

Friday 12th February 2016

Message from the head

This week we received our second letter of the year from a Minister of State. The letter congratulates Brecknock for the progress that groups of children make in the school and invites us to apply for a national Pupil Premium award. Sam Gyimah, the Under Secretary of State for Childcare and Education says "The reason you have been selected is that you are one of the highest achieving schools in the country in terms of the attainment and progress of your disadvantaged pupils since 2011. It is clear that your school has provided them with a good start in life and prepared them well for secondary school. I would like to congratulate your governors, parents and pupils for their hard work and success". What a fantastic end to the half term! Do read the letter for yourself on the news section of the website or by scanning the QR code here.



The half term break is upon us and I would like to wish you all an enjoyable week. There are lots of things to do around town so do try and take advantage of them – you might want to take in the Chinese New Year celebrations or a long walk on the heath, or even just snuggle up with a good book. Whatever you do... have fun! We will look forward to welcoming everyone back at 8:55 on Monday 22nd February.

Punctuality

Brecknock will be having a drive on punctuality after half term. Our Education Welfare Officer, Nigel Norie, will be at the school gates for most of the week after half term.



Please remember that:

9.05 am - 5 minutes late means 3 days lost a year
 9.10 am - 10 minutes late means 6 days lost a year
 9.15 am - 15 minutes late means 9 days lost a year

You will see the "Every minute counts" poster around school with this on.

Children find arriving at school late upsetting and they miss out on important opportunities.

Please work with us to provide your child with the best chances of learning by ensuring they are in school every day and on time.

Thank you.

Maths Puzzle—Can you solve it?

Last weeks puzzles proved a hit with many of you. Lots of children came in with correct answers. Puzzle 1 was of course 3 people—a grandfather, father and son who went fishing. In puzzle 2, Tom's Granny was 58. Well done to everyone who got it correct and earned a merit. Especially Tesnim and Seif (Sicily) who have solved both puzzles for two weeks in a row. First this week with the correct answers was Raia (Sumatra). Lets see who can solve these two over half term!

PUZZLE 1:

Using the numerals 1, 7, 7, 7 and 7 (a "1" and four "7"s) create the number 100. As well as the five numerals you can use the usual mathematical operations +, -, ×, ÷ and brackets (). For example: $(7+1) \times (7+7) = 112$ would be a good attempt, but not right, because it is not 100.



PUZZLE 2:

The manager of the bank in Mathsville has a problem. He has forgotten the combination number of the safe. Fortunately, he does remember some things about the number which may help you to help him.

- The number has four digits (eg. 1234 or 9876).
- All the digits are different.
- It begins and ends with an odd number and has two even numbers in the middle.
- 19 and 519 go into it exactly.



Attendance Rabbit & Early Bird Winners

1st—5th February

Attendance KS1: **Mull—98.28%**
 Attendance KS2: **Corsica—99.26%**
 Early Bird: **Jersey Class—0 lates**



Reading Eggs & Mathletics

Don't forget to encourage your children to us their 'Reading Eggs' and 'Mathletics' accounts.

www.readingeggs.co.uk & www.mathletics.co.uk

Dates for your calendar

15th-19th Feb	Spring Half Term Holiday
22nd February	School Opens—children back
3rd March	Jamaica Class to CLC
4th March	Cuba Class to CLC
8th March	Year 1 to Unicorn Theatre
24th March	Last day of term—close @ 2pm
25th Mar-8th Apr	Easter Holidays
11th April	School Opens—children back
2nd May	May Day Holiday—School Closed
30th May-3rd June	Summer Half Term Holiday
6th June	INSET Day—School Closed
7th June	School Opens—children back
4th July	KS1 & KS2 Sports Day
20th July	Last day of term—close @ 2pm

Parent Gym

Places are still available on the Parentgym parenting course running in our children's centre. The course will run over 7 weeks, on Friday mornings 9:15-11:15am. If any of you are interested in attending or learning more about it please see Amanda or Elena in the Children's Centre or nursery setting. A crèche is provided.



EYFS Parent Academy

We are in the process of arranging with Parent Academy to run a 6 week course for parents of children in reception and Year 1 on phonics. As soon as we have more information we will let you all know. Watch this space!



Chinese New Year Celebrations

On Monday 22nd February, the first day back after half term, we will be holding a special assembly and all parents are invited. The assembly will celebrate the end of Chinese New Year and the art work which Year 3 and Holiday Art Club have been creating. It should be a lovely event and we are even hoping for some lion dancers so do please try to come along. The assembly will take place at 12 o'clock in the middle hall.



