



February 2020 Newsletter - Head Teacher's Message

This month we had a visit from Ofsted who carried out a Section 5 inspection, I am pleased to inform you that they have judged us as a 'Good' school overall with 'Outstanding' leadership and management. Please take time to read the report which captures what our children experience on a daily basis. I would like to thank you for your continued support. Please take note of the forthcoming dates in the calendar as March is a very busy month here at Nishkam!

Dates for your Diary

Date	Events
Monday 2 nd March	Red Cross First Aid Training for children in Optimism
Tuesday 3 rd March	My Uniform Hub selling uniform at school, 3.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – Vocabulary Parade Outfits Reception parent classroom-based maths workshop at 2.50pm (front office entrance)
Friday 6 th March	Monthly Sikhi Class
Wednesday 11 th March	ParentPay support session from 3.00pm (invitation only for Reception)
Thursday 12 th March	Science Boffin Workshop (all school)
Wednesday 11 th and Thursday 12 th March	Parents' Evening 3.40pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 12 th March to Wednesday 18 th March	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday 13 th March	Sports Relief
Wednesday 18 th March	ParentPay support session from 3.00pm (invitation only for Y1 and Y2)
Wednesday 25 th March	Monthly Christian Class 3.30pm – 4.30pm ParentPay support session from 3.00pm (invitation only for Y3 and Y4)
Monday 30 th March	Contentment Vaisakhi assembly in the school hall at 2.45pm, entrance via Cherry Street
Monday 30 th March to 1 st April	Forgiveness residential trip

Attendance for the month of February (Target 97%)

Class	Truth 1 (Reception)	Truth 2 (Reception)	Service 1 (Year 1)	Service 2 (Year 1)	Humility 1 (Year 2)	Humility 2 (Year 2)
Attendance	97.1%	93.3%	97.7%	94.6%	97.7%	95.1%
Punctuality	99.1%	98.7%	99.6%	99.3%	99.4%	99.2%

Class	Compassion 1 (Yr 3)	Compassion 2 (Yr 3)	Forgiveness 1 (Yr 4)	Forgiveness 2 (Yr 4)	Contentment (Yr 5)	Optimism (Year 6)
Attendance	98.7%	96%	92%	96.8%	95%	98%
Punctuality	98.8%	99.2%	99.7%	99.3%	99.4%	99.3%

This Month's Class Attendance Award

Week 1: Compassion 1 100% Week 2: Optimism and Humility 1 99.3%
Week 3: Service 1 98.7%

Be on Time at
Quarter to Nine

Early Years

So much has happened during the first half of the Spring Term, Christmas seems such a long time ago. In EYFS we have been very busy bees with our exciting and stimulating schedule.

Lots of children are working within Phase 3 phonics now which is a super achievement and they are starting to apply these new skills within their reading and writing. The previous Phonics workshops for parents were a great success and we want to thank everyone that attended these during the Autumn term. The united link between home and school is so valuable, the children will progress much quicker if we all work together.

The Maths 6-week sessions have got off to a great start and it's lovely to see such interest in these sessions. Please do not forget to sign up to one of the remaining sessions after the half term if you haven't done so already. Please speak with a member of the EYFS team.

The children have been trying so hard with their Makaton sign language, they now know lots of signs and use them daily. They can sign good morning, good afternoon, hi, please, thank you, share, toilet, cold, in, on, under and many more.

Our Values this half term have been Creativity and Courtesy, we have witnessed children independently displaying these values in true Nishkam style, which makes us feel very proud. They can confidently talk about the meaning of the value and what virtues we should display to demonstrate these in our daily lives, pretty impressive for 4 and 5 year olds! Make the most of your little treasures as they are growing so quickly.

KS1

Having had a busy, fun-filled Spring 1 term, we continue in Spring 2. We have started our new text in Year 1 called 'Lila and the Secret of the Rain.' The children are enjoying learning about a little girl called Lila from Kenya and, along with this, they will learn about Kenya by comparing it to the UK.

In Maths, we continue with the unit of measurement and will learn all about time, length and height and weight and mass. We will gain a deeper understanding by taking part in lots of practical tasks, measuring and weighing.

Pupils have mostly covered Phase 3 and 4 Phonics, we will now develop a deeper knowledge and use of them learning Phase 5 Phonics. It will be very helpful if you could help your child with this, by continuing to listen to them read and emphasise the phonics sounds within their reading books.

Our values are Kindness and Forgiveness, which I can proudly say are already deeply instilled in the children, who show Nishkam values throughout the day.

The Values link nicely to our RE learning, which is to show being Courageous and Confident and being loyal and steadfast. We will try to understand this through looking at a variety of stories from different religious books and linking this to our everyday lives. Fun packed learning!

Charity fundraising for NSPCC Number Day

The children had a wonderful time raising money for this worthwhile charity, they wore clothes in line with the 'dress up for digits' theme, children brought money into school to buy some cakes, smoothies and a raffle with guess the sweets in the jar. Children also brought in sponsorship money with generous donations being made, in total we raised a whopping £650.50. Thank you to all who supported this cause.



KS2

Year 4

Another wonderful month for Year 4. In English the Power of Reading text “The Lost Happy Endings” is enabling children to write in the role of a character, diary entries and recounts. The children are developing their writing further by using a range of different writing skills.

In maths the main focus of learning is area and fractions. A new learning area for all. However, the children are bringing and using the skills developed to date to help them with problem solving. Children are continued to be challenged via a variety of ways, through group work activities, and answering “prove it” problems.

In Faith and RE we are linking the Nishkam Values of Respect, Tolerance and Love and how these can be applied to everyday life and religions.

The focus in History is Vikings. Children have explored this area of learning through various activities such as, researching the Viking era, understanding timelines and creating posters and fact files through research. This has linked well with Art and DT, as the children have researched artists during the Viking period.

