



Hockley Heath Academy Newsletter

Date: MARCH 2018

Dear Parents,

As we approach the Easter holiday, we can reflect on a very positive term. Our children have been involved in exciting learning through enrichment opportunities within the curriculum. We have had visitors in school, competitions, fundraising, trips and much more. This term has brought with it some adverse weather conditions which have been somewhat disruptive, but with your support and understanding, and the resilience of my staff, it has gone smoothly.

Thanks to our PTA, we now have four new interactive screens in years 1 – 4. This is already impacting positively on our children and their learning. We are hoping that the contributions to School Fund will allow us to purchase two more screens for our Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception). Thank you to all of you who have supported us with your contributions already, as the aim is to help to provide extra resources and support your children's education.

Mrs R. Gabriel

EVENTS OVER THIS TERM

Young Voices

Our choir took part in Young Voices 2018 on 9th January where they performed along with 6,500 other children from schools in Britain. It was incredible with thousands of children singing in harmony to create such a remarkable performance.

A big thank you to Miss Fletcher for organising the rehearsals and making sure that the experience was a really positive one for the children.

Number Day

Mrs. Allen organised a Number Day for our pupils, where they took part in number challenges around school and then had the chance to buy a cake. This raised £320 which will be spent on some new maths resources.

World Book Day

Thank you all so much for spending time with your children helping them to decide which character they would like to come to school dressed as. The children really enjoyed being able to dress up.

Science Competition

Each year Hockley Heath Academy are involved in a science competition which results in the finalists attending Wolverhampton University for a day, and presenting against many other schools. There are three categories – KS1, lower and upper KS2. Miss Grant organised this very successful event in school and accompanied our finalists from each group. The finalists were Isaac Barran, Broden Bick and Felicity Birt, who all had a brilliant day at the university.



Easter Production

Our Year One and Two children excelled in the Easter Performance this year with 'The Chocolate Shop'. The acting, singing and narration was fabulous to watch and the children worked very hard with our dedicated staff, to put on such a lovely show.



