



**TOGETHER WE CARE, TOGETHER WE SUCCEED... October 2023**



Recall of multiplication facts are key to unlocking so many topics in mathematics and for helping children to access these areas with confidence and fluency. TTRS/Numbots is a really fun way to develop and consolidate this knowledge. Classes have been given their username and passwords so they are able to access TTRS and Numbots (Rec, Y1 & Y2) at home. We recommend a "little and often" approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 or 5 times a week is a good target. You can download the app for either TTRS or Numbots or play using a web browser – <https://play.ttrockstars.com/>

**Thank you to the Dudley Road Safety Team for our Bikeability sessions with Y3 and Y5**

A big thank you to the Road Safety team from Dudley and all their volunteers for running Bikeability courses with children in Year 3 and Year 5 over the last few weeks. The Y3 children have been busy practising their cycling skills on the playground and they have really enjoyed their Bikeability sessions and gained so much cycling confidence. You may have also seen some of our Year 5 children learning to ride their bikes around our local roads as part of their Bikeability training. Well done to all the children who took part.

**Dates for your diary- look out for more information coming out in November.**

**Nursery-** Santa's workshop **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**  
**Class RP-** Christmas performance **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**  
**Class RDS-** Christmas performance **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**  
**Class 1D-** Christmas performance **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**  
**Class 1J-** Christmas performance **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**  
**Class 1W-** Christmas performance **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am**  
**Whole School Christmas Carol Concert-** KS2 playground **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.30pm**

**Children in Need – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Be Spotacular!**



This year's Children in Need theme is 'Be Spotacular!' so join in with the Children in Need fun wearing Mufti – with spots if you can! Any silver-coin donations into school are gratefully received and the collection buckets will be at both entrances at the start and end of each day. Thank you.

**Pop-up Poppy Shop- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

Our Gig Mill pop-up Poppy Shop returns after half-term supporting the British Legion's Poppy charity collection. We have a range of wristbands, pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, reflective poppies and of course the traditional paper poppy. All proceeds go to the Royal British Legion and all items are under £1. The shop will be open in school each day and your child will have chance to visit the shop with their class. If you would like to support us in raising money for The Royal British Legion, please could we ask that any money coming into school is either in a named purse / wallet or in a named envelope. If possible, please could you send in coins for your child to spend as this helps us greatly with giving change.



**Term dates- reminder**

Half-term- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November is an INSET day. School reopens to pupils on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.  
 Break up for Christmas on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Spring term 2024:**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January is an INSET day. School reopens to pupils on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.  
 Half term – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
 Term ends: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

**Summer term 2024**

Term starts Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
 May Day: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
 Half term Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
 INSET Day: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. School reopens to pupils Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
 End of term – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
 INSET Day: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

## Autumn 2023, our first half term in...

### Nursery

Our Nursery children have been learning all about autumn and exploring nature. We have been on an autumn walk and completed leaf rubbings. We have been mixing red and yellow colours to make orange and we have made lots of patterns with all the natural things we collected on our autumn walks.

### Reception

The Reception classes have settled wonderfully into school routines and have made a fantastic start to their school journey. They have been singing songs to learn how to hold a pencil correctly and have begun to learn the sounds that letters make. The children are enjoying our different school areas and have particularly loved collecting natural objects on our autumn walks around our school grounds.

### Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy learning all about bones! They have been finding out about bones in the human body and creating fabulous skeleton pictures. The children have also been carefully observing the signs of autumn around the school grounds, looking out for changes in our environment. The children are also studying our local area in Geography and have looked at the human geography of roads, shops, schools and landmarks eg the clock in Stourbridge town centre.

### Year 2

All of the children in Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the term, learning about the Great Fire of London and even making their own bread. They have also been busy writing bread-making instructions for Mrs Hannaway to make her own! The children have loved the new Yoga unit in P.E., working on their strength and flexibility, and taking their mindfulness practice into other areas. *'I felt closer to nature when I was practising mindful breathing outside on the playground'* Joel Y2.

### Year 3

This half term, Y3 have loved doing Bikeability sessions with the Road Safety Team. Scarlett Y3- *'I learnt to ride my bike without stabilisers and I rode safely'* and Benjamin Y3 *'I loved Bikeability because I learnt new skills.'* Dougie: *'I loved riding my bike and learnt some things I didn't know for my own safety, like what the chain looks like. It was lots of fun as I usually just ride my bike around the park.'* Congratulations to everyone who took part in the course and well done to those children who were awarded their Bikeability Level 1 badge.

### Year 4

Year 4 have been enjoying learning about the Anglo Saxons in their History work, and learnt about the Viking legend Beowulf. The children are really enthusiastic about our recorder lessons and they are gaining confidence in playing an instrument and learning about musical notation too. On Monday, the children visited Ridgewood High School to see a production of Matilda and everyone found the show really entertaining. It was great to see so many ex-Gig Mill students taking part too!

### Year 5

Well done to all the children who took part in the Bikeability sessions and congratulations to everyone who achieved their Bikeability Level 2 badge. The children really enjoyed riding their bikes on the local roads and were really confident using their new skills to lead their instructors around a route. In History work, the children have been learning all about World War II and had a visit to RAF Cosford where they saw some original WWII aircraft and even experienced an air raid siren. Year 5 also went to see the Matilda production and really enjoyed the musical performance.

### Year 6

Y6 have been enjoying learning about the explorer Ernest Shackleton as part of our Ice Worlds topic. The children have written a biography about his life and in Art the children have been using their amazing sketching skills to draw his ship - Endurance. When applying for a role on his crew, we had some fantastic discussions about why only the boys were chosen for his adventure! Finally, it was wonderful to see so many of our pupils applying to be a House Captain and we were excited to announce the overall results in last week's assembly - these names can be found on our website.



Have a lovely half-term break!

