

March 2021 Newsletter 2

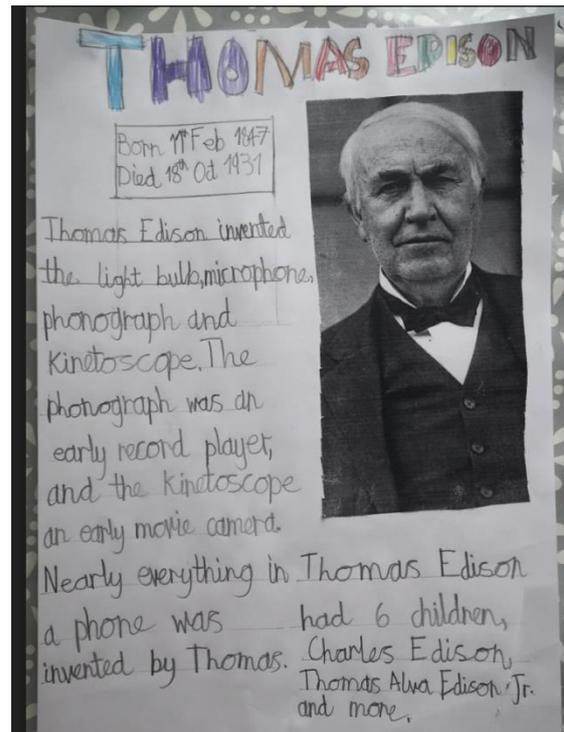
Dear Parents and Carers

Our first fortnight back to school for all pupils has gone really well and I hope that the feedback you receive from the children confirms this. They have settled in well; they are full of energy and enjoying being reunited with one another just as we had hoped and expected. We remain alert to specific post-lockdown emotional needs and issues among children and we will be mindful of this to the end of the term and throughout the summer. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you feel the need to discuss or share any concerns you have for your child or children as they readjust to normal school life.

A further reminder about **term dates and Inset days**: that term ends on Wednesday 31st March at the normal time and the summer term begins on Monday 19th April. The remaining two staff training days for the current school year are Friday 11th June and Monday 28th June 2021. The summer term ends at 2 pm on Friday 23rd July.



Our **science week** was an incredible success once again despite the fact that it was delivered through remote learning and I want to congratulate the children and you - your hard work and enthusiasm to support learning – for the fabulous activities undertaken. A big thank you to our science coordinator Mrs. Horne for her hard work and inspirational lesson ideas.



Another successful event for the children was our celebration of **World Book Day** on Tuesday. We decided to delay this until our return to school so that the children had something exciting to look forward to and there was a positive buzz in the air throughout the day. A power point of this and science week will soon be published to the 'Special Events' page of the school website for your enjoyment!

If your child cycles to school, please ensure that they wear a **cycle safety helmet**. This is something which we insist upon and children will not be permitted to leave their bikes at school if this is not the case.

Please make every effort to arrive at school punctually in the allotted time slot. Late arrivals disrupt learning at the start of the school day and compromise the integrity of class bubbles as they mingle with other children on arrival.

Thank you so much for wearing face masks on school premises. We realise that some people hold different views on this but we respectfully ask that you continue to comply with this school request as we believe that any measure which we take that has the potential to drive down infection rates is a good thing. Similarly PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILDREN BY YOUR SIDE when collecting and/or waiting for older siblings to emerge from the classroom at the end of the school day. Despite repeated requests to do this we still find children running around the playground and mixing with children from other classes while a few parents are engaged in conversation with each other. If this continues we will ask you to wait outside of the school gate at collection time. This is not something which we wish to happen.

Relationship Health and Sex Education lessons (RHSE) will take place after Easter and information about this for your child's class will be sent out soon by Ms. Dobie.

Our **Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education** (PSHCE) programme is a very important part of our curriculum offer and this has never been more so than at this current time. Our assembly focus this past fortnight has been on 'our emotions' with a particular emphasis upon sad and happy feelings. The children have been very engaged, thoughtful and responsive. As already written about, our Recovery Curriculum is centred upon returning back to school in a calm and settled way with many opportunities to enjoy school life in a relaxed and happy fashion. In this respect our

assembly themes will continue to be supported and complemented by effective PSHCE in the classroom and a wide range of activities to rebuild confidence and strengthen relationships between children. Our assembly focus this week will relate to the work of the NSPCC; I know that you have already received information about this in correspondence from Ms. Dobie, our PSHCE coordinator.



The **Equalities Working Party** has met regularly since December and we are close to concluding work on our Anti-Racism Guidelines. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we intend to look at a whole range of issues beyond racism and our guidelines will inform our practice and seek to help us better understand and address issues of inequality, disadvantage, prejudice and intolerance across society and, when and if it occurs, within our own school community. Our guidelines will enable us to identify opportunities across the curriculum and in our assemblies to discuss important issues, reflect upon our own views and behaviour and those of others in society past and present. This will always be approached in an age appropriate manner and in the context of the Christian values of our school. In such matters we naturally turn to you our parents and carers,

for support and adherence to school policies and values. Like all schools and institutions we have a zero tolerance approach to racism and we look to you to work in partnership with us to achieve these necessary and desired outcomes.

Graham Gunn

Head Teacher