CLASS NEWS

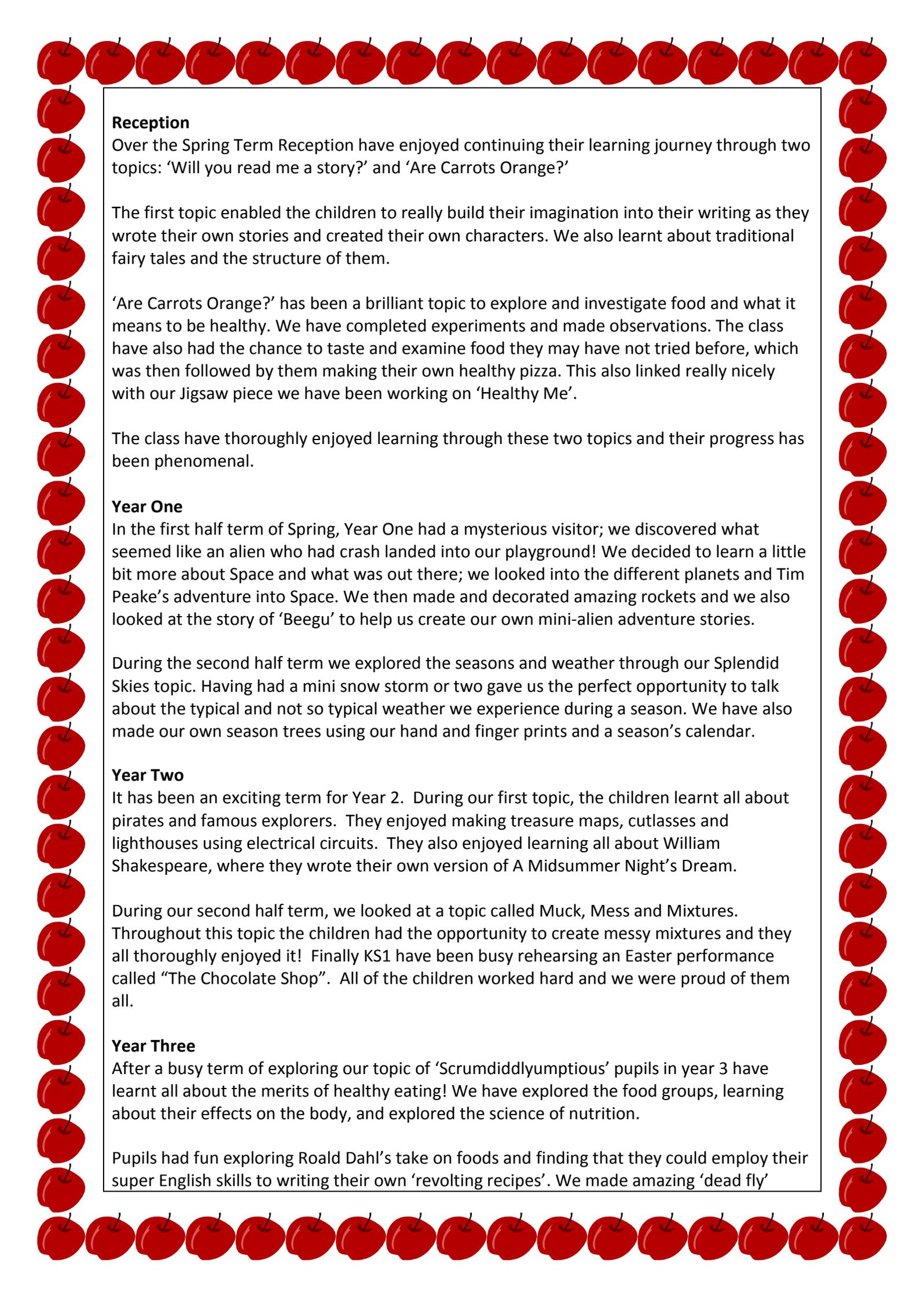
Nursery

In Nursery this Spring term our themes have been "Are eggs alive?" and "Why can't I have chocolate for breakfast? We have been impatiently waiting for Spring to arrive so that we could go looking for signs that it had! Our planned visit to Forest school was delayed by the weather so we were pleased when we eventually managed to get there to find frogspawn in the pond, buds on the trees and the daffodils almost in flower.

We have read both Fergus the Farmyard Dog and Nine Ducks Nine and used the rhymes 'Five little ducks', 'Five little speckled frogs', and 'Humpty Dumpty' to further our understanding of Spring, new life and life cycles. The children have been developing their number skills and knowledge, learning 'the number that is one less than'.

The Jigsaw puzzle this term has been 'Healthy Me' and this has supported our second theme encouraging us to think about exercise, healthy eating and good life style choices. In addition we have celebrated Mother's day, St David's Day and Easter work is now in full swing including learning songs to sing when our families join us for our 'Hot Cross Bun' sing song.

We also dressed in brightly coloured clothes on Beep Beep day when we engaged in many activities helping us to learn about staying safe in the car and when walking near roads.



Reception

Over the Spring Term Reception have enjoyed continuing their learning journey through two topics: 'Will you read me a story?' and 'Are Carrots Orange?'

The first topic enabled the children to really build their imagination into their writing as they wrote their own stories and created their own characters. We also learnt about traditional fairy tales and the structure of them.

'Are Carrots Orange?' has been a brilliant topic to explore and investigate food and what it means to be healthy. We have completed experiments and made observations. The class have also had the chance to taste and examine food they may have not tried before, which was then followed by them making their own healthy pizza. This also linked really nicely with our Jigsaw piece we have been working on 'Healthy Me'.

The class have thoroughly enjoyed learning through these two topics and their progress has been phenomenal.

Year One

In the first half term of Spring, Year One had a mysterious visitor; we discovered what seemed like an alien who had crash landed into our playground! We decided to learn a little bit more about Space and what was out there; we looked into the different planets and Tim Peake's adventure into Space. We then made and decorated amazing rockets and we also looked at the story of 'Beegu' to help us create our own mini-alien adventure stories.

During the second half term we explored the seasons and weather through our Splendid Skies topic. Having had a mini snow storm or two gave us the perfect opportunity to talk about the typical and not so typical weather we experience during a season. We have also made our own season trees using our hand and finger prints and a season's calendar.

