



MAGDALEN GATES PRIMARY



Weekly Newsletter

05/03/2018

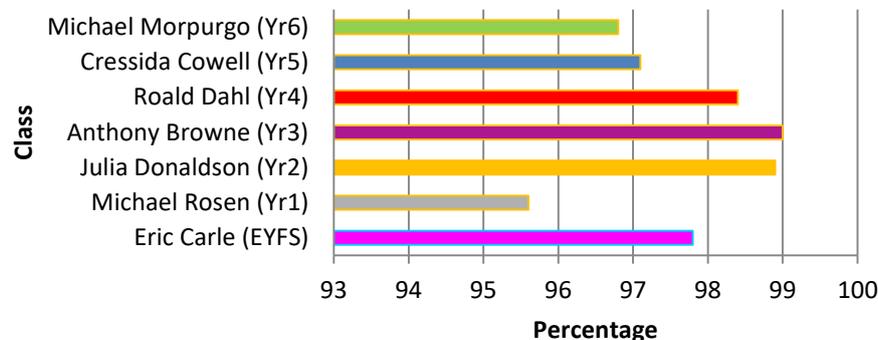
P4C question:

If you had a different name would you be a different person?

Attendance

Well done to **Year 3** who received **the £10 in assembly**. Their attendance for 23rd Feb to 27th February was 99%

Weekly Attendance Percentage



Whole school attendance was 97.7%

Open or close?

Many of you may have read this very interesting article on school closures in the local paper over the weekend.
<http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/weather/beast-from-east-why-school-closures>

It certainly is true what they say about Heads sleeping badly and rising hourly to gaze out of the window, weather checking, receiving alerts from the local Police and weighing up all the options and implications. I know I did!

For those that did not see the article it listed the very many aspects I had to consider, including:

How severe is the weather based on our previous experience?

Can I get to school safely and if not can my deputy and other senior staff?

Will there be appropriate experience to manage safeguarding and health and safety on site including qualified first aiders and paediatric first aiders?

Can sufficient numbers of staff reach school safely (considering lots of our staff come from some distance) to provide education?

Can sufficient numbers of staff reach school to provide child care safely?

Can families get to school safely?

When on site can we meet the needs of individual children safely?

Is the site safe, so large groups can move around safely, for instance if we had to evacuate quickly?

If we had to evacuate, would it be safe for our children to be outside for a sustained period?

Would children with specific conditions i.e. Asthma, be safe outside for sustained periods?

Could the emergency services reach us quickly if necessary?

Does the weather during the day pose a risk for children not being collected due to families being delayed?

Will staff be able to get home safely, considering too, that many have children who may be sent home from school early?

Does our school serve a community of families that work in essential services whereby closing school has a negative impact on wider services i.e NHS staff?

Could opening school ultimately mean we place other services under further pressure by increasing traffic incidents when police have issued warnings not to travel?

Can we provide a hot meal still?

Do we place our school under pressure of criticism and injury claims?

Every school's site is individual –I value the safety of my pupils and staff above all else.

Please can I take this opportunity to thank you for being so patient when decisions were being made and for your understanding. We are all delighted to be open again :)

Reading

Being able to read is a key skill for life. Learning to do this quickly and well means that children can access school fully. I can remember learning to read – sadly I wasn't very good at it to begin with and needed help to improve.

As parents you are key to your child's success. We know it can be difficult sometimes especially if your child isn't keen and with busy family lives. Regular practice for short periods of time helps children to learn best. Even when you think your child has 'got it' continuing to support them with their reading by talking to them about what they have understood or the vocabulary they have encountered is really important too.

If you are finding this tricky – please come and talk to your class teacher, or myself – we may have some strategies to help. Just remember – lots of people find this difficult. Miss Fahy

Governor Update - Richard Bearman Vice Chair of Governors

Budget setting for 2018/19 – “how does the money work hard for our school? “

Governors on the Finance committee met in January to monitor the school expenditure for 2017/18. As we are getting towards the end of the financial year our next meeting in March will focus on approving a budget for Magdalen Gates for 2018/19.

