

We know that some of our community will have been affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and we are keeping them in our thoughts.

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Let's Connect, which is about making meaningful connections. As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.



We also had Safer Internet Day this week, with the theme of, 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. It's never too early or too late to start an online safety conversation and keep it going. Having conversations with children about their online lives can help you to gain a deeper understanding about what they love doing and what they are concerned about. It also gives them the confidence to open up if things go wrong and gives you the opportunity to support them when they need it the most. More practical tips can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/safer-internet-day/>

Term dates for next academic year have now been approved and you can find these at the back of the newsletter. Please make a note of these dates and refer to them when booking any holidays as we are unable to authorise term time leave.

I hope you have a very restful and enjoyable half term break; I look forward to seeing all the children when we return on Monday 20th February.



February/Spring 1—Determination	
10th	Break up for Half Term (normal time)
20th	Back to school
Spring 2—Equality	
22nd	Y2 Visit to St Paul's Church
March Spring 2—Equality	
3rd	World Book Day
W/C 6th	Y1 Trips to local church
8th	Parents Evening
9th	Parents Evening
16th	Early Years Easter Fayre
17th	Rec & Y1 Ark Farm in school
19th	Mother's Day
W/C 20th	Arts Week
24th	Yr 1 Easter Assembly
26th	Daylight Saving Time
30th	Easter Mufti
31st	Break for Easter—Close at 1:30
31st	No Nursery
April Summer 1 Co-operation	
17th	Start of the Summer Term
21st	Y4 Eid Assembly
25th	Y2 Science Museum
May Summer 1 Co-operation	
KS1 SATs start	
1st	May Bank Holiday
8th	King's Coronation Holiday
9th	Y6 SATs start

Attendance Ladder



Attendance

Good attendance is very important for learning!
Attendance cup winners were:

Y3 Green 98%
Y6 Ebony 96%
Y1 Lemon 96%
Y4 Lilac 95%

Classes with 100% attendance earn a multi-day.

Last Friday, author Banji Alexander came to visit our school and talk to all of our children about being a writer and how he had the idea for his book, Lock-down Looms, Reggie's Birthday Party.

The children enjoyed listening to him reading a few pages from his book as well as answering lots of questions. After school, he signed copies of his book and talked to the children who wanted to have their photo taken with him. He has inspired lots of our children with ways to improve their writing and may be one day, become an author themselves.



Spring 1's value is Determination

UNICEF Article 42 – (knowledge of rights) Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.





Let's Connect! Year 3 created paper chains connecting each other and our hobbies, interests and things that make us happy together for Children's Mental Health Week.



Chrissie has had a busy week this week, children are helping get her ready in the morning; putting on her uniform and brushing her coat. On Wednesday she went to Pets at Home and had her claws trimmed, she was very good for the groomer. She then met with her friends Florence and Jude who brought their humans along as well.



Beavers to return after 400 years

See article:
www.aroundealing.com/news/beavers-return/



Golden Ticket:

**Awarded for: Good Values,
Good Behaviour
9th & 10th February 2023**

Orange—Eleanor	Indigo—Nell
Amber—Isra	Green—Maher
Primrose—Lena	Lime—Muhammad, Eugene
Yellow—Janani	Crimson—Gia
Lemon—Callum	Ruby—Anum
Blue—Abdiqadir	Red—Sargun
Sky—Talaal	






Thank you for all the hygiene items brought in last week, which have gone to St Paul's Food-bank and the Olive Branch Charity.



START TIME: 3.15 PM

FINISH TIME: 4.30 PM

(Teacher-Led (TL) finishes at 4.15pm)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Football—OHM Sports Years 2 & 3 (£3 per session)	 Dodgeball—OHM Sports KS2 (£3 per session)	 Football—OHM Sports Years Reception & 1 (£3 per session)	 Multi Sports—let's Leap All year groups (£3 per session)	 Football—OHM Sports Years 4, 5, & 6 (£3 per session)
	Craft Club (TL) KS2 Miss Miah & Miss Storey 14 children £3 to join	 Gymnastics—Let's Leap All year groups (£3 per session)	 Dance—OHM Sports All year groups (£3 per session)	Strong Girls Lunchtime Club (TL) Mrs Palmer-Dunn Years 3 & 4 (12 Children)
			Cooking Club (TL) Mrs Clinkett & Ms Mohie Year 2 only 15 Children £5 total	
			Sewing Club (TL) Miss Newell Reception only 6 children £5 total	
			KS1 Art & Craft Club (TL) Miss Hopkins & Mrs Hajabi 15 Children £5 total	



The Nursery children have been learning all about bears this half term. They had fun this week dressing up in their bear costumes, black/brown clothes and made yummy porridge to share with the big bear in the Nursery!