Year Two

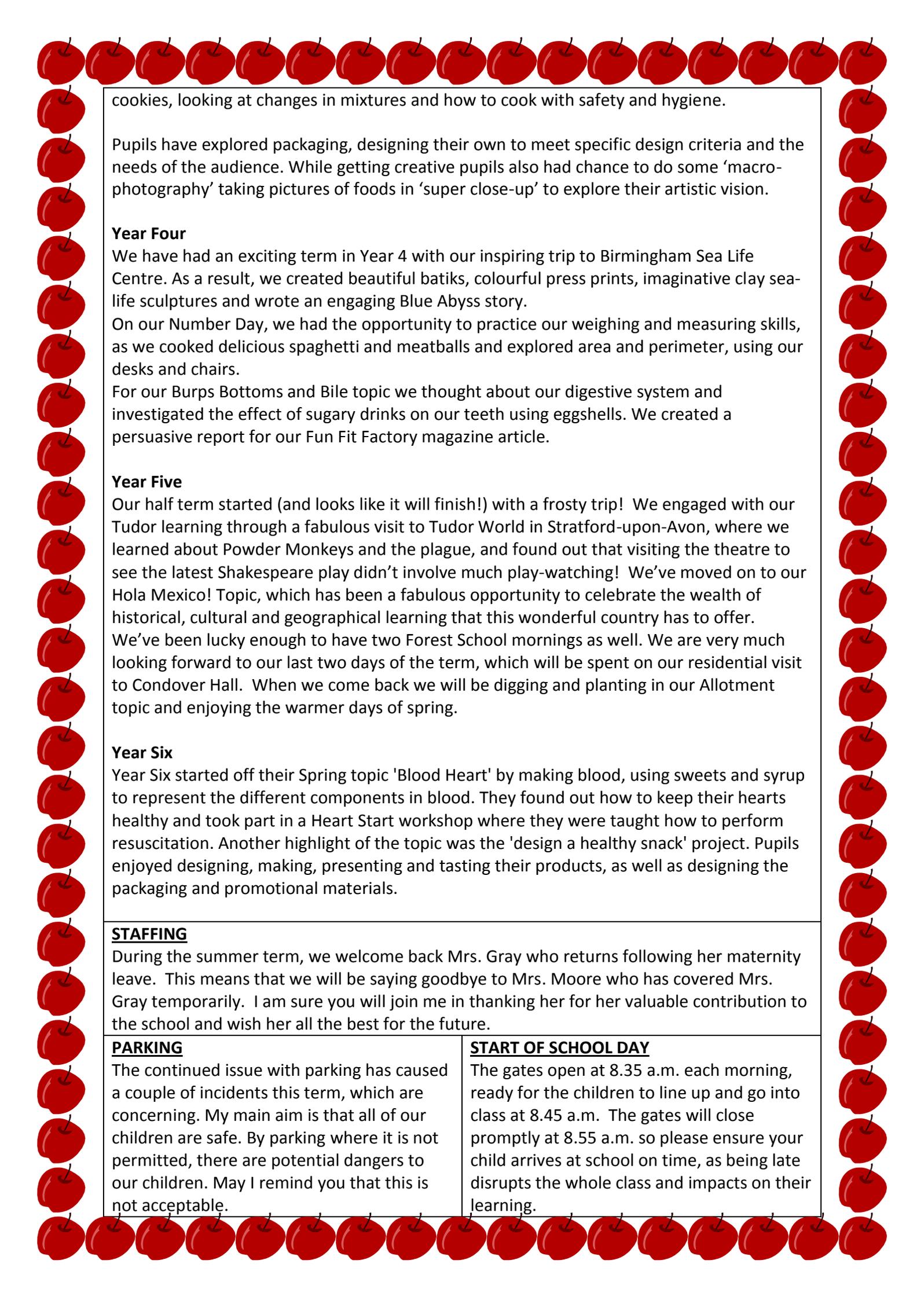
It has been an exciting term for Year 2. During our first topic, the children learnt all about pirates and famous explorers. They enjoyed making treasure maps, cutlasses and lighthouses using electrical circuits. They also enjoyed learning all about William Shakespeare, where they wrote their own version of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

During our second half term, we looked at a topic called Muck, Mess and Mixtures. Throughout this topic the children had the opportunity to create messy mixtures and they all thoroughly enjoyed it! Finally KS1 have been busy rehearsing an Easter performance called "The Chocolate Shop". All of the children worked hard and we were proud of them all.