Our overall annual income is nearly £1.1million, which is principally made up of funding for each pupil, plus other grants and payments such as Pupil premium. Because our school is full, we have been able to meet all our regular expenditure; which comprises staff salaries, building maintenance, catering costs, teaching materials etc; and also we have had a budget surplus for several years. This enables the head and teachers to propose new indoor and outdoor facilities which make the whole learning environment at school a better experience for all our children.

Recently we have approved expenditure on improvements to the outdoor area for EYFS and replacement for the KS1 playground equipment, which is set to take place during the Easter holiday. Further capital investment in the KS2 trim trail is intended so all ages of pupils will have safe, new and exciting outdoor equipment to use.

So budget setting and monitoring has two important roles, to ensure that we run a balanced budget every year and can meet all our bills; but also to spend the money we have wisely and on making the school premises, both inside and out, a safe and welcoming place where everyone can learn to the best of their ability. In this task the Finance committee of Governors are very grateful to support from the leadership team, and our wonderful office staff for providing all the complex detail that underlies an effective school budget.

Focus on Literacy Event – Monday 26th March

We have made several changes to the way we teach Literacy at Magdalen Gates this year. The children are really enjoying learning through texts at key stage 2. These have included Beowulf, Romeo and Juliet, Kensuke's Kingdom and more! Each half term a new text is introduced and the children work towards producing a piece of work that is based on this text.

In Key Stage 1 the pupils are continuing to follow the Storytelling School programme, learning a new story off by heart each half term, and working towards writing their own version of this story, with some adaptations!

We are continuing to use the new Read Write Inc spelling programme, which we launched in October. Each class has a 15-20 minute spelling lesson every day, which includes learning the spelling pattern or rule, and carrying out lots of different activities to help them remember it.



If you would like to learn more about how your child is taught Literacy skills, *all parents/carers* are welcome to come along to their child's class at 9am on **Monday 26th March**, to experience what it is like to be a learner in the classroom again.

Year 1 Phonics Screening

The children have enjoyed reading 'alien' words in preparation for the national Year 1 Phonics Screening Check which will take place during the week beginning June 11th. You will be sent a separate letter for further information about how you can help your child from Miss Phayre.

Tackling Tables Reminder

It is really important for your child to secure their timetable facts. They should know all their timetables by the end of Yr4. The government will also be testing pupils with a new online test in Yr4. Without secure timetables your child may find other areas of the maths curriculum hard such as fractions, area, ratio and proportion. So please ensure you continue to practice.

Every child has a username and password for times too an online programme. You can make timetable cards to practice; chant or sing the timetables. There are many ways to practise, it can be made fun.

Gogo Hare

Our Gogo hare has hopped into school and we have all been writing poems and submitting designs. Children from each year have been identified to be part of the 'Hare club', which will take place after school on a Wednesday until Easter.

The club members will help to decide on the final design and decorate the hare. We can't wait to see the finished design!



Parent-Teacher Meetings – LIVE TODAY

The on-line booking system went live today – Don't forget to book your parent/teacher appointment ASAP to ensure you get the best time for you.

If you did not receive your invite text then please inform Jill in the office ASAP of your current mobile contact details.

Remember if you have any difficulties in making your appointment please ring or pop into the office ASAP as we can manually book you an appointment.

As mentioned previously, if you are unable to attend on any of the designated days that the class teacher has available **please contact the teacher direct** who will try to arrange an alternative, mutually convenient appointment to see you.

What are Pupil Progress meetings?

At Magdalen Gates we have a pupil progress meeting every half term. These meetings give us the opportunity to discuss children's progress:

- what is going well
- what we need to do/ change
- discuss any barriers to learning so that every child is enabled to make progress.

By these happening every half term we are able to make changes swiftly if needed which benefits the children.



Spotlight on our Educational Assistant Roles - Charlie Huggett

I have worked at Magdalen Gates for 4 years but was also an ex pupil many years ago! I am therefore very enthusiastic in my role and the support that I provide to pupils in different ways.

