

Nettlestone Primary School



"Changing lives for changing times"

01983 613171

News from Nettlestone Primary School

Executive Head teacher Miss K Howarth Head of School Mrs A Jacobs



22ND MARCH 2024

VALUE OF THE WEEK: HONESTY

TEACHING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND CAPABILITY— FINANCIAL FRIDAY

Today was an exciting day in school as it was the fourth of our Financial Fridays!

This year, staff are aiming to build financial resilience within all of the children by introducing a bespoke curriculum designed to enhance the children's awareness of money. We appreciate that the children are growing up in a world where they may not see money, rather they will see items paid for by either a swipe of a plastic card or a scan of a phone screen. They also believe that we get money from a hole in the wall! We know that children are absorbing life experiences and starting to learn money habits as early as age 3-7 and so our view is primary school is the perfect place to start building healthy financial habits and financial resilience. The pictures below illustrate some of the activities that the children started to explore today and thank you to Miss White for making this happen!

Pre-School had an adventure to the local shop and spent their charity money on food to add to the local food bank.



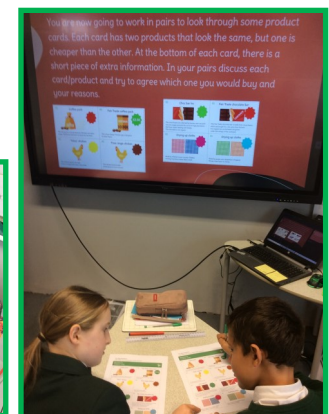
Year 1 were learning about the character 'Milo' and making sure we know how to spend our money wisely.



In Year 2, we have are learning about sharing. We have talked about things we share and how it makes us feel. Myer stated - "I shared a biscuit with my sister, and it made me feel happy."



In Key Stage 2 we have been finding out what it means to be charitable and what a charity is. We have been researching different charities that we know of or support and finding out what they do.



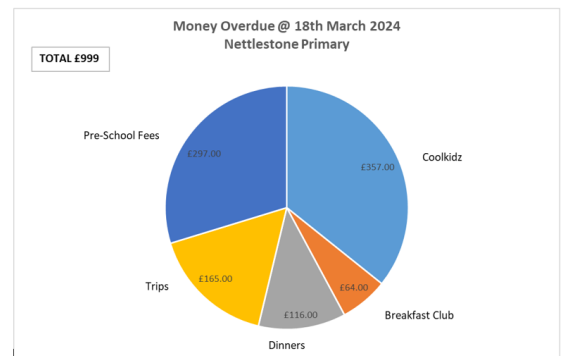
FINANCIAL FRIDAY—CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Members of the governing body met earlier this week and on the agenda for their meeting, as usual, was outstanding debts.

Governors were pleased that the amount of money owing to school has reduced since the introduction of bespoke meetings to discuss the personal circumstances of those owing money to the school but they do remain concerned that the debt still stands at a very large £999!

The pie chart highlights the **overdue payments only** and does not include forthcoming payments for trips or any remaining payments as part of a payment plan.

£999 is simply the total of the amounts that have not been paid for since we returned to school in September. This includes £116 of unpaid dinner money, £297 of unpaid Pre-School fees, £64 of unpaid Breakfast Clubs money, £357 of unpaid Coolkidz money and £165 of unpaid trips money.



Schools are being asked to do more and more with less and less and every penny really does count. If clubs, Coolkidz and trips remain unpaid we may have to seriously reconsider our ability to offer such provision as there are no financial reserves in the school budget to meet the staffing costs required to supervise these activities safely.



Please, please, please make it your 'mission possible' to check your account and settle your School Money account this weekend if you are able.

If you are facing financial difficulties please talk to us rather than simply not pay as there may be support and advice that we can signpost you to that may help. Thank you for your support.

FINANCIAL FRIDAY—FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please can we remind all families that **children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a yummy free meal every single day**. To date only around half of our community are taking up this **free offer** and it would be great to see more families doing so after Easter. We are really lucky to have a fabulous chef on site and the menu is always published for parent's information in the newsletter to help you decide whether you want a **free meal everyday** or just on selected days.

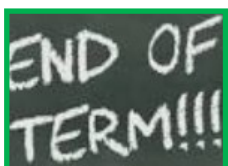


It is super easy to take advantage of the offer, all that is needed is for parents to pre order their free dinners on School Money and complete the check out process (even though there is a zero balance) and your child will be able to enjoy their free meal.