Sunshine class made lollipop biscuits, everyone enjoyed spreading the buttercream and choosing their own decorations. They also enjoyed making hearts using pipe cleaners and paint to make pictures for the person they love the most. We also learned how to sing and sign the 'I love you' song. Here is a picture of Rylan using the Makaton sign for love.



KS1 children had lots of fun in Art and Crafts after school club this half term. These are some of their creative works.



Arifeen

THE UNKNOWN

As the wind blows through the leaves and grass dances sadly in the fog, a gate, an enormous gate, a gigantic enormous gate, opens with a creak. The trees are dead, the gate is unlocked, only leaving dust, leaves and a foggy sky.

Whoever ever goes in does not come out. Leaving only a graveyard, a sad graveyard, a big sad graveyard with nothing touched and nothing seen. If you were to be there you would be departed, isolated and all alone only leaving tears from the sky and dead people in the under.

The gate is surrounded by a dome of sadness, with moss growing around it and fire destroying crops. If you see crops their gone. If you see trees their gone. Whatever you see its GONE.

Nothing like this haunted graveyard has been seen ever. Some people seen it but were locked in and never got to tell the locals nearby.

Animals are dead on the floor, people are stuck in their graves, and the fog is so thick that nothing can be seen. DONT dare to go there or you will also be GONE!

TERM DATES 2023 / 2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Monday 4 September to Thursday 21 December (finish at 1:30)

4, 5 September STAFF INSET - school is closed to children

- ♦ ***Half Term – Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October***
- ♦ ***Christmas holiday – Friday 22 December to Friday 5 January***

SPRING TERM 2024

Monday 8 January to Thursday 28 March (finish at 1:30)

New Year's Day - Monday 1 January

- ♦ ***Half Term – Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February***
- ♦ ***Easter holiday – Friday 29 March to Friday 12 April***

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15 April to Tuesday 23rd July (finish at 1:30)

- ♦ ***May Day: Monday 6 May***
- ♦ ***Half Term – Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May***

1 Twilight (24th July) – School closed

2 INSET Days yet to be set – School closed to children

All dates are subject to amendment

Public holidays

Christmas Day - Monday 25 December 2023

Boxing Day - Tuesday 26 December 2023

New Year's Day - Monday 1 January 2024

Good Friday - Friday 29 March 2024

Easter Monday - Monday 1 April 2024

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 6 May 2024

Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 27 May 2024

August Bank Holiday - Monday 26 August 2024

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear parents and carers,

6 - 12 February 2023 is Children's Mental Health Week. The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is Let's Connect.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections, and for Children's Mental Health Week 2023, Place2Be is encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can connect with your child and help them to make meaningful connections.

1. Connect with your child in everyday ways

Moments of connection (and re-connection) are really important in child-caregiver relationships. For example, when you pick them up from school, or come in from work, try to give them your full attention and see if this helps you feel better connected as you hug, talk, smile and hear about their day. Watching your child play and joining in is really important to them – so put your phone away and have a bit of fun – being playful is good for adults, too!

With your older child, you may find times such as car journeys a good time to talk, or to re-connect by playing music you both like. It is important to be accessible to a teenager when they need to talk. You may have to be there 'on their terms' and be ready to listen.

2. Talk to your child about important connections

This could include talking about family members, friends, neighbours, childminders, people in the local community and others in your faith group (if you have one). Remember it's ok to talk about people they miss, for example, family members who live in a different country or people who have died.

Children learn a lot from their parents about how to express their feelings, including the joy that comes with feeling connected to others and the sadness that comes with missing others.

3. Talk to your child about their friends

As children become teenagers, their friendship groups become increasingly important to them. Be open to hearing about their friendships and try to listen without judgement.

Ask them about their life in real life and online. You may not think online friends are 'real friends', but your child may feel differently. Losing friends, feeling left out or being bullied is very painful and your child needs to know you will support them through these difficult times.

4. Connect by taking an interest in your child's world

As adults we can sometimes be dismissive of the things that our children and teenagers are interested in, e.g. their music, fashion, what they watch etc. If you do take an interest in these things, however, you may feel better connected to your child and the important things in their world. This can lead to other conversations about other things in their lives that matter to them.

5. Find time to connect as a family

Family life can become busy and stressful, so it's important to find some time where you connect together. This could include simple things like cooking, watching a film, playing a game, going to the park or even doing the family shop together.

6. Try to resolve conflict and re-connect after arguments

Arguments and moments of disconnection are bound to happen in families - between your children, between yourself and your children and between yourself and your partner, if you have one. It is important that children learn how to disagree in appropriate ways, how to say sorry and how to make amends when they have done something wrong. They will learn a lot about how to do these things from you - so try to model the behaviour you want to see in your children. Talk to them about how to re-connect with friends after arguments including what they can do to help repair relationships.