Years 5 and 6

Both year groups took part in an activity day provided by the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sevak Jatha Birmingham Gurdwara to visit an exhibition about “The Life and Legacy of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.”

The children enjoyed this experience and the activities provided by Mrs Brom and Miss Sehmbi which included a fact-finding mission, guided tour and Q and A session.

The visit included a tour and explanation of the Gurdwara’s dome and a visit to the Langar hall for lunch.

Feedback from Jasmine, Year 5: *‘While we were there, we were told to answer some questions, we were given some information to help answer them and we were given a tour of the exhibition. I think it was a great trip because it allowed us to learn more about the Gurus and show more teamwork and prayerfulness.’*

Science Boffins Workshop

As part of Science Week, we are offering the children the opportunity to attend a Science workshop which will be conducted by Science Boffins. Science Boffins are an external organisation who deliver fun, interactive and educational science workshops, their events feature real life, practical experiments to give children a hands-on experience of science.



This will be a whole school event and we do require the support from our parents/carers to ensure this can go ahead. We are therefore asking for a contribution of just **£2.00**.

Barcode letters were sent home with a covering letter last week and numerous messages have already been sent to parents who are registered on ParentPay. **We very much appreciate if you could please make your payment by Friday 6th March 2020.**

Thank you to those parents who have already made their payment, for those who have not yet been able to make their contribution of £2.00, please log on to ParentPay before the above deadline. If you need any support in this matter please contact the school office on 01902 537 970.

We were delighted to take some children from Optimism and Contentment to the annual 'Change for life' festival. This was an opportunity for children of all abilities to come together for a healthy lifestyle and positive wellbeing event, full of sports, team work and the Nishkam value of Resilience. This campaign focuses on getting children health conscious and thinking about food and lifestyle choices. We encourage our children and parents to visit www.nhs.uk/change4life for more information.



We are proud to be part of the national 'Eat them to Defeat them' campaign, which is being sponsored by major brands/channels in order to get children eating more vegetables. As a pure vegetarian school we are already on the road to encouraging and exposing children to this type of diet. Our Lasagne is full of vegetables, and so is our burger. However statistics show that 80% of our UK children are not eating enough vegetables. The 'Veg Power' is on a mission to inspire kids from early years through to primary school and into their teens to veggie loving habits they will keep for life and in turn share with their children.

After the half term when the campaign launched all the children in the school received a pack including a chart and stickers to help them record their veg eating progress in a fun and interactive way. Posters have been displayed across the school and more importantly the children have been receiving lovely stickers at lunchtime for eating their vegetables.

We hope families who may not have much vegetables in their diet jump on board and make their dinner plates a little greener, so replacing more chips with peas and carrots instead, or instead of beans having spinach and gravy. Eating more vegetables is not only good for your little ones but also for the whole family. If you would like to find out more please visit <https://vegpower.org.uk/>.



ParentPay

KS2: A reminder regarding dinner money, this is our final reminder that payment needs to be made in advance for dinner. We are having too many parents fall in to arrears which is unacceptable. Please could you ensure your dinner money is kept up-to-date. We sent a note out recently to confirm to parents if they are unable to keep to their payments they need to provide a packed lunch.

Residential Trips 2020

Year 4: The residential trip is nearly here, leaving on Monday 30th March and returning on Wednesday 1st April, enjoying 2 nights and 3 days in Ingestre Hall. For the children who will be taking part in this fantastic opportunity may I remind parents their packs should have been returned to the school. If you are yet to submit this please do by Friday 6th March at the latest. Please contact the school office if you require a replacement. In the pack you will find the kit list which will help parents when starting to pack. Please ensure the payment for this trip is made in full by Monday 16th March.

Year 6: This year children in Y6 will have the opportunity to visit Beechwood Court in July 2020, a residential centre based in the hills outside of Conwy, in North Wales. During the visit pupils will:

- Visit the Welsh Mountain Zoo

- Spend a day out in Llandudno, where they will have the opportunity to play on the beach and visit the pier and the amusements

- Have a tour of The Great Orme Country Park which is located at Llandudno headland. This will all culminate with a visit to Conwy itself where the children will be able to enjoy chips by the harbour. Spaces are limited so if you haven't already paid your deposit and would like your child to take part in this fantastic opportunity please log on to your ParentPay account to secure your child's place. The £30 deposit should be paid by Friday 13th March 2020.

Children from our school and Nishkam Birmingham joined others to perform the Sitar along with other instruments in a concert in February 2020. The children were very composed and performed well for their parents. Tabla after school club had a similar performance that week which also went very well. Well done to all!



Parent Notice Board – Please Read

When bringing your child to school please ensure safety is your first priority. If you are driving to school please **park in a safe location** that avoids using Cherry Street. **Parking on restricted areas** including on the corner of the road or on pavements restricts access for other users and can **create dangerous situations** for cars pulling out of junctions. Sainsburys is a great option as it provides an easy walk to school and reduces CO2 admissions around the school area. If you have to park closer to school please make use of our **school crossing patrol**, as **crossing the busy road** can be **very dangerous**.

Please note in the morning our doors **close at 8.55am**, after this time you will not be allowed to enter through the rear gate. Entrance should be through the front of the school where your child will be marked as being late. **Under no circumstances should your child be left to walk into school alone** unless they are in Year 5 or Year 6 and you have given written permission.

There have been occasions where parents have left their children to walk into school however the bell has rung and the school doors have already closed. This is a major safeguarding risk and should not take place. Until your child is received in the school, parent/carers are responsible for their safety. If in doubt please speak with a member of the senior leadership team that is at the main entrance to school in the morning (via Cherry Street).