

Newsletter No. 19
31st January 2020



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Kinetic Letters

If you have children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, you have probably heard a lot about our new approach to teaching handwriting – I know I've had a couple of questions about lizard poses and special pencils! Kinetic Letters is a research-driven approach to the teaching of handwriting that concentrates initially on the physicality of how to write and addresses some of the issues that children can face when starting to learn to hold a pencil and develop writing stamina. Much of the early part of the programme focuses on developing key areas of physical strength and you may hear your children talking about practising things like gorilla and penguin poses! All our children in EYFS and KS1 are now following the Kinetic Letters programme and we will be rolling it out across the rest of the school over coming months with the remainder of our staff all trained by September. We will run information sessions once the whole school is doing the scheme as part of our update work at the beginning of next year. In the meantime, please do speak to staff if you have any questions.

DATES

February

11th Safer Internet Day Parent Workshop 5.30pm

12th 3JC Class Assembly

14th End of Term

24th Training Day

25th Children return to school

26th Parents Evening

27th Parents Evening

March

4th 2MM Class Assembly

6th World Book Day Dress Up

Attendance

6TG	98.67%
6GD	98.6%
1LB	98.57%
2MM	98%
4PW	97.8%
5BM	97.3%
1LA	97.14%
3GH	96.90%
RKB	96.30%
4CS	95.86%
5AS	95.33%
2SB	94.67%
3JC	92.5%
RLB	84.14%

Parent Drop-Ins

Thank you to all the parents who came along to the parent drop-ins this week – it was really good to receive some really positive feedback about the school and also to gather some helpful suggestions for further development. I appreciate you taking the time to come along.



IMPORTANT E-SAFETY MESSAGE

We have received the following message from one of our local secondary schools and have been asked to share it with parents.

Grooming/Child Sexual Exploitation

There has been some recent activity of possible grooming aimed towards younger students in the school via social media, by an unknown adult male. Some of our students have engaged in conversation with him and some have been coerced in to sending images of themselves.

We have involved the Police and CEOP and are doing assemblies next week to raise awareness about remaining safe online. Can I ask that you take the time, once again, to speak to your child about online safety and if you have any concerns, please contact the police.

Parents Evenings

Booking opens on Monday 03/02/2020 for the Parents' Evenings which will take place on

Wednesday 26th
February 3.30-6pm
and

Thursday 27th February
4-6.30pm.

Please book online

[www.https://uptonmeadows.parentseveningssystem.co.uk/](https://uptonmeadows.parentseveningssystem.co.uk/)

The Saints

On Friday last week, 20 lucky children attended the Northampton Saints vs London Irish game at Franklins Gardens. The children really enjoyed watching their home team play under the lights and got to experience the feel of a nearly sold out crowd singing and chanting "Oh when the Saints, go marching in!". The children also spent time with the players at the end of the game, getting signatures and photographs.



Superstars

Well done to our superstars this week. It was great to hear what fantastic attitudes towards your learning you've been showing and our Shakespeare work definitely seems to be a highlight of everyone's learning!



Good Work

Well done to all our children receiving good work awards this week. We heard about some great maths, descriptive writing and fantastic science amongst other things.



Bronze Awards



Another bumper crop of bronze winners this week - well done children!

Safer Internet Day

Please remember on **Tuesday 11th February** we will be marking Safer Internet Day



by taking part in a range of activities. We will be running a parent workshop at **5.30pm** which

we hope you will be able to attend.

The children will be collecting gold stars for the activities they take part in and all children who complete their collector's card will receive a special badge and will be entered into a prize draw. To earn their final star they must bring a parent along to the workshop. This proved very popular last year with many children earning their badge. This year their picture will also be added to a wall of fame display of UMPS E-Safety Heroes. So don't miss out.

Copies of a new digital parenting magazine are available to pick up at the office in the leaflet stand.