unheard of to have so many applicants. This means that we have been in the extremely fortunate position of being extremely picky and being able to choose recruits only of the highest standard.

So who is who in 2019-2020?

Early Years Unit: Lauren Smith who is currently teaching at Longford Park will be the **Reception** teacher. She is moving to William Morris due to her high levels of experience and skill. We managed to recruit her to Longford last year from Bristol. It is looking likely that her current class is due to perform well above national targets. **Nursery** the Key Person will be Charmaine Hancock, she is an experienced Nursery Nurse who has previously worked at the Outstanding Ace Centre Nursery School, in Chipping Norton.

Year 1: We welcome Harlie Marriott to the team next year. She is an enthusiastic teacher looking to make her mark on the profession here at William Morris.

Year 2: A highly respected and long standing member of William Morris Team - Tonya Way.

Year 3/4: An experienced and very skilled teacher relocating to Oxfordshire, we are lucky to have found Emily Jull. Emily is highly determined and will not allow her children to be anything other than successful.

Year 4/5: A familiar and very welcome face, the year 5s have already given a huge cheer at the return of Cleo Jones! Cleo worked with Mr Johns earlier this year and we are so pleased that she has chosen us to start her career with us. Cleo had the luxury of learning from one of the best in the business, Alastair Johns.

Year 5/6: We have a brilliant teacher for Year 5/6 next year, Natalie Baines. She has been working in Year 6 for many years and has a highly successful track record. She will be able to carry on the good work that Claire Martin has started at William Morris for the last 3 years.

All the teachers will still be under the direction and guidance of Claire Martin and Alastair Johns and me, the Headteacher.

Move up day: 8th July is our exciting annual move-up day. You will be given an opportunity to pop into school after drop-off at 8:40am to have a cup of tea or coffee for 20 minutes to meet your new teacher for next year. Please note children moving into nursery and Reception, will also be joining us on that day at 9:30am and stay for 15 minutes and then collect at 11:30am.

Building works: Building investment and development is still due to take place at William Morris although this has been delayed due to Oxfordshire County Council and the reams of red tape involved in new development funds being allocated to local investment. This has taken much longer than anticipated and is unfortunately something that is out of our control. HOWEVER, GLF are not prepared to wait for everything and have made the decision to invest in the development of some much needed ground works for Early Years. Over the summer (and potentially into the early part of September) the ground and hill where nursery/reception currently are, will be excavated and developed to form a brand new purpose built outdoor space for nursery and reception. It is likely to include a new entrance to the school for parents in year 1- year 6 from the top of the gate with a separate entrance for nursery and reception parents at the bottom of our driveway where you currently enter the school. This is very exciting and I would like to say a big thank you to GLF central team and Board of Directors for investing in us when other things seem to be delaying and getting in the way.



