

Dear Parents

Our ethos theme for next week is: We keep trying even when it is difficult.

Welcome back! I hope you all managed to have a lovely break and spend some quality time with each other. We have exciting updates on what the children have been learning this week.

English

In English, the children have been focusing on modal verbs. Modal verbs are verbs that show possibility, intent, ability, or necessity. They are typically used alongside the infinitive form of the main verb in a sentence. Common examples of modal verbs include: can, should, and must. We have also revisited inverted commas as the children are still not consistently following the rules when using them. To punctuate direct speech correctly, please remind your child of these simple rules:

- 1. Start a new line for each new speaker. This helps the reader keep track of who is speaking.
- 2. Add a pair of inverted commas around the words spoken by the character. The first pair of inverted commas should go before the first spoken word, and the second pair should go after the punctuation which follows the last spoken word.
- 3. Begin the spoken words with a capital letter.
- 4. Add closing punctuation to follow the last spoken word. This could be a comma, full stop, exclamation mark, question mark, or even an ellipsis if the character's thoughts trail off.

Children often find rules three and four the most challenging, so a friendly reminder may be useful:

- a. If the reporting clause comes before the spoken words, add a comma to separate the clause from the direct speech and a full stop within the inverted commas to indicate the end of the sentence. For example, Isa suggested, "Let's get a closer look."
- b. If the reporting clause comes after the direct speech, add a comma (or other appropriate punctuation) within the inverted commas to indicate that the sentence continues, and a full stop after the reporting clause to indicate the end of the sentence. For example, "Let's get a closer look," Isa suggested.
- c. If the reporting clause comes in the middle of the direct speech, add a comma within the inverted commas for the first piece of speech, a comma after the reporting clause before the second piece of speech, and a full stop following the reporting clause to indicate the end of the sentence. For example, "Let's get a closer look," Isa suggested, "I want to know where the tunnel leads." Use a comma to separate the direct speech and reporting clause.

Maths

In Maths, the children have continued their learning about decimals and fractions. They have been consolidating their understanding of tenths and hundredths; rounding decimals; adding and subtracting as well as multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions.

RE

We are continuing to delve into Buddhism. This week, the children explored how Buddhists approach worship.

Science

In our Science lesson this week, the children have learnt about the different phases of the moon: new, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, full, waning gibbous, third quarter, waning crescent returning to new.

Global Studies

In Global Studies, the children have learnt about Henry II and the mysterious death of Thomas Beckett.

PSHEE

The discussions on self-esteem and worries continue in PSHEE. During these sessions, we encourage the children to actively participate and share their thoughts and feelings.

Uniform

We are working really hard in school with the children to develop our school values of *Love, Respect, Honesty* and *Fairness*.

We are grateful for your support in ensuring that the children arrive at school in a respectful manner with the correct uniform. Shirts should be smartly tucked in and ties should be fastened correctly. Long hair should be tied back, and all bobbles and clips should be in school colours. On a day where the children do not have PE, they are expected to arrive at school and leave school with their hat/cap on and their coat fastened.

Spring Festival

A reminder that you will have received details about the musical classes for the Spring Festival just before the half term break. Please take a note of any deadlines for the performance/heat dates. It is a great opportunity for the children to showcase their talent, so please encourage your child to take part if they are learning an instrument or would like to enter the Solo Singing. Please encourage your child to practise the songs and backing tracks for the Spring Festival House singing from Seesaw.

Recommended Read

This week, our recommended read is a classic book called 'The Borrowers' by Mary Norton. 'The story revolves around the adventures of tiny people who live in the secret places of old houses. They borrow everything they need from humans and survive on the scraps they collect. The main character, Arriety Clock, is a young girl who embarks on an exciting journey beyond her confined home. But when she is unexpectedly seen by a human boy, things take a thrilling turn! It's a well-loved tale that will captivate readers of all ages.'

Wishing you all a delightful weekend. Best wishes

Laura Hazell and Valentina Kalaj

February	
Mon 26	Assembly Visitor: Dr Paul Bell (Headteacher at Horsforth High) LSNA U11 Netball League Fixtures at Guiseley School 3.00-
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	5.50pm
March	
Fri 1	Quiz Quest General Knowledge Quiz 10.00-11.00am
	Football and Netball vs GSAL away 1.15-3.30pm
Sat 2	Cross Country League Race at Woodhouse Grove 1.00-3.30pm