Friday Tea—Year 1—Friday 26th February



Tahiti class went to the Camden Learning Centre (CLC) as part of their computing curriculum. They worked on various software packages and made videos all about volcanoes to link in with their topic work back in school. You'll see more of their work and some of the finished videos on the website soon. They all had a great day and the CLC staff were very impressed by the children's skills and took to Twitter to describe them as 'Amazing Y4'. Well done to them all.

Tahiti at the CLC



In numeracy Skye class have been learning all about the vocabulary of direction. They had to navigate their way through mazes and use their knowledge of directions to make it through. What a lot of fun was had!



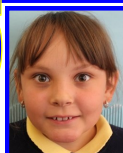
Dodgeball

This week some children from year 4 and 5 took part in a Camden Dodgeball competition and played really well. Shalin and Charlotte were in the red team which won while Sharnelle and Jamie were runners up. Good fun was had by all even though it was very chilly!



At the Theatre with Year 5

This is a review written by Abbi from their trip this week. Looking for something fun to do over half term? Read her review and see if its worth a visit.



On Wednesday we went to see a play called 'Theseus and the Minotaur' at the Unicorn Theatre. I would recommend it for ages 7+ because it was a long story and younger children wouldn't really understand it. My favourite part was when Theseus wanted to see his father but the guards wouldn't let him and the guards had to crawl on the floor. The scary part was when it was all dark and the Minotaur scared everyone. Although the sad part was when the Minotaur finally said 'Ariadne' and then Theseus killed him. I cried. It was totally amazing!

Fantastic Chloe!

Here is another piece of writing inspired by the work in year 6 on Kensuke's Kingdom. We have been so impressed with Chloe's application and attitude since coming back from the Christmas break. Her work, across all subject has been much improved and we wanted to celebrate this piece of writing with you all. Well done Chloe, keep it up!



It was dad's stupid idea. He said we were going to sail around the world on the 'Peggy Sue'. It sounded great ; visiting amazing countries, meeting and greeting people and seeing things we could only dream of in England. It was once in a lifetime opportunity; all my friends will be jealous, especially Eddie. And it all started off brilliantly. I got to play football in beautiful Brazil, went fishing in Cape Verde and explored the fabulous Barrier Reef. But it all changed the night before my 12th birthday. A night that will scare me forever...It was a dark and gloomy night. No moon, no stars. I could hear a storm coming. Why didn't I have my harness on? What was I thinking? It was so hard to see where I was going. The rain was as hard as hailstones. Lightning struck in the sky. The 'Peggy Sue' kept swishing side to side. It was out of control. As our boat kept swishing side to side me and Stella kept slipping, nearly going over. But I didn't. Slipped again and again. Off I went into the side of the 'Peggy Sue'. It was hard to control. But an enormous unnatural wave took its final shot and swished at me. Off I went. Into a cold and icy ocean. I wish I had my harness on. I was screaming. Stella was barking and howling but mum and dad just couldn't hear me. What would happen to me now? Waves kept coming over me. I thought I would drown. The terrors came fast, one upon another, until it went black.

My eyes were puffed up. I rubbed them. I couldn't see the 'Peggy Sue' anywhere. My stomach churned. I was worried. "Where am I?" I thought to myself. I stood up on solid ground but then sun was blazing in my eyes. I strolled around. The sky was cloudless, I could hear birds crackling high and low making me feel uneasy. I had a feeling that somebody was watching me and little did I know there was! I could see that the trees were impossible to climb. There was an emerald green forest ahead of me. I could already hear Gibbons before I even got in there. Parrots were flying above me. I could see a peak ahead of me so I ran. I climbed up. I could see the island was shaped like a peanut. You could notice that the deep wide ocean kept coming over the golden, yellow grains of sand. Trees swishing side to side because the wind was out. Stella kept jumping up at me. I had a great idea that I should make a fire. Will they ever find me? What will happen to me? Who will look after me? Stella! At least I have her here.

Golden Book Awards and this weeks winners are...



Kayinat & Josh—Mull, Nourelhouda & Alia—Skye, Max & Donya—Guernsey, Hannah & Memati—Jersey, Majida & Seif—Y3, Khadija & Dean—Y4, Wei-Keat & Nabil—Y5, Phuk & Patrick—Y6

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Island Emotions

This evocative poem, written by Patrick, was performed by him in this week's Madagascar Class assembly. It's inspired by a scene in 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, where Michael's signal fire is put out by Kensuke.

Island Emotions

Fire stomped,
Feelings shattered,
Confused Emotions,
Angry rage,
Kicking, punching,
stamping,
Kensuke sculpture
destroyed!



By Patrick

Make the rules, break the rules,
Like a volcano, I will erupt,
Fire sending messages, like letters
in the sky,
A bird, a plane, a ship, wish I...