For children in Key Stage 2 and any parent that has a change in personal circumstances the eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at apply for [free school meals](#).

We would encourage any parent who has faced a change in personal circumstances to consider the criteria and apply if they are eligible.

If the application is approved eligibility can open a gateway to a host of additional benefits for your child including supporting the purchase of school uniform, funding for school trips and additional in-class support. It really is worth applying.



Please be reminded that school finishes for the Spring Term at 3pm on Thursday 28th March.

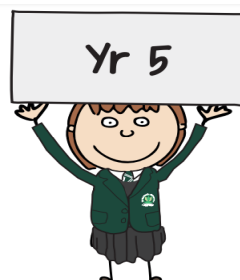
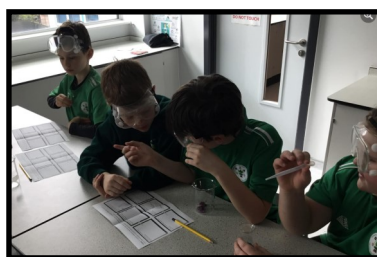
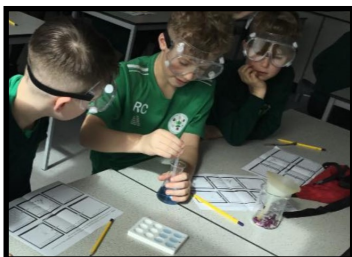
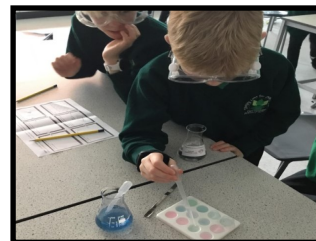
YEAR 5 MAKE IT HAPPEN AT RYDE ACADEMY!

It was a fantastic Friday for our Year 5's when they travelled to Ryde Academy for a transition day. Organised by Vice Principal Mr Doyle, the Green Army joined several other Ryde Schools for the day with over 300 pupils participating. We took part in a variety of challenges and activities to help the children get experience of being in a secondary school. After a brief welcome from the principal we went to the sports hall to take part in some team challenges. Our students excelled and won many of the team games. They did so well they were the overall winners for the entire day collecting a trophy and a box full of sweets!

After break, we went to a science laboratory and tested a range of solutions to see if they were alkaline or acids. Using all of the science equipment, the pupils became junior scientists and watched as the indicator changed into different colours. Just before lunch we went to a computer room and not only built mini robots but also programmed robots and watched them move onscreen.

After letting off some steam on the AstroTurf and in the huge sports hall at lunch time, Mr Doyle set us some challenging code riddles to work out. Esme was one of only a few students out of the 300 to be able to crack all 3 of the codes and received some extra sweets!

Sadly it was time to depart, but everyone had an enjoyable experience and we were able to meet a number of ex pupils who couldn't wait to share their experiences of 'big school'. [#gogreenarmy](#)



'We had an amazing visit to Ryde. It was great to see the facilities and other pupils.'

FINANCIAL FRIDAY—ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Could you be claiming up to £2,000 per child each year towards childcare costs?

The Government-backed Tax-Free Childcare scheme is designed so that for every 80p you put into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the state will add 20p. Eligible parents can get up to £2,000 per child per year.

How does it work?

You open an online Tax-Free Childcare account using your Government Gateway ID and for every 80p you pay in, the Government will top up your account. A quick way of making sure you put in the right amount is to look at your childcare bill and multiply it by 0.8. This gives you 80% of the total bill – and the amount you should put in your tax-free childcare account – and you'll get the remaining 20% as a top up (subject to the £2,000 a year cap).

What can you use it for?

You can use tax-free childcare for all sorts of childcare including breakfast clubs, after schools clubs, holiday activities, childminders, nurseries.

Eligibility

To qualify you (and your partner, if you have one) need to be working (including self employed) and:

Each earn national minimum wage – To be eligible you'll need to earn the equivalent of 16 hours/week at the national minimum wage for your age group.

Each earn £100,000 a year or less.

What do you need to do?

If you're eligible, you'll need to create an online childcare account via the Government Tax-Free Childcare site – www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare.

Book your clubs directly with the school office by emailing parents@nettlestoneprimaryschool.co.uk

- Pay money into your online childcare account by making a payment from your bank account using your debit card. The Government will top up the account on the same day.
- Search for the school's name in the list of childcare providers on your childcare account and make a payment directly to the school from your account.
- Once the school receives payment, it will be allocated against your clubs bookings on School Money and you'll receive an email receipt. Payments can also be held as a credit on your account for future bookings.



