

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

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BRADLEY C OF E (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

But in academic terms, we are about to enter the
Summer Term 1!

A WHOLE NEW LOOK...

I am sure by now, you can't have helped but notice the recent changes in the school premises—both indoors and out. Whilst outdoors we welcomed the eventual installation of our MUGA (multi use games area), which the children are already enjoying, the main KS2 classroom, was completely refurbished. The children certainly approve of the bright, clean and purposeful new classroom, and all the staff agree that the improvements have made a huge difference to the learning environment. Our Governors have all now seen the classroom and the playground improvements, and are delighted with the changes. Take a look at the pictures on the website.

Continuing with our improvements to the learning environment, we plan to extend the current mezzanine, in the main building, to provide a dedicated library and reading area, which will double-up as an additional teaching & learning space. We also plan to improve the office space further, with additional storage and study space. We hope this will take place over the coming months, but this needs careful planning, so as not to interfere with the children's learning needs. We will keep you updated as to our progress!

A very important time

This term sees the formal testing of our Year 2 and Year 6 pupils, as required by the DfE. These SATs tests, as they are known, take place in May each year, and for the pupils involved are the chance to show-off what they can do. We know that this time of year has the potential to be very stressful for all concerned, however, our main concern is that the children are relaxed and happy, so that they can do their best in each test. You, as parents and carers can play your part too:

- ⇒ Ensure your child has an early night each day during 'SATs week'
- ⇒ A good breakfast will help them to concentrate
- ⇒ Distractions at home each evening, rather than further talk of the tests
- ⇒ Punctual arrival at school
- ⇒ Above all, try to keep them calm and happy and praise them for their efforts—they can only do their best!

KS2 SATs take place during the week beginning the **11th May, and KS1 tests are the following week.** A timetable of the tests will be sent home to those parents whose children are in Years 2 and 6 nearer the time.

The **Year 1/Year 2 phonics screening test** will take place during the week beginning **15th June.** Lots of reading at home, will help those children involved to do their best in the test.

We thank you all for your anticipated and ongoing support at home.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please continue to check the website for updates—we will always try to remind you of forthcoming events, but ask that you are pro-active in checking the calendar and diary of events, issued at the start of the school year, and available on the website.

Our Heritage Week

The children and staff enjoyed a fantastic week, discovering about our heritage in Britain, and in particular in Derby and Derbyshire. We hosted a fabulous interactive exhibition in school for the week, provided by the Open Centre, Derby and the children's work was focussed on learning about our British and Christian values.

All pupils visited the Mosque, in Derby and this helped them to appreciate the importance of Islam to those who follow this faith; they were also surprised to discover how similar Islam is to Christianity, and how both faiths even share profits!

The staff at the mosque and the open centre, commented on how respectful, courteous, mature and well-behaved our pupils are - yet another example of our pupils' excellent behaviour—very well done children !!

During the rest of the week, the children learned more about Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and of course, Christianity.

Children in KS2 also began their topic on democracy, quite pertinent as we journey towards the General Election, in May. Over the coming weeks, they will be learning more about British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; to enable them to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Every term seems so busy, as we strive to provide a wealth of opportunities to broaden and develop the experiences of all our pupils:

The visit to a real Chocolatier, and the accompanying sweet delights, was certainly much enjoyed by the children, not to mention the staff! No doubt this experience will help to bring to life the topics in both KS1 and KS2 over the coming weeks.

Many congratulations to all children in KS2, who yet again gave a mighty performance at the Dance Festival, held at QEGS. (It was heard mentioned that Bradley were the best!!!) Well done especially to Izzie and Harvie, who were chosen to perform with their secondary colleagues, in the QEGS annual production.

It was mentioned that the Easter Bunny was seen in the woods, on the last day of term. I cannot vouch for this—although the children seem certain (and some of the staff, remarkably!). In any event, a batch of chocolate eggs was left at the school door—we thought it only fair to distribute these to the children—who I'm quite sure enjoyed them.

Thank you for all your support this past term, and also in anticipation of your continued support over the coming, very busy weeks.

N.Foulds