

PLATT BRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL | FEB 2022 NEWSLETTER

PROMOTES | BELIEF | CREATES | SUCCESS

Executive Headteacher's February Half Term Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first flowers of Spring are beginning to make a tentative appearance around school, bringing with them a welcome promise of Spring. Our Spring Term is now well underway, and it is increasingly refreshing to be able to reintroduce so many of the enrichment activities which make primary school so memorable for children.

During January our school values of **Promotes**, **Belief**, **Creates**, **Success**, have been embedded within our school Shine Time behaviour system and it was great to see how many children really considered the impact of their actions on others, as we looked at how to show respect for each other, the environment, and our belongings.

This half term our Y4 class visited York, as part of their history curriculum provision. I was incredibly proud to hear of the glowing reports of Platt Bridge Community School children. They are an absolute credit to you.

As we head into the second half of the Spring term, we would ask you to continue encouraging your child to read at home. Reading each day really makes a difference on developing vocabulary, fluency as well as helping them with ideas in their writing tasks. Platt Bridge Library is open throughout the half term holiday. Opening hours are Monday - Wednesday: 10am - 2pm and Thursday - Friday: 1pm - 5pm. Our librarian can help you find an appropriate February half term read.

School closes for February half term on Friday 18th February 2022 at 15:30 or 18:00 for CFAT Superheroes After School Club and will reopen at 08:55 Monday 28th February 2022 or 07:30 for CFAT Superheroes Breakfast Club.

We hope to see parents and carers at our forthcoming Whole School Open Evening but to see what life is like in school click the following link to view our school in action - <https://vimeo.com/575799050>

Best wishes,

Sue Darbyshire
Chief Executive Officer | National Leader of Education | Executive Headteacher

Whole School Spring Term 2 Key Diary Dates

Monday
28th February 2022

School re-opens

08:55 for all pupils
07:30 CFAT Superheroes Breakfast Club pupils

Wednesday
3rd March 2022

World Book Day
"You Are a Reader"

We would like to invite all pupils and staff to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Friday
18th March 2022

Comic Relief / Red Nose Day 2022

We would like to invite all pupils and staff to come to school dressed up as a Superhero. Please donate a shiny coin for this amazing charity.

Thursday
24th March 2022

Whole School
Open Evening

Platt Bridge Community School is hosting an open evening for prospective parents of Reception children starting in September 2022 and any existing or future prospective parents in Nursery, Reception or Years 1 to 6 who wish to see our school in action.

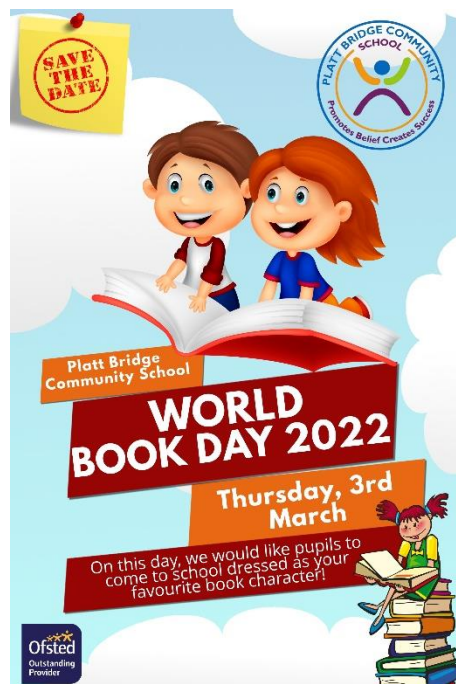
Sign up at: <https://www.plattbridge.wigan.sch.uk/open-evening-24th-march-2022>

Friday
01st April 2022

School closes for Easter

15:30 for all pupils or
18:00 for CFAT Superheroes After School pupils

Please see Class Dojo for your child's phase and/or class specific events and diary dates





Children's Mental Health Week took place on 7-13 February 2022.

This year's theme is Growing Together

Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Please visit <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/> for further information.

To mark Children's Mental Health Week on the 7-13 February, we had a visitor join us in school who is specialised in martial arts, karate and self-defense.

Each class from Reception to Y6 were involved in a 30-minute session where they were taught how to be strong in both mind and body as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

The children in Reception and KS1 explored a range of basic safeguarding and self-defense strategies.

In KS2, children explored basic self-defense strategies as well as how to defend themselves from knives and other attacks.

