

Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. It was lovely to welcome all the children back and introduce them to the new members of staff. On Monday we welcomed Ian Cowper as our new Assistant Headteacher. He is responsible for developing teaching and learning within the school. We also welcomed Mary-Lou Berry as Year 1 teacher, sharing with Tricia Valentine and Sam Jones is our new Year 1 teaching assistant. Louise Quinn joins Dave Matthews in Year 5 and will be with us for the rest of this year. The start to this term has been really settled – your children have been amazing and everyone has commented on the calm feel around the school.

Contact Sheet

On Monday every child will be given a contact sheet, where both sides need to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible. The reason we are asking for this information is to ensure that our records are completely up to date and to comply with GDPR in regards to use of photographs and images. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent survey

Thank you so much to all those parents who have completed the survey for us. It's really appreciated. If you have not already done so, you can access the survey by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NLAWpshZ70Oran1wFqncFzWeeJyRTRNEsDPphL-i3-5UMUxCRTINRDhaVjNLUEU1VTNYVUxiQijTVy4u>

The closing date for the survey will be 11th January at 10am and I will provide a summary of the outcomes over the coming weeks.

Term Dates 2020/21

The term dates for 2020/21 are as follows:

Monday 7th September 2020 to Thursday 22nd October 2020
Monday 2nd November 2020 – Friday 18th December 2020
Tuesday 5th January 2021 – Friday 12th February 2021
Monday 22nd February 2021 – Friday 26th March 2021
Monday 12th April 2021 – Friday 28th May 2021
Tuesday 8th June 2021 – Thursday 22nd July 2021

Author of the Month

In our celebration assembly today, I introduced Philip Pullman as our 'Author of the Month'. I have challenged children in Years 3 – 6 to read a book by this author and write a detailed book review. The best book reviews will be made into a booklet for our library so that other children can read the reviews before choosing any of his books. The winning book review will receive a gift voucher presented in our Friday celebration assembly.



Regular Reading Challenge

Well done to all the children and their families who took part in the regular reading challenge last half term. At TPPS we really value reading and have it at the heart of our curriculum. It is lovely to see so many children regularly reading at home with their parents and carers. Yesterday in assembly, we celebrated this and the regular readers were rewarded with a certificate. Each class also entered all entries into a book prize raffle and the lucky winners were delighted to receive a book prize. Keep reading!

Music Lessons – Year 3 – 6 only

We currently have 3 spaces available for music lessons which are delivered by the teachers from the MK music co-op. For £51 per term, children will receive 10 lessons during the school day. If you would like further information, please contact the school office. We currently have 2 spaces on Keyboard and 1 space on Brass - first come first served!

Communication

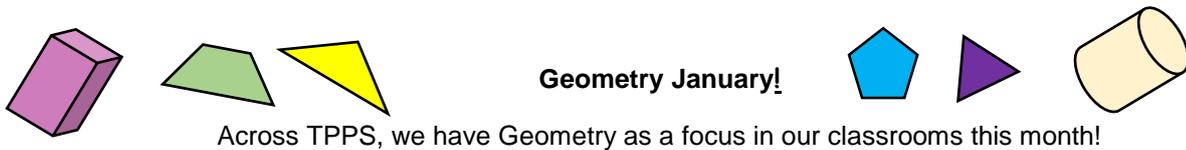
You may have noticed that our website has been updated during the Christmas period with a new look and updated photos. You will also find sections about our curriculum with newsletters from each year group sharing what the children will be learning each half term. On the home page, you can find our Twitter feed where we post pictures of what our children are up to during the school day. We also upload this weekly newsletter so that you can refer back to old newsletters if you misplace one. If you have any further ways in which you think we can improve communication, then please comment in the parent survey or drop me an email. Thank you.

Parents Evening

This is advanced warning that appointments for the Spring Term Parents Evening will now be booked online using the school gateway system. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Attendance letters

As per our policy, we have looked at attendance figures for the Autumn term and if your child's attendance is less than 95% you will be receiving a letter informing you of this. This is because, good attendance is seen as 95% or above. We do know however, that there have been lots of bugs around this year! Attendance below 90% is more of a cause for concern and will be monitored more closely. Thank you for your support in encouraging good attendance.



Can you have fun together at home and take part in some of these activities? Please bring in anything you get up to this month (photos, writing, drawings, models etc), we'd love to showcase them in our classes.