Year Three

After a busy term of exploring our topic of 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' pupils in year 3 have learnt all about the merits of healthy eating! We have explored the food groups, learning about their effects on the body, and explored the science of nutrition.

Pupils had fun exploring Roald Dahl's take on foods and finding that they could employ their super English skills to writing their own 'revolting recipes'. We made amazing 'dead fly'



cookies, looking at changes in mixtures and how to cook with safety and hygiene.

Pupils have explored packaging, designing their own to meet specific design criteria and the needs of the audience. While getting creative pupils also had chance to do some 'macro-photography' taking pictures of foods in 'super close-up' to explore their artistic vision.

Year Four

We have had an exciting term in Year 4 with our inspiring trip to Birmingham Sea Life Centre. As a result, we created beautiful batiks, colourful press prints, imaginative clay sea-life sculptures and wrote an engaging Blue Abyss story.

On our Number Day, we had the opportunity to practice our weighing and measuring skills, as we cooked delicious spaghetti and meatballs and explored area and perimeter, using our desks and chairs.

For our Burps Bottoms and Bile topic we thought about our digestive system and investigated the effect of sugary drinks on our teeth using eggshells. We created a persuasive report for our Fun Fit Factory magazine article.

Year Five

Our half term started (and looks like it will finish!) with a frosty trip! We engaged with our Tudor learning through a fabulous visit to Tudor World in Stratford-upon-Avon, where we learned about Powder Monkeys and the plague, and found out that visiting the theatre to see the latest Shakespeare play didn't involve much play-watching! We've moved on to our Hola Mexico! Topic, which has been a fabulous opportunity to celebrate the wealth of historical, cultural and geographical learning that this wonderful country has to offer. We've been lucky enough to have two Forest School mornings as well. We are very much looking forward to our last two days of the term, which will be spent on our residential visit to Conover Hall. When we come back we will be digging and planting in our Allotment topic and enjoying the warmer days of spring.

Year Six

Year Six started off their Spring topic 'Blood Heart' by making blood, using sweets and syrup to represent the different components in blood. They found out how to keep their hearts healthy and took part in a Heart Start workshop where they were taught how to perform resuscitation. Another highlight of the topic was the 'design a healthy snack' project. Pupils enjoyed designing, making, presenting and tasting their products, as well as designing the packaging and promotional materials.