Ways to keep Children SMART on the internet

A simple and effective way to get involved with your children and their lives online is through discussion. By maintaining an open dialogue with your child and encouraging them to talk to you about their internet use parents can help children access the amazing resources the internet has to offer whilst keeping them safe online.

1. Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
2. Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
3. Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block the services they use.
4. Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
5. Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?





WORLD BOOK DAY 2022—25 YEARS

As outlined in the above key diary dates, on Wednesday 3rd March 2022 the school will be celebrating World Book Day and we invite your child to attend school dressed as their favourite book character with the message for all children 'you are a reader! Pupils (and staff) are invited to dress up as a favourite book character and we look forward to seeing the many different characters our children like to read about.

Every child in school will receive a voucher to redeem against a selection of books. The £1 book tokens can be swapped for one of the new and completely free World Book Day books available from participating booksellers or used to get £1 off.

World Book Day tokens will be valid from Thursday, February 17 to Sunday, March 27, 2022. Participating booksellers will honour the tokens beyond March 27 while stocks last.

Meeting local children's author, Alex Winstanley at Platt Bridge Library

Local author Alex Winstanley held a wellbeing session in Platt Bridge Library on Tuesday 25th January 2022

The session included activities aiming to build confidence, resilience and independence.

His book series includes:

My uncle has Depression – My grandma has Dementia
My brother has Cancer – My child has Cerebral Palsy
Children from school attended and really enjoyed listening to his stories.

Keep an eye out for more author visits at Platt Bridge Library.



Superheroes Breakfast and After School Club

If you wish to book CFAT Superheroes wraparound care please make sure you book a place via Parentpay. This booking needs to be done before midnight of the night before you need a place. If you do not pay for your child's place on booking it will automatically be cancelled by the system. Breakfast Club Arrival from 7:30am to 8:55am - £4 per child per day After School Club Attendance from 3:30pm to 6:00pm - £8 per child per day. Fees include supervised activities, breakfast or a tea time snack. If you have any queries please email me on l.butler@cfat.org.uk.

February 2022 Newsletter Themes - Encouraging a lifelong love of reading

Sharing a book with a child is fun! It's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together and it can also give children a flying start in life and help them become lifelong readers.

If you're not feeling confident about reading aloud or sharing books, don't worry. There's no right or wrong way to enjoy a story together. But if you'd like some tips, here are a few pointers to help you out.



- It's never too early to start...

It's never too early to start sharing books with your child. They might not understand the words, but they will love cuddling up, hearing your voice, and looking at the pictures.

- As your child gets a bit older...

As your child gets older, with lots of other activities competing for their time, how can you encourage them to make time for reading?

Here are some ideas:

- ✓ Read yourself! It doesn't matter what it is, pick up a newspaper or magazine, take a look at a cookery book, read a computer manual, enjoy some poetry or dive into a romance or detective novel. Get your children to join in if you're cooking, could they read the recipe? If you're watching TV, can they read out the listings?
- ✓ Give books as presents. Encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other. It'll give them a chance to read new stories and get them all talking about what they're reading. Or perhaps ask your child to read you their school gifted birthday book.
- ✓ Visit the school community local library together. It's always fun choosing new books to read and keep an eye out for special author events at the library or local bookshops. Children love meeting their favourite authors.
- ✓ Encourage children to carry a book at all times. That way, they'll never be bored!
- ✓ Have a family bookshelf. If you can, have bookshelves in your children's bedrooms, too.
- ✓ Keep reading together. Just because your children are older, it doesn't mean you have to stop sharing stories – perhaps you could try the Harry Potter series or A Series of Unfortunate Events
- ✓ Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again. If it is good its worth another read!

Year 4 Trip to York | February 2022



Well done to Y4, you did all of Platt Bridge, your parents and most importantly yourselves proud.

We started a fun packed day at the Jorvik Viking Centre and DIG! We rounded off an amazing day in York with a game of ten pin bowling! We explored York's Museum Gardens and Railway Museum on our second day!

We just wanted to say a little thank you to the staff who kindly volunteered to give up their own time to give the children this incredible experience.

Thanks everyone and well done!



Platt Bridge Start Well FAMILY CENTRE

WHAT'S ON GUIDE

January – February 2022



Wigan
Council

Giving your child the BEST start in life!



