"Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst". *John 4: 13-14.* We have been talking about how Jesus used metaphors to describe himself – can your child explain why Jesus talked about water in this way?

21st January 2022

The Importance of Home Reading

I have had the pleasure of reading with some of our youngest children this week and have seen how their knowledge of phonics helps them tackle new words. In Sparrows and Robins, your child will have a reading book that is carefully selected to enable them to attempt to read most of the words independently. When they reach an unfamiliar word, they should know to 'segment' the word (break it down into its smallest sounds) and then 'blend' it back together to hear how it sounds. Adults reading with children at home should support this process, but don't linger too long on trying to work out these words as it will spoil the 'flow' of the sentence. Reading the whole sentence back together when the full stop is reached also helps children keep track of the story.

It goes without saying that children should also have chances to listen to adults read to them. Bed time is ideal for this. Children really benefit from hearing how adult readers phrase sentences, change their tone of voice and add dramatic speech. Older children might enjoy following the text as they are listening.

Our reading record books are a vital way for teachers to know how regularly children read and how well they are doing. It is often a good idea for a young child to keep a reading book for several days to read and re-read so that fluency is built up, and what parents write in the reading record helps us to know when to change the book. Thank you for all you are doing to support your child's reading at home!

Forest School Comes to Bodsham

Our curriculum involves a lot of outside activities and Bodsham children develop their imaginations through play in the natural environment all the time. Next week, the Ms Rushton will be meeting with a Forest School leader to plan an exciting outdoor curriculum for the Robins later in the year – watch this space!

Term dates 2022-23 agreed

Next year's term dates have now been agreed and published. A copy of the dates is attached with this newsletter and can be found on our website. Parents may also need to know that, as a result of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, KCC have determined that schools in the county will have an additional day of holiday (because the Jubilee bank holiday falls in the June half term). This extra day of holiday will be on 22nd July 2022, so schools will effectively end the Summer Term a day early. Thanks your majesty!

Half Term Holiday Club Available

Elite Community Coaching will once again be offering a half term holiday club for children from Saltwood and Bodsham schools. The club runs out of Saltwood's school hall and involves a great range of fun and active sessions each day, inlcuding Dance and Gymnastics

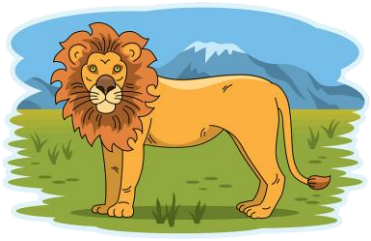
https://www.elite-coaching-uk.co.uk/

Woodpeckers Going Back In Time

On 1st February, as part of their history topic, the Woodpeckers will be travelling to the Museum of Kent Life to experience a Victorian day. I hope they are on their best behaviour because I understand teachers in Victorian times were pretty strict! Please can Woodpeckers parents please make sure they have returned all permission slips asap.

Robins Going on Safari

In the same week, the Robins will be on a trip to Wingham Wildlife Park. This visit will give them important information about African animals as part of their Safari topic this term. I wonder if the children could so some home research before they go, and really impress the keepers!



Reminders

- Please can Robins parents return their sponsor forms for the Kent Air Ambulance Courageous Advocacy Project that Year 1 & 2 are taking part in.

- It's not always possible I know, but children being picked up late can cause delays for teachers who always have meetings and tasks to complete when school ends. It is also hard when children arrive late in the morning (9 children missed the 8.50am gate closure last Friday!!) Early morning learning is really important to set children up for the day.

- After School Clubs finish at 5pm (Elite – Monday and Tuesday) and 5:30pm (Badgers Bridge – Wednesday and Thursday). If you are likely to be late for collecting after one of these club, please phone the school office before it closes at 4:30pm

- Places are available in Breakfast Club, which starts at 8am. Please book in advance.