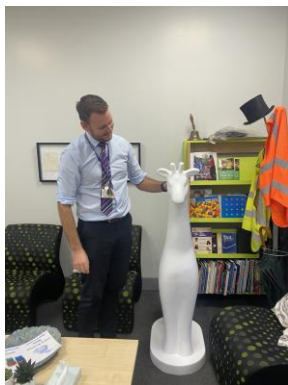


This week, we have shared with the children that we will be taking place in the 'Standing Tall' project which is run by the Break charity, supporting children in care. Our involvement in the project will involve decorating a mini-giraffe that is currently living in school (see below) and was introduced to the children in an assembly this week. Once decorated, the giraffe will be placed in a trail in Cambridge in Spring 2024 (like the cows previously) before returning to school next year. The children have all been given the opportunity to come up with a design for the giraffe, ideas from which will be put together to form the finished spectacle which we will paint in school.

Here are some suggestions to inspire these giraffe designs: think about our school vision and values and what makes us special. Maybe include our logo or the values tree, or aiming high and reaching for the stars? Could you include some local history about Trumpington? Do you have a favourite artist that you have learnt about in school? Can you design in the style of your favourite artist?

To find out more about the project visit <https://www.break-charity.org/cambridge-standing-tall/>



Parent Consultations:

These will be held in the week beginning the 6th November. The meetings will be virtual and we hope that families will make the most of this opportunity to discuss their children's progress with the teachers. Appointments can be made online; the link for this will be made available soon. We will also be inviting parents and carers into school on **Wednesday 1st November** for Open Classrooms.

Awesome Smiles!

We have been discussing dental health and the importance of brushing our teeth with some children in school this half-term. In Year 4, they used disclosing tablets to think about this more!



Dates and Events

Term Dates:

These can be found on our website using the link: <https://www.trumpington-federation.co.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=133>

Non-Uniform Day

Friday 13th October

Individual Photos

Thursday 19th October

Y6 Duxford Trip

Friday 20th October

Last day of half term

Friday 20th October

Open Classrooms

Wednesday 1st November

Year 3 and 4 Bikeability

Friday 3rd November

Parent Consultations

Week beginning 6th November

Year 5 and 6 Bikeability

Monday 6th - Thursday 9th November

Attendance and Punctuality

So far this year, attendance at TM has been around 95%. Thanks to everyone who is contributing by ensuring their children are in school every day on time. Well done to Year 3 with a particularly impressive 98.7% so far!

If your child's attendance is causing concern, we will be writing to you to discuss how we can support you with this moving forward.

Bikeability

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will all have the opportunity to take part in Bikeability training after half term – there are some spaces still available for all year groups. If your child does not have a place, they will have been given a form – please do fill this in and send it into school as soon as possible. Please note all children must have a working bike and helmet, and must be able to ride a bike, to take part.

Secondary School Applications:

If your child is in Year 6, the deadline for secondary school applications is 31st October. **This is something that must be completed by families. The school does not make these applications.** Further information about the process and how to complete your application can be found at:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school>

Tips for Supporting your Child at School:

We all know how hard it is to come back to school after the long Summer break – a new class, a new teacher, different routines, changes in friendship groups etc. Here are a few tips that might help:

Bedtimes

Chat to your child about the importance of getting a good night's sleep. Tiredness is inevitable at the beginning of term but there are things that can help promote good sleep patterns. Turn off screens and devices a good half an hour before 'lights out' so your child has a chance to wind down. Stick to a consistent bedtime routine – it could involve a bath, reading a book together and taking time to tuck them in. It is often at bedtime that children might chat to you about their day so it is important to set aside time for this.

Mornings

If your child finds mornings hard, then think about laying everything out the night before. This can lead to a calm start to the day and therefore a better start to school.

Talking about School

Recognise that your child will probably not tell you much straight after leaving school. They've been talking and socialising all day! Find a good time to ask some simple questions like: Who did you play with today? What lessons did you have? Did anything make you laugh? What did you enjoy?

Try and stay positive even if you, as the parent, are feeling anxious. Reassure your child that some days are better than others, friendships can be wonderful but also tricky at times and that it takes time to feel settled in a new class. This is all normal! Alongside building their positive sense of self and a resilient attitude, it is important to reinforce the fact that there is always someone to listen when things go wrong both at home and at school.

Not Wanting to Go to School

Supporting your child when they are reluctant to go to school can be draining and worrying. Remain positive and reassure your child. They may say they are feeling unwell but sometimes this is just because they are tired or nervous. Most of the time they are fine when they have said goodbye and are with their friends.

Attendance

School is important – research clearly shows that good attendance leads to better academic outcomes. We want all children to see the importance and value of attending school therefore it is essential they turn up every day unless they are unwell and need to stay in bed. If you are unsure, then send them in and we will phone you if symptoms worsen or persist.

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you want to talk through any of the above.