Platt Bridge Start Well Family Centres Feb Half Term Timetable

Tuesday

Hindley
Crazy Crafts
10.30 am-11.30 am
under 8's
Hindley Start well
Centre

Platt Bridge
Zumberoos
1.30 pm-2.15 pm
under 8's
Platt Bridge Start well
Centre

Wednesday

Platt Bridge
Baby Babble
10.00 am-10.40 am
0-12 months
Platt Bridge Start well
Centre

Hindley
Baby Babble
1.30 pm-2.15 pm
0-12 months
Hindley Start Well
Centre

Thursday

Ashton
Zumberoos
10.00 am-10.45 am
under 8's
Ashton Library

Platt Bridge
Stay & Play
with crafts
1.30 pm-2.30 pm
under 8's
Platt Bridge
Community Centre

Friday

Ashton
Baby Babble
10.30 am-11.15 am
0-12 months
Ashton Library

Ashton
Crazy Crafts
1.30 pm-2.30 pm
under 8's
Ashton Library

Booking Essential Call:

01942 487999

For families living in Ashton Hindley, Abram, Bickershaw and Bryn.
Waiting list may apply for families not in our communities.

Wigan
Council



HOLIDAY PATTERN 2021-2022

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Autumn Term 2021	School re-opens	Monday 6th September at 8.55am
	Half Term	Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October
	School closes	Friday 17th December at 3.30pm
Spring Term 2022	School re-opens	Wednesday 5th January at 8.55am
	Half Term	Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February
	School closes	Friday 1st April at 3.30pm
Summer Term 2022	School re-opens	Tuesday 19th April at 8.55am
	Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May
	Half Term	Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June
	School closes	Wednesday 20th July at 3.30pm

2021-22 Inset Days

Fri 3rd Sept 2021

Queens Jubilee Substitute Bank Holiday for Staff

Tue 4th Jan 2022

Fri 22nd Jul 2022

Thurs 21st Jul 2022

**2022-23 Holiday Pattern is available on the school website.
Please ensure that holidays are not booked in term time**

EDUCATION PENALTY NOTICE (EPN) NOTIFICATION

In line with Local Authority guidance, we are obliged to issue the following termly notification:

- Education Penalty Notice Notification for Non-School attendance
- Under the Education Act 1996, parents and carers have a duty to make sure their children regularly attend school. If parents or carers fail to do this, they can be prosecuted.
- Working within a Code of Conduct the Local Authority can issue a penalty notice to parents or carers if a child has missed a number of sessions without permission from the school.
- If your child falls within one or more of these categories within a 12 week period:
- 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence with under 90% attendance
- 20 sessions (10 days) of unauthorised absence or persistently arrives late for school after the close of registration

You could receive a Penalty Notice of £60 which will increase to £120 if not paid within 21 days. The Penalty Notice will need to be paid in full before 28 days of the notice being served. Failure to pay a Penalty Notice may result in prosecution (a separate Penalty Notice may be issued to each parent for each child).

In law, an offence is committed if a parent fails to secure a child's regular attendance at school. Wigan Council Attendance Service, in conjunction with schools, will use these powers as an early deterrent to prevent patterns of unauthorised absence developing.

You may also receive a Penalty Notice for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance under the following circumstances:

Your child is stopped on a truancy sweep.

You fail to ensure that your child is not in a public place during the first 5 days of a fixed term or permanent exclusion. The Local Authority and schools are committed to providing the best possible future for your child.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school or if you are experiencing any difficulties please contact your school and ask for support.

Free School Meals Eligibility

Free school meals - Save your household up to £418 a year per child



Have your financial circumstances changed due to the ongoing COVID situation?

If you are in receipt of certain state benefits your child could qualify for free school meals AND this could also help obtain government funding for our school. The meal entitlement is also currently protected for your child until the end of Year 6 or March 2023, whichever is the soonest.

Please call into the main reception desk for further details.

School Meals - Healthy Eating Standards

Food served in some schools and academies in England must meet the school food standards so that children have healthy, balanced diets.

Further information is available in our Whole School Food Policy.

To review the schools' food policy and Spring Term meals menu visit:

<https://www.plattbridge.wigan.sch.uk/parents/school-lunch-service>

We request that the following items should not be included in packed lunches or for snacks:

- Sweets and chocolate
- Chocolate bars
- Crisps (unless baked or low fat)
- Sweet cakes or sugary doughnuts
- Any bars containing nuts

We encourage children to take 'leftovers' from their packed lunch home so that you can see what they have eaten.

Are your contact details up to date?

As there may be occasions when the school needs to contact parents or carers during the school day, it is vital that you inform school immediately if there are any changes to emergency contact details or home telephone/mobile numbers.