STAFFING

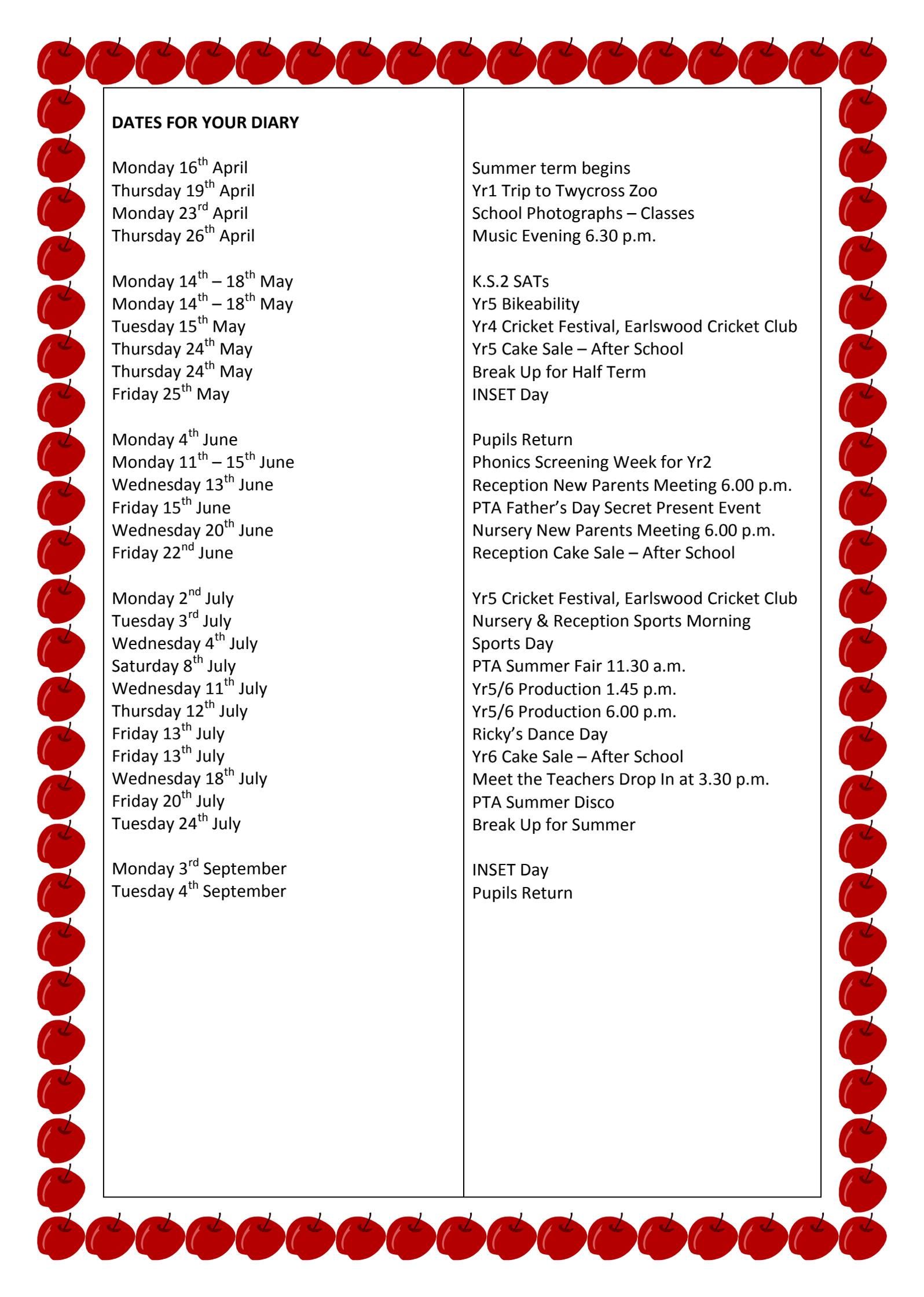
During the summer term, we welcome back Mrs. Gray who returns following her maternity leave. This means that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Moore who has covered Mrs. Gray temporarily. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her valuable contribution to the school and wish her all the best for the future.

PARKING

The continued issue with parking has caused a couple of incidents this term, which are concerning. My main aim is that all of our children are safe. By parking where it is not permitted, there are potential dangers to our children. May I remind you that this is not acceptable.

START OF SCHOOL DAY

The gates open at 8.35 a.m. each morning, ready for the children to line up and go into class at 8.45 a.m. The gates will close promptly at 8.55 a.m. so please ensure your child arrives at school on time, as being late disrupts the whole class and impacts on their learning.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 16th April
Thursday 19th April
Monday 23rd April
Thursday 26th April

Monday 14th – 18th May
Monday 14th – 18th May
Tuesday 15th May
Thursday 24th May
Thursday 24th May
Friday 25th May

Monday 4th June
Monday 11th – 15th June
Wednesday 13th June
Friday 15th June
Wednesday 20th June
Friday 22nd June

Monday 2nd July
Tuesday 3rd July
Wednesday 4th July
Saturday 8th July
Wednesday 11th July
Thursday 12th July
Friday 13th July
Friday 13th July
Wednesday 18th July
Friday 20th July
Tuesday 24th July

Monday 3rd September
Tuesday 4th September

Summer term begins
Yr1 Trip to Twycross Zoo
School Photographs – Classes
Music Evening 6.30 p.m.

K.S.2 SATs
Yr5 Bikeability
Yr4 Cricket Festival, Earlswood Cricket Club
Yr5 Cake Sale – After School
Break Up for Half Term
INSET Day

Pupils Return
Phonics Screening Week for Yr2
Reception New Parents Meeting 6.00 p.m.
PTA Father's Day Secret Present Event
Nursery New Parents Meeting 6.00 p.m.
Reception Cake Sale – After School

Yr5 Cricket Festival, Earlswood Cricket Club
Nursery & Reception Sports Morning
Sports Day
PTA Summer Fair 11.30 a.m.
Yr5/6 Production 1.45 p.m.
Yr5/6 Production 6.00 p.m.
Ricky's Dance Day
Yr6 Cake Sale – After School
Meet the Teachers Drop In at 3.30 p.m.
PTA Summer Disco
Break Up for Summer

INSET Day
Pupils Return