FINANCIAL FRIDAY - TRUST FUNDS

Linked to our Financial Friday we have been asked to remind parents about Child Trust Funds.

The Child Trust Fund was a scheme introduced to encourage saving for children. The scheme was open to all parents of children born between 1st September 2002 and 2nd January 2011.

The first set of children who were on the scheme were able to access their money on 1st September 2020.

76% of parents in the UK opened an account when the scheme launched and HMRC estimates there are 700,000 accounts which have been forgotten about or 'lost'. To find out more information please click the link below...

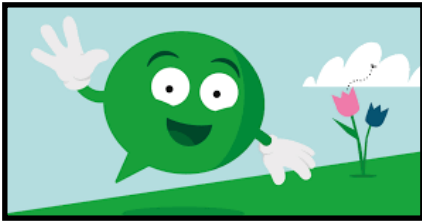
<https://www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk/childtrustfund>

Even if no money was added at all, there could be **£250 - £1000 in your account.**

£ 2.5 Billion

'lost' and 'unclaimed' money
in Child Trust Funds
(Which?)

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE – SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



A key measure of resilience is coming to school, ready to learn every single day. Improving attendance is everyone's business. The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education and it is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education by ensuring they attend regularly. This means they must attend every day the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

As we get close to finishing our second full term of this academic year our whole school attendance figure is **94.51%** which is **0.5%** better than this time last year! However it is still slightly below the target figure of **96%**. We try really hard to get the best attendance that we possibly can and it is really pleasing to see that by working closely with parents that our efforts are really working on the whole. The key factor that has impacted our attendance this term is holiday requests as since January 1st we have lost 61 days of learning due to pupils being on holiday. Term time holidays remain the significant barrier to us achieving excellent attendance and outcomes.

Holidays during term time are not authorised, this is in line with both schools and Isle of Wight local policies which state that Headteachers may only authorise absences from school in exceptional circumstances; which would largely be of an unforeseen or emergency nature. As holidays are planned in advance they are not deemed to be exceptional.

Please can we ask that parents make the healthy choice not to impact their child's learning by taking them out of school for a planned trip away.



We have noticed that whilst there is still room for improvement with our overall attendance punctuality and lateness has significantly improved since January 1st. Only **132** late marks have been recorded across the school for this time period which is so much better than the first term. The very large majority of these can be attributed to a single incident. This means that classes have not been as disrupted and the very large majority of children have arrived on time, calm and ready to start their day.

We know that recent road closures and roadworks have proven very challenging and we thank our community for showing their resilience and commitment to still make it to school on time whenever they can!

At Nettlestone Primary School all pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The **school day begins at 8.30am**. We advise all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to this and offer Breakfast Club from 7.45am in support. All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office with their parents, who will be expected to register their child and provide a reason for their absence. If their arrival is before 8.50am it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register).

The school register officially closes at 8.50am. All pupils arriving on or after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning session - U code (Late after the close of register). This is categorised as an unauthorised absence for the session.

We will be sending home your child's registration certificate for the year to date on **Wednesday 27th March**.

Should you have any questions about your child's attendance please do make contact with the school and we will be happy to assist.





WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY - ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

It was world poetry day on Thursday this week and so on the way into assembly, the children listened to the poem 'Tiger Tiger Burning Bright' set to music and then they shared a poem from the book 'An Animal Poem For Every Day of the Year' which is also now in the library.

The theme of the next two weeks in school is honesty.

The children were very good at identifying times when being truthful is difficult however, they all recognised that it's most often the best way to be. The children identified that sometimes a friend or somebody else might ask you to keep something secret and that if this secret makes you feel uncomfortable or is a secret that if kept, somebody might be hurt, then it's right to say that you can't keep this a secret.

Well done to everyone. A very positive assembly.



CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?—STAFF CHANGES



Our community may see a class teacher post being advertised for Nettlestone Primary School from today, this is because sadly Miss Newman has decided to leave her post with us at the end of the academic year and is instead going to 'make it happen' and set up her own photography business. We are excited that Miss Newman is going to be following her dreams but obviously we are all very sad that she will not be returning in September. We will definitely make the most of her still being part of the team in the Summer term.

Should you or anyone you know be interested in teaching at Nettlestone Primary please have a look on the school website where details of the position can be found.

MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

We are sharing a publication from the Isle of Wight Mental Health Support Team along with the newsletter this week that signposts further sources of support for anyone in our community that may need to reach out for further wider agency support.



Please do make the healthy choice to look at the sources of support on offer as you never know if the need may arise for you or someone you know to access the services identified.

WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK?

MONDAY 25th

TUESDAY 26th

WEDNESDAY 27th

THURSDAY 28th

Mini-Mentoring Sessions

Mini-Mentoring Sessions

Clubs finish

Governor Monitoring Morning

End of Term—See you all back on Monday 15th April.



SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?

This week in Pre School our little learners have been learning to line dance. Mrs Kelly came in to visit us and show us some of her line dancing moves. We were able to look at and try on special boots that Mrs Kelly wears when line dancing. We had lots of fun and excitement when our little learners joined in to follow her dance moves. We especially enjoyed watching the children make up their own. With the feeling of spring on the way, the sun and warmer weather has continued to spark our interest in new life and watching our plants grow.



Reception class have been looking at signs of spring this week. We have painted daffodils, made bird feeders, and observed lots of changes in our environment. In Maths, we are learning about odd and even numbers. In Phonics, we are nearly at the end of our Phonics unit and have been reading words ending in /s/ and /es/.



In Yr 1 this week the children have been continuing with their English work based on the book 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett. They have been exploring the different verbs that have been used in the book. They have also looked at creating persuasive reasons for Pete to stop tidying the forest. In Maths this week the children have completed their unit on length and height and have started learning about mass and capacity. In History, the children had to be time detectives and explore different Victorian artefacts. They had to guess what the items would have been used for and then created close observational drawings of their favourite artefacts. The children have also been busy this week preparing for their Showcase Assembly. They have been creating watercolour portraits of Grace Darling and have been exploring ways to retell the story of Grace and the dramatic rescue. In Computing, as part of their unit on digital painting the children have continued to use different colours and lines as well as shapes and lines to create pictures.



This week in Yr 2 we have completed our Maths unit on measuring. We have had lots of fun measuring using 30cm rulers and 1m sticks. We have compared measurements and objects. In English, we have been using conjunctions in our sentences to support our writing when we work towards our non-chronological reports about the Great Fire of London. In PSHE we talked about our environment and after walking around our school grounds we talked about areas that we preferred and how we can improve areas. In Science, Year 2 have been learning about plants and seed dispersal and how new plants grow. In DT, we have looked at ways we can build our moving vehicles and how to fix axles to our vehicles. We have been finalising our designs. Today we have completed the week with our Financial Friday. We have continued with Milo's story and this part has been about sharing and how to share activities. We have had lots of fun applying our previous learning about coins and money.



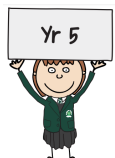
This week in Yr 3 we have been finding out about a new character called Ali in the book 'I was there... Tutankhamun's Tomb.' We will be using our ideas to help us write our character description. This Friday has been Financial Friday where we have been busy answering the question 'How does our money help other people?' In Science, we have been finding out if raisins can dance. We designed an investigation using lemonade and raisins. We soon realised that the lemonade had a gas bubble which made the raisins dance in the liquid. In History, we have been learning about life as an Egyptian and what sort of jobs they did.



We have had a busy week in class this week. We have continued with our work on fractions looking at mixed numbers and improper fractions. The children enjoyed using their electrical circuit knowledge to make their own torches in DT. In English, we have looked at persuasive language and facts and opinions to help us plan and prepare our persuasive letter to Charlie Bucket. We focused on Hadrian's Wall in History and looked at Homestead Fort, we identified the main areas and what life would have been like for the soldiers during that time. We finished the week with Financial Friday where we looked at how our money helps others. We spent time looking at charities and what they do for people and what the word charitable means. We also looked at Fairtrade and how purchasing these items helps others.



Last Friday, we had an amazing time, when we visited Ryde Academy for a Yr 5 transition day. We loved the activities, including Science, Computing and PE and were very proud to have won the PE competition! We loved the fact that Ryde Academy has such a large sports hall, which enabled us to try really fun sports activities such as 'mat surfing'. As the staff at Ryde had worked so hard to give us a good time, we decided to put our Writing skills to good use this week and wrote thank-you letters. After drafting and editing these, we copied them up in our very best handwriting, ready for delivery to Mr Doyle. We have also been doing really well in our Maths learning and are now confident in multiplying fractions, as well as being able to find fractions of whole numbers. Yet again, we have enjoyed our Financial Friday learning, including showing our understanding through the creation of posters.