Please contact Lisa Butler or Adele Simm in the school office if you require details on the information the school holds and to ensure your details are kept up to date.



SPRING



Word Search

Search for the twelve Spring themed words below.

Y	L	E	E	V	K	C	Y	E	I	B	T	M	Y	N	N	U	B
R	R	Q	W	N	Z	W	F	S	I	U	G	J	W	Y	I	U	O
E	C	M	Y	A	K	H	O	Z	M	T	Q	G	J	D	H	U	G
W	J	A	X	U	L	J	B	S	F	T	B	N	X	H	W	S	M
F	H	Y	T	Q	C	F	T	U	G	E	W	I	W	J	F	B	G
X	L	K	I	J	L	U	X	N	K	R	R	O	O	T	W	I	U
M	J	O	H	C	I	U	I	S	E	F	S	D	B	L	D	Q	E
M	D	Q	P	I	R	R	Q	H	Q	L	U	T	N	E	E	M	E
F	R	C	D	Y	P	L	D	I	T	Y	U	Z	I	G	Z	O	O
X	G	A	K	S	A	Q	N	N	I	W	Q	R	A	U	H	M	S
B	H	H	W	U	R	Q	A	E	Y	N	D	R	R	M	O	I	S
H	O	E	U	K	O	P	S	P	D	H	D	X	L	O	S	R	G
H	B	I	U	V	V	K	Y	L	V	E	A	Q	L	O	E	Q	L
H	N	P	X	I	H	Z	M	N	N	I	B	B	T	W	E	P	V
N	W	Z	Q	T	E	K	S	F	N	I	E	Z	O	W	T	P	G
R	S	C	Y	V	E	Q	U	T	R	B	R	L	N	A	X	T	T
F	P	A	G	K	C	R	R	D	X	C	F	R	P	O	J	Y	A
A	X	M	V	U	S	I	S	M	S	R	Z	A	B	F	I	X	N

APRIL

BUTTERFLY

RAINBOW

BIRDS

FLOWERS

SPRING

BLOOM

GARDEN

SUNSHINE

BUNNY

MAY

WARM

Mindfulness means slowing down and taking a breath to pause and really notice what you are doing and collecting your thoughts together. It will take your full concentration to really be mindful, you have to relax and take your time with a certain task, whether that's just taking a few seconds to control your breath. Being mindful means doing the opposite of multi-tasking or rushing, it's all about focusing on one thing at a time and feeling calm and collected whilst doing it.

To become mindful, it's important to remember that it will take a lot of practice to become better each time. This is because mindfulness involves training the mind, which can't be done overnight. The more your practice, the better you get.

A great way to practise mindfulness is to complete a number of exercises, which can help when you're stressed, have something difficult to do or when you have to focus your attention. Eventually, after practising mindfulness regularly, it will become natural in your everyday life.

Welcome Spring





Useful contacts and online resources

Here's a list of signposted providers that can offer counselling, coaching and other support that may help improve your overall wellbeing. For more details <https://www.plattbridge.wigan.sch.uk/parents/support-services-for-pupils-and-families>

Stress & Anxiety

Mind www.mind.org.uk

Childline www.childline.org.uk

The Stress Management Society www.stress.org.uk

The Big White Wall Support
Network www.bigwhitewall.com

NHS www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression

Mental Health Matters www.mentalhealthmatters.com

24 hour helpline 0800 1070160

Work / Life Balance

NHS Live Well – Work Place
Health www.nhs.uk/livewell/workplacehealth

Mental Health Foundation www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/w/work-life-balance

Cycle Scheme www.cyclescheme.co.uk

Your Body

NHS One Your Campaign www.nhs.uk/oneyou

British Heart Foundation www.bhf.org.uk

Exercise

NHS Live Well – Get Started www.nhs.uk/livewell/getting-started-guides

The Girl Can – Sport England www.thegirlcan.co.uk

Living Streets www.livingstreets.org.uk

Swimming ASA www.swimming.org/asa

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy www.csp.org.uk/your-health/exercise-advice-all-ages-fitness

Home Life

Relate www.relate.org.uk

Samaritans www.samaritians.org

Notational Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Barnardo's www.barnardos.org.uk

Childline www.childline.org.uk 08001111

Smoking

NHS Live Well www.nhs.uk/livewell/smoking

NHS Smokefree www.smokefree.nhs.uk

Worried about a child? <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Health-Social-Care/Children-and-young-people/Child-protection/Child-protection.aspx>