I am currently an Educational Assistant in Year 3, but you will also find me around various places throughout the school; in breakfast club, covering classes, teaching keyboards and supporting our young carers.

I am also qualified to provide specialist speech, language and communication support to some of our pupils and one of the main first aiders within the school.

Outside of school, music is my huge passion and I am accomplished in many instruments; piano, guitar and drums to name but a few. I also am currently studying part-time for my university degree and then hope to qualify as a teacher.

Lastly.....Our School

"I have lost count of the number of people who have told me recently what a lovely school we have at Mag Gates. They comment on the children's positive attitude towards their learning, the way they look after and support each other, their good manners, the friendly atmosphere and the fact that children are allowed to be children. Of course, it is most important that the children make good progress in their learning but we believe that is down to them having fun and enjoy the opportunities offered to them. What a 'happy family' we are!" Miss Fahy 😊

Diary Dates – March 2018

Due to the snow disruption last week please check the diary dates for any re-scheduled events

Tue 6 th	All day	Yr1	Visit to Cromer Museum
Wed 7 th	3-4:15pm	By invite	GoGo Hare project
	3:15-4:30pm	Yr6	Yr6 Booster
Thr 8 th	9am	Yr1	Step on Road Safety training
	2-3pm	Yr2	Maths café
	2pm	-	Funky Beats to perform at Mousehold

Fri 9 th	8:30am-9:15am	All	Parents – Open Tapestry surgery for any Tapestry problems/issues/log in difficulties
	10:30am	By invite	Yr5 & Yr6 Swimming gala
	1-2pm	EYFS & KS1	Visit from Author James Campbell
	2-3pm	KS2	James Campbell workshop
	3pm	All	Bake for Books – hosted by KS2 (donations please)
Mon 12 th	3:15-4:30pm	Yr6	Yr6 Booster
Tue 13 th	1:30-3:15	Yr6	Rescheduled Quasar trip for Yr6
Wed 14 th	9-12pm	Yr6	Visit to Open, Bank Plain – Trinity on Tour concert
	3:15-4:30pm	Yr6	Yr6 Booster
	3-4:15pm	By invite	GoGo Hare project
Fri 16 th	8:30-9:15am	All	Open Tapestry surgery for parents/carers
	1-3pm	EYFS & KS1	Easter afternoon
		All	School Reports home
Mon 19 th	9-12:30pm	Yr3	Yr3 Parent Teacher meeting
	1-3:30pm	EYFS	EYFS Parent Teacher meeting
	3:15-4:30pm	Yr6	Yr6 Booster
Tue 20 th	9-12pm	Yr1	Yr1 Parent Teacher meeting
	9-12:30pm	Yr5	Green Man tour at Norwich Cathedral
	10:30-3pm	EYFS	Stay and play session
	1-3:30pm	Yr2	Yr2 Parent Teacher meeting
Wed 21 st	9-12:30pm	Yr5	Yr5 Parent Teacher meeting
	1:30-3:30pm	Yr4	Yr4 Parent Teacher meeting
	3-4:15pm	By invite	Gogo Hare project
	3:15-4:30pm	Yr6	Yr6 Booster
Thr 22 nd	9-12:30pm	Yr6	Yr6 Parent Teacher meeting
	3:30-6pm	All Parents	All classes Parent Teacher meeting
Fri 23 rd	All day	All	SPORTS RELIEF DAY AND MAD HAIR DAY Charity event – more details to follow
	8:30-9:15am	All Parents	Open Tapestry surgery for parents/carers
Mon 26 th	9am	All Parents	Focus on Literacy event – ALL Parents/carers welcome!
	All day	Yr1	Hickling Broad trip
	3:15-4:30pm	Yr6	Yr6 Booster
Tue 27 th	9am	All Parents	Easter Coffee Morning
Wed 28 th	All day	By invite	Termly attendance trip

This week have you checked your child has:

- **Read some of their book?**
- **Practised their timetables/number bonds?**
- **Learned their spelling pattern?**
- **Practised their handwriting/letter & number formation?**

All these skills, if practised daily/weekly, will improve over time and help your child's education

Attachment – Lunch Menu form