Let your child know that if they are worried about something, they should always talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: place2be.org.uk/help

Video activities from Place2Be

Puzzle Pieces – aimed at 4-7 year olds, this activity is presented by CBBC's Art Ninja, Ricky Martin, and will show children how we are all connected. Why not take part as a family? childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/puzzlepieces

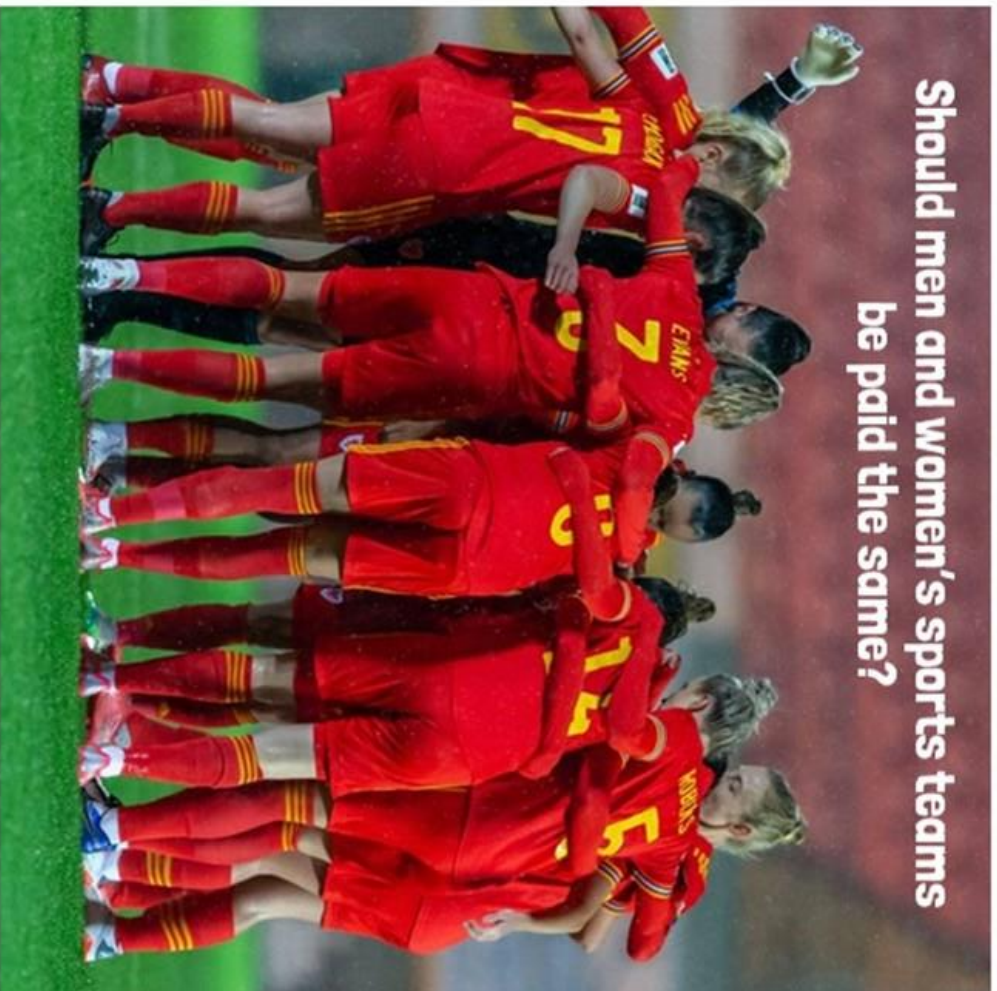
Connecting Paperchains – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 7-11 year olds, this activity helps children think about the people, things and activities they feel connected to. childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/paperchains

Exchanging Postcards – developed by Place2Be's Art Room team for 11-14 year olds, this activity encourages young people to explore what connection means to them. childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/postcards

Looking for free practical advice to help you support your child?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. parentingsmart.org.uk

Should men and women's sports teams be paid the same?



In the news this week

Things to talk about at home ...

The Welsh Football Association has announced that the national men and women's football teams will be paid equally moving forward. Wales joins a list of other countries including Australia, USA, Norway, and Brazil, who pay their men and women football players the same amount to play for their country's national team. In order to reach the deal, the Wales men's senior team agreed to a 25% pay cut, thus enabling a 25% rise for the women's team, which now brings them both equal on pay.

> Share your thoughts with someone at home on the news that the Welsh women's football team are going to be paid the same as the men's. Do you both feel the same way?

> Do you feel the men's team should have to take a pay cut? If not, how else do you think the extra money could be funded?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