FS, Y1 & Y2	Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Scavenger shape hunt! Can you find objects of these shapes at home? Square, rectangle, circle, triangle* Can you draw a favourite meal, an animal, a face or a building using only 2D shapes?* Make patterns using either objects in your home or drawings and repeat these.* Seek hunt: Can you find an object faster than me that has 2 sides, or 4 vertices, or 12 edges or 3 faces?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Scavenger hunt! Can you find objects of these shapes at home? Cone, cube, cuboid, sphere, square-based pyramid, tetrahedron, cylinder, triangular prism.* Build a 3D shape using a net.* Design some symmetrical art- this could be with pencils, paint or crayons. How many lines of symmetry can you use?* Instruct a friend or family member to robotically dance e.g. turn 90° clockwise, parallel arms, turn 180°, perpendicular arms!

Headlice

We have had reports of children with head lice. Thankfully these days there is no social stigma attached to this problem which is now nationwide.

Many of you will already know the Buckinghamshire Health Authority and Milton Keynes LEA combined policy is not to alert parents to the fact that there is a head lice outbreak in a particular class, individual or group. This is to change the emphasis from **reaction** to **proactive prevention measures**.

So this is my reminder to be watchful for head lice and make weekly preventative action part of your family routine. The recommended action is to carefully comb with a nit comb while hair has conditioner on.

If actual lice are found it is recommended that you use a lotion or shampoo before sending the child back to school. Please remember to check and treat the whole family, if affected. We hope this is useful. **We all rely on each other to take responsible action in order to prevent serious outbreaks.**

Congratulations

Marla in year 3 competed her tenth 5K parkrun on Saturday and even made it into the weekly parkrun report. She's photographed at the end of the report with her brother Fenton and friend Hughie (both Tickford Park students). For further information please visit <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/linfordwood/news/2020/01/05/run-report-04012020/>

Year 5/6 – Guinea Pigs

We are hoping that our guinea pigs will arrive in school on Monday 13th January, everyone is excited to meet them.

A little reminder ☺

Aspirations Morning – FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2020

Just a little reminder that our School Council has organised an 'Aspirations morning', on the morning of Friday 17th January, where TPPS parents/carers are invited in to talk to the children about the jobs they do.

This links to our Citizenship & PSHE learning in school, and helps the children develop aspirations for the future by widening their knowledge about different jobs and careers that they can pursue when they leave school – helping them to become 'responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society.'

If you are happy to join us for the session (or part of it), we would like you to talk about your work, tell the children what is was that made you consider that job, outline what you needed to do to get the job you wanted, and bring in images or equipment to share with the children.

So that the morning can be organised, please indicate on the form that came out earlier in the week whether you will be attending the whole session, or part of it, and return the form by Monday 13th January.

Have a lovely weekend.

Claire

Miss Claire Britnell
Executive Headteacher

Dates for your calendar (these dates may be subject to change and additions – any changes are typed in bold)

Date	Year Group	Visit/Event
14.01.20	Whole School	School Nurse visiting school (appointments only)
15.01.20	Sept 2020 starters	Applications for children starting school for the first in September 2020 need to be completed online
17.01.20	Whole School	Aspirations Morning
23.01.20	Foundation	Newport Pagnell Library
06.02.20	Foundation	Magic Wok
10.02.20	Year 2	MK Museum
10.02.20	4 (group 1)	Residential group 1 leaves for Everdon
12.02.20	4 (group 1)	Residential group 1 returns from Everdon
12.02.20	4 (group 2)	Residential group 2 leaves for Everdon
13.02.20	Foundation	Aston Martin
14.02.20	4 (group 2)	Residential group 2 returns from Everdon
14.02.20	Whole School	School closes at end of session
24.02.20	Whole School	School opens
19.03.20	Foundation	Pizza Express
03.04.20	Whole School	School closes at end of session
20.04.20	Whole School	School opens
08.05.20	Whole School	May Bank Holiday
22.05.20	Whole School	School closes at end of session
01.06.20	Whole School	INSET Day – staff only in school
02.06.20	Whole School	School opens
22.06.20	5	Residential visit to Oakwood leaves
26.06.20	5	Residential visit returns from Oakwood
14.07.20	6	Residential visit to Caldecotte leaves
17.07.20	6	Residential visit returns from Caldecotte
17.07.20	Whole School	School closes at end of session
20.07.19	Whole School	INSET Day – staff only in school