This week in Yr 6, we have continued to work with the award-winning Guardian advert 'The Three Little Pigs'. Some of us took on the role of the pigs and answered police-style questions from the rest of the class. There were some interesting alibis! In Maths we worked on percentages and looked at some of the questions from our mock SATs last week. In our reading lessons, we read extracts from Michelle Obama's autobiography. We were inspired by her story and our teachers were impressed with the excellent discussion that followed. In our Computing lesson this week, we spent some time with our visitor from Siemens in Southampton. Torsten discussed how his company uses databases. He showed us many of the functions of Excel. We will be using this information when we create our spreadsheets on our sleep survey. During our Financial Friday lessons, we focused on the question: How does our money help other people? We discussed giving money to charities and how the taxes we pay are spent. We finished the week by reading with our buddies in Reception class.



CONVERSATION STARTERS!

Want to know what your children have been learning this week? Here are some conversation starters that may help you talk to them about what they have been up to in class!

PRE-SCHOOL

Talk to me about... movement and dancing

Words to use... step, tap, move, clap, spin, twirl

Tips for the week... practice line dancing at home - see link on Seesaw

We have been reading... 'Mavis the Bravest' by Lu Fraser and Sarah Warburton

YEAR 1

Talk to me about... mass and capacity

Words to use... heavier, heaviest, lighter, lightest, capacity, balance scales, full, empty, compare, weight, weigh, mass,

Tips for the week... Can you order items in your kitchen from heaviest to lightest?

We have been reading... 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett

YEAR 3

Talk to me about... What the Ancient Egyptians did in their daily lives.

Words to use... farming, mud bricks, scribes, jewellery.

Tips of the week... Why does bubbles of gas rise through lemonade?

This is because of an increase in buoyancy. Once the gas bubbles reach the surface of the lemonade they pop and the gas is released into the air..

We have been reading... 'I was there.... Tutankhamun's Tomb' by Sue Reid and 'Shrinking Violet absolutely loves Ancient Egypt'.

YEAR 5

Talk to me about... our unit of learning on fractions.

Words to use... fraction, unit fraction, improper fraction, mixed number, multiplying, numerator, denominator.

Tips for the week... When multiplying a fraction by an integer (a whole number), it is only the numerator of the fraction that will change -the denominator stays the same.

We have been reading... 'The Highwayman'

YEAR R

Talk to me about... odds and even numbers

Words to use... pairs, matching, odd, even, one left over

Tip of the week... remember to log your reading on BoomReader!

We have been reading... nursery rhymes

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... sharing, money, measurements.

Words to use... conjunctions, seeds, plants, dispersal.

Tips for the week... to use because to join two short sentences.

We have been reading... 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... Financial Friday, Homestead Fort, making our torches, ordering mixed numbers and converting mixed numbers into improper fractions.

Words to use... improper fractions, mixed numbers, whole, equal parts, converting, charities, charitable, fair trade, Homestead forts and torches.

Tips for the week... continue to practice your times tables and common exception words.

We have been reading... Mr Gum and the secret hideout.

YEAR 6

Talk to me about... our visitor Torsten. How do Siemens use databases?

Words to use... inspirational, data, formatting, formula, tax, charity.

Tips for the week... remember to try and complete your sleep survey.

We have been reading... extracts from '*Become a Leader like Michelle Obama*'.

Reception and Key Stage 1 Celebration Assembly



Jaxon, Mason, Ben,
Peyton, Freya, Hudson, Charlotte, Harry W and Alec
**WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH AND EVERYONE
OF YOU!**



FONS

News from Friends of Nettlestone School

FONS

Thank you to
Nisa Vic's Stores
for sponsoring
our sold-out
Easter Egg Hunt
this week



Join us for:

- **Tuesday March 26**
1.45pm - Coffee &
Catch-up @ Lily's Cafe
Seaview



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Get in touch with any ideas or questions:
fons@nettlestoneprimaryschool.co.uk

Lunchtime Menu – Chartwells for week beginning 25th March 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Good Friday
Main	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Wedges	Turkey Con Chilli & Rice	Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Fish Fingers & Chips	
Vegetarian	Sweet Potato Curry & Rice	Macaroni Cheese	Cheesy Leek & Carrot Crumble, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Quorn Nuggets & Chips	
Dessert	Apple Crumble & Custard	Crunchy Chocolate Biscuit	Chocolate & Vanilla Marble Cake	Strawberry Ice Cream	

