



Kemble Primary School

Tues 21st Feb 2017

March 2nd
World Book Day

March 3rd
Parent / Head Chat
9.30am

March 22nd
Oak assembly

March 24th
School Council
Fundraising—Red
Nose Day
Interim Reports out

March 27th
Parents' evening 5-
7.30pm

March 28th Parents
Evening 3.30-5.30pm

April 6th
Easter Service
9.30am

April 7th
Last day of term 4

April 24th
Return to school

5th May
Parent Head Chat

8th May
SATS Week—no
absences for all
classes

This Terms Worship Theme is: Compassion

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 4! We hope everyone had a super half term break and that the children are ready to come back to another fun term. Teachers put topic information up on their class blogs with ideas for children and parents to do - sometimes there are suggestions of places or websites to visit to enhance the topic. We hope this helps.

ABSENCE - I need to make all parents aware, I am so sorry, but I have had a skiing accident and will not be in school for a while. I fell (quite unusual for me when skiing - over 30 years' experience!) and have torn my MCL, and the ACL stretched and tore a piece of bone too. I am booked in for an appointment on Thursday and once I have had this I will have more information and a better idea of my return date. You are in good hands with Mrs Newton and Mrs Hamlett, but I will be overseeing things from my sofa, do let the office know if you need to contact me!

URGENT JOB VACANCY We urgently need a **MDSA** to work every day but we would consider a job share. The role includes supervising lunchtimes and helping children and also playing with the children and encouraging happy playtimes. Please speak to the school office if you are interested. We also need a **Breakfast Club Assistant ideally 5 days a week but again would consider a job share.**



WORLD BOOK DAY - This term we will be holding our annual World Book Day character dressing up day (2nd March). Teachers will be planning a range of story and book related activities for the day. Reading is crucial for all subjects children learn at school and we do try to make it as fun as possible. It is so helpful if parents can listen to children read each day - make it fun, use funny voices or ask questions or try to predict what might happen in the story. Ask what children have enjoyed and what other books they might like to read. If your child finds reading hard, try reading to them for a while, chose an easier book (or mention it to your child's teacher

CLASS ASSEMBLIES & PARENT HEAD CHATS - Our Reception class, Oak have their class assembly at 9:00am on 22nd March.

I will hold my parent head chat (if back!) on Friday 3rd March at 9:30am - the discussions will be about homework in light of new research. I hope to see lots of parents there. Please see the attached page at the end of the newsletter for details of homework changes.

PARENT EVENINGS - Please make sure that you book up to see your class teacher - the dates remain the same as in the events calendar March 27th 5:00 - 7:30pm and March 28th 3:30 - 5:30pm. These will be held in the classrooms and the form for them will go up on the previous Monday 20th. I am afraid the office staff cannot book sessions up as they cannot see who has already signed up. If you cannot make it into school then please ask a friend to sign up for you - thank you.



SCHOOL COUNCIL - Just to let you know the school council has been fund-raising for new playground equipment.



BUILD UPDATE - We are pleased to say that the catering kitchen has been completed and meals will be cooked on site once again in a new updated and purpose built space. The remaining project work will be completed by the end of this term! We will then start the work on the playground and play spaces around the school.



EASTER SERVICE - our Easter service this year is on April 6th at 9:30am - we look forward to seeing everyone in church for this celebration service.

Please see page 4 of this newsletter regarding homework

March Birthdays

Zac R, Jazmin, Reuben, Erika, Tye, Amelie,
Henry, Henk, Liana, Preston, Poppy B,
Jeannie



HOMEWORK RESEARCH INFORMATION - topic of discussion at next parent / head chat.. The following research was carried out by the Education Endowment Foundation - who carry out all the government research so that improvements can be made to education.

Homework (Primary)

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons. Common homework activities in primary schools tend to be reading or practising spelling and number facts, but may also include more extended activities to develop inquiry skills or more directed and focused work such as revision for tests.

How effective is it?

It is certainly the case that schools whose pupils do homework tend to be more successful. However it is less clear that the homework is the reason why they are successful. A number of reviews and Meta-analyses have explored this issue. There is stronger evidence that it is helpful at secondary level, but there is much less evidence of benefit at primary level.

There is some evidence that when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students' attainment, but this is limited for primary age pupils. Overall the general benefits are likely to be modest if homework is more routinely set. The quality of the task set appears to be more important than the quantity of work required from the pupil.

How secure is the evidence?

Homework has been extensively researched. There is a relatively consistent picture that pupils in schools which give more homework perform better, although for primary age pupils the difference is small. However, there are only a small number of studies which have investigated whether this relationship is due to the homework itself, rather than other school factors. These studies compare classes where homework is introduced to similar classes where homework is not given. They tend to show that homework can be beneficial, but this finding is less secure than the first.

What should schools consider?

Overall, homework in primary schools does not appear to lead to large increases in learning.

Effective homework is associated with greater parental involvement and support.

How will you design homework to encourage parental engagement?

The broader evidence base suggests that short focused tasks or activities which relate directly to what is being taught, and which are built upon in school, are likely to be more effective than regular daily homework.

Have you made the purpose of homework clear to children?

In discussion with teachers and feedback from parents on a regular basis we are going to go back to basics with homework and concentrate purely on the areas that form the basis of a good education - reading daily, spelling and time tables or number facts.

We will aim for teachers to produce simple activities or games that can be used by parents and children and hopefully take the 'arguments' that sometimes occur between parents and children when trying to 'get them to do their homework'. On the class blogs there will be ideas from staff and parents who want to do more will be able to look at the topics and plan additional activities or visits to supplement the work in school. I would welcome parental views on this research and our idea of going back to basics at the parent head chat - thank you.