Message from Mr Turtle
I hope that you had an enjoyable half-term and didn't get too "blown away" yesterday - our Year 1 children are finding out about weather at the moment and their wind meter went off the scale!

We have undertaken our In-School Review this week; this is our internal inspection process which looks at all aspects of school life - be they learning, pastoral or procedural - and helps to inform our progress and future targets for improvement. We involved many of the children in giving their feedback about the school and it was a pleasure to see such a variety of learning tasks and activities taking place in all classes; thank you to all the children for sharing their learning with us. We will be letting parents know the outcomes in a future Newsletter.

In our classes this week
Reception - have been on a Bear Hunt!
Year 1 - learned about Grace Darling.
Year 2 - explored lines of symmetry.
Year 3 - have been learning about playscripts.
Year 4 - learned about entertainment in Ancient Egyptian times.
Year 5 - linked science and DT to make a "light up" Narnia picture.
Year 6 - wrote flashback stories related linked to The Jungle Book.

“Safer School Zone”
Due to the ongoing concerns regarding parking in the local area, a “Safer School Zone” will be introduced in Court Crescent from next Monday in order to try to further enforce the need to park and drive safely when collecting and dropping off near our school. This area is clearly marked by signs on the lampposts. The following information has been issued:

‘Safer School Zones’ are set to be introduced close to primary schools in Swanley to tackle dangerous and inconsiderate parking. Sevenoaks District Council has teamed up with Kent County Council to introduce the Zones following calls from parents, schools and neighbours to improve safety and traffic flow during the busy drop-off and pick up times. Areas around schools with school ‘Keep clear’ areas, lollypop crossing locations and yellow lines will be designated as ‘Safer School Zones’ and stopping or parking will not be allowed. Highly visible ‘Safer School Zone’ signs will be put up at the approaches and exits to the Zones. Enforcement Officers will carry out extra patrols and will issue an immediate fine if they see a vehicle stopping or parking in a ‘Safer School Zone’. This will be in force at High Firs from 27th February 2017.

Please remember that drivers who are not parking or driving with consideration to either pedestrians, other drivers or our neighbours in the locality of the school may also now be contacted directly by the police when concerns are raised so please be aware of this when dropping off or collecting your children. Our PCSO, Steven Vincent, can be contacted directly if you have any concerns regarding particular vehicles - steven.vincent@kent.pnn.police.uk
INSET Days
We can now confirm that our final INSET days for the 2016-2017 academic year will be:

- Friday 26th May 2017
- Monday 3rd July 2017

Children are not in school on these dates.

School Council
Well done to our new School Council members who will be representing their classes over the coming months:

Year 2 - Effy & Harry T
Year 3 - Kerime & Alfie
Year 4 - Jamie & Olivia
Year 5 - Lexie & Thomas D
Year 6 - Kiersten & Liam

Thank you to our outgoing School Council for their enthusiasm and input over the past few months.

Birdwatch
The children found out about “National Nest Box Week” in assembly on Monday and have enjoyed learning about (and trying to spot!) some of the different birds that might be living nearby. Each class has also found out about a particular garden bird and produced a “fact file” for display. A Bird I-spy sheet is attached to this week’s Newsletter if any of the children would like to try some spotting at home! Children who would like to are invited to take part and to then return their sheet to Mr Turtle by Friday 3rd March for the chance to win a bird-themed prize.

Walk to School Week
Walking to school is one of the easiest ways to improve your and your children’s health. It’s also free, great for the environment, and social. 90% of parents who walk their children to school recognise the journey’s importance for them to socialise with their children. Over a third stated that the journey to school is where they find out the most about their child’s life. (Info from www.livingstreets.co.uk)

We are also always keen to find ways in which to ease congestion in our local roads and to minimise the inconvenience of “the school run” to our neighbours. To support this, we are asking all our children to take part in this half-term’s WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 27th Feb to 3rd March.

We are asking all families to try to walk to school every day next week - if you live too far away from school to walk all the way, you could park a few roads away from school and walk the last part instead; this will still count as walking to school! Each class will have a chart to record the children who have walked to school each day. There will be a house point for each child that walks each day and a certificate at the end of the week for children who have walked every day.

Walk to school with the staff! Members of our staff will be at various points around the local area to meet and walk to school with our families on the following dates –

Tuesday 28th at 8.40am - Meet us on the corner of Pinks Hill and Cranleigh Drive (top junction).
Wednesday 1st at 8.40am - Meet us on the corner of Charnock and Court Crescent.
Thursday 2nd at 8.40am - Meet us on the corner of Waylands and Pinks Hill.
**INSET DAYS**
2016-2017
No children in school
1 - Mon 5 September
2 - Tues 3 January
3 - Weds 4 January
4 - Fri 26 May
5 - Mon 3 July

**Coming up after half-term:**

Mon 27 February
Walk to School Week

Tues 28 February
Walk to School Week: meet the staff at 8.40am at Pinks Hill / Cranleigh Drive
Netball vs St Bart’s at High Firs 3.30pm

Weds 1 March
Walk to School Week: meet the staff at 8.40am at Charnock / Court Crescent
10.15am – Yr2 Class Assembly

Thurs 2 March
Walk to School Week: meet the staff at 8.40am at Waylands / Pinks Hill

Fri 3 March
Walk to School Week

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**Important Health Information – PLEASE REMEMBER!**

Please remember to let the school know immediately if you suspect your child has any of the following (even if it has not been confirmed): measles, chicken pox or shingles. It is also important to let us know if your child has been exposed to these illnesses (eg through a friend at a club or a family member) but has not shown the symptoms themselves. Please also let us know if your child has also been in contact with any other infectious diseases.

**Please note we are a PEANUT-FREE school; please do not send in peanut-based products.**

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**This week’s Talk Topic is:**

The storm this week was called Doris! If you could name the next storm what would you call it and why?

(It should begin with an “E” but it doesn’t have to…)

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**TERM DATES 2016 - 2017**

These dates do not include the five additional INSET dates set by the school - these will be notified separately.

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**Achieving more together**
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