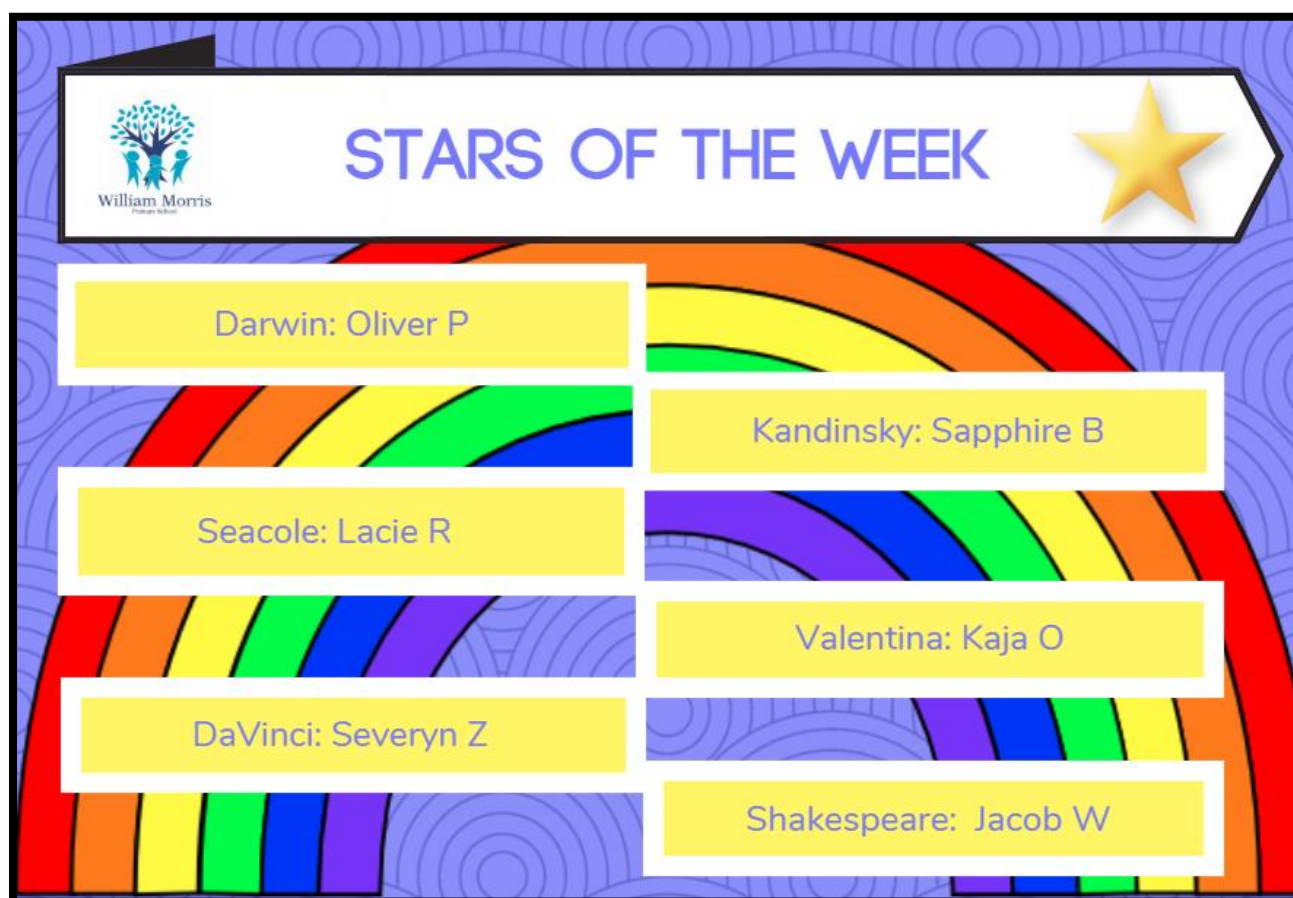
Key Dates for your Diary:

- Tuesday 18th June at 8:45am, Parent Forum
- Tuesday 18th June at 3:30pm, New Reception parents meeting
- Saturday 22nd June, Summer Fayre
- Friday 28th June, INSET Day – no children in school
- Wednesday 26th June, Sports day & Family Picnic
- Monday 8th July, move up day: this is when you will have an opportunity to meet with your new teacher for next year and the children will spend the morning in their new classes
- Tuesday 9th July, Year 6 Takeover Day
- Wednesday 10th July, School Production (Key Stage 2 only) 1pm and 5.30pm
- Monday 15th July, Reports out to parents
- Tuesday 16th July, Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- Thursday 18th July, Family BBQ
- Friday 19th July, last day of Summer Term 2 – **1pm finish**

Have a lovely weekend!

Hiddleston

Julie Hiddleston and the school team



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All clubs for this term run from 3:15-4:15pm

Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
Choir Yrs 3-6 Free of charge	Football £3 per session Rock Stars Club Yrs 2, 3 and 4 only Free of charge	Dance Club £3 per session

Free Trial Piano Tuition

Studies show that time spent at the keyboard improves mental health: people who make music experience less anxiety, loneliness, and depression. Playing piano has also been shown to be a great source of stress relief, and provides ample opportunity to bolster self-esteem. It is also a widely used form of therapy for Attention Deficit Disorder. **Not sure if your child will take to it? Why not try a month's tuition FREE of charge?**

All tuition books and diaries are also supplied free of charge by the service. To obtain an application form, please email **MJmusicervices@aol.com**

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