

Another week has whizzed by in a flurry of activity. We've navigated residential, training and staff absences, and suddenly we find ourselves already at the end of January!

This week, we were delighted to celebrate Miss Edwards becoming a fully-fledged ELSA - congratulations! Miss Edwards has already been supporting children across the school, and it is wonderful that her work has now been formally validated. We were also very pleased to welcome Mrs Lonsdale back for her second 'keeping in touch' day, as she prepares to return to school following her maternity leave in just a couple of weeks.

Although we experienced some staff sickness and absences this week, it certainly hasn't stopped the usual busy rhythm of school life. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive and adaptable staff team who step up for one another whenever needed. Their creativity and commitment ensures that our children continue to receive high-quality teaching every day. A special thank you must go to our HLTA team and cover staff, who provide consistency for the children – (usually) with a smile too!

Year 1 welcomed Sarah from Healthbox into school this week, who delivered an engaging session on the importance of looking after our teeth. The children were amazed (and a little shocked!) to discover just how much sugar is in some of their favourite treats. Sarah demonstrated how to brush teeth properly to prevent plaque build-up and cavities, and the session ended on a high note when each child was given a brand-new toothbrush and toothpaste to take home. Reassuringly, the children also learnt that sugary treats can still be enjoyed occasionally - as long as teeth are cleaned twice a day.

Miss Woodland, who has a real passion for science, attended a science course on Monday afternoon and returned full of enthusiasm, ideas and knowledge to share with staff. The course explored current best practice in science teaching, alongside up-to-date reports, useful resources, guidance on external funding, and ways to use STEM ambassadors to enrich learning. Moving forward, Miss Woodland will be working to ensure science teaching across the school makes strong real-life connections, develops subject-specific vocabulary, and fully embeds practical elements within lessons.

Mrs Dutton, our English lead, accompanied Mr Price this week to observe live English lessons at a local school. This forms part of our involvement in a CWaC project focused on the new national writing framework. Mr Bowles also attended training linked to wraparound care, which he manages and oversees.

Members of the school's core safeguarding team, along with one of our EYFS practitioners, Mrs Davies, took part in valuable online PREVENT training. Mrs McGowan, one of our newly appointed governors, also attended and shared, at this half-term's governing body meeting held on Tuesday evening, just how informative and interesting she found the PREVENT training session.

Squirrels had a visit from Bookstart this week with a very special guest. A big blue bear whose voice sounded very similar to our lovely SMO, David! 🐻

Yesterday, we welcomed five Year 3 associate teachers from Chester University into school. They will be with us until May, developing and refining their teaching practice under the guidance and support of our experienced class teachers. It is always a pleasure to have student teachers in school, as they bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm that both staff and children enjoy. Working in close partnership with local universities is vital in helping to inspire and nurture the next generation of teachers, ensuring they are shaped by - and for - the children they teach.

Yesterday, the KS2 hall was buzzing as we welcomed our Year 3 parents to stay for lunch. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers enjoying a meal with their children, and judging by the atmosphere, some were tempted to stay for the whole KS2 lunchtime and not just the Y3 slot! We have received lots of positive feedback and will be rolling this out to other year groups in the future - watch this space.

On Wednesday, we waved our Y4 children off on their two-night residential to the Conway Centre on the island of Anglesey (affectionately known to us as 'Menai'). For the first time in many years, I didn't attend the residential myself, but Mrs Dutton kept me well updated on everything I was missing! Staff have reported that the children were absolutely fantastic, engaging fully in all the creative and exciting workshops. It was a wonderful way to end the week welcoming the children back and hearing all about their adventures. Y4 parents - you're in for a treat when you hear more about the residential at the annual Y4 parent assembly in a few weeks' time. A huge thank you to the staff (and Paul!) who gave up their own time (essentially, on 24hr round the clock duty!) to make this experience possible and help create memories the children will cherish for years to come.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

See you all on Monday!

Mrs Liversey