



# Minet Junior School Newsletter

Spring Term: 1st March 2024  
01895 462362

<https://www.minetjunior.org.uk/>  
office@minetjunior.org.uk

## Upcoming Dates

Monday 4th March– 5E class assembly 9am  
Tuesday 5th March– The Hobbit theatre production  
Thursday 7th March– World Book Day  
Thursday 7th March– Year 3 Library Visit  
Monday 11th March– Year 6 Junior Citizen  
Monday 11th March– Year 5 Library Visit  
Wednesday 13th March– Year 6 Library Visit  
Wednesday 13th March– Y5 Science Workshop  
Thursday 14th March– Year 4 Library Visit  
Friday 15th March– Cultural Dress Day  
Friday 15th March– Red Nose Day  
Monday 18th March– 5A class assembly 9am  
Monday 18th-Wednesday 20th March– Sublime Science Workshop  
Wednesday 20th March– Y5 Virtual Rainforest Experience  
Tuesday 26th March– Parents invited in to see work from Science Week 3:30-4:00pm

**Thursday 28th March– SCHOOL CLOSSES  
1:30pm for EASTER**

**Monday 15th April– SCHOOL OPEN to pupils**



## 'How do you think World Book Day should be celebrated?'

Please discuss this question with your child. They can then share their family's ideas with the class. There are no right or wrong answers.

Across the UK and Ireland, the charity, World Book Day, will be holding its annual celebration on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The day is a chance to celebrate and encourage reading in schools and homes. Children are more likely to enjoy reading when they have greater control over what they read and when there is an emphasis on fun, the charity believes. Many schools choose to recognise the day by encouraging children to dress up as their favourite book characters, bringing in their favourite books and holding other reading activities in school.

Reminder: use times tables rockstars to practice your times tables knowledge.  
<https://ttrockstars.com/>



On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, year 5 celebrated Brazil Carnival. We talked about the history of Carnival in Brazil and it's cultural significance in South America. Throughout the day, we participated in a number of carnival-themed activities including making headdresses, samba dancing and making salsa. The children had a fantastic day and thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities.



*"The best part of Carnival day was when I got to make the carnival headdress. I loved the final result!" – Johnny*

*"The best part of Carnival day was when we were chopping the vegetables for salsa. It was really fun because we got to use the knife and Miss Eynon showed us how to use it safely" – Abdullah*

*"The fun part of Carnival day was when I was cutting the carrots. I did it so fast that Miss Eynon said I could come do it again." – Stanley*

*"The best part of Carnival day was watching the movie Rio because I learned a lot about Rio and Brazil." – Kebron*

*"My favourite part of Carnival day was when we did the samba dancing because it was different to other dancing I've done." – Manat*



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## The Brilliant Club – Scholars Programme



This year, fourteen of our Year 6 students took part in The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme, partnering with colleges and universities across the UK to learn about different topics such as law, biology and engineering. These children worked with a PhD tutor throughout the Autumn term, focussing on their key question: "How many engineers does it take to make ice cream?". The children looked at different

types of engineers, which included mechanical engineering, biochemical engineering and industrial engineering as well as *the engineering design process*. This encouraged our young scholars to think both creatively and critically while they improved upon and solved problems in the ice cream making process. Extensive research was conducted throughout the several weeks of the programme, which allowed the children to exhibit resilience and determination while completing their final assignment. This final challenge was marked and moderated using university grades. The students' exceptional hard work was celebrated with a graduation event held at The University of Reading on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, with Gulsoom (6E) and Harmanvir (6E) representing Minet Junior School as keynote speakers. Please join me in congratulating the following students:

Dusya (6C), Irfa (6S), Harmanvir (6E), Sufyan (6E), Vineet (6S), Alim (6C), Sakish (6S), Shazmiena (6C), Lilac (6S), Izzy (6C), Gulsoom (6E), Nasib (6P), Jamal (6P), Kirishan (6C).



*"I thought this was a valuable opportunity as I was able to understand the basics of engineering and how multiple people are involved in the process of making ice cream. Moreover, it gives an insight of life in university. I thoroughly enjoyed it!" – Irfa (6S)*

*"I feel that this was an amazing opportunity that gave me a rough idea of where I need to improve. I believe it's an eyeopener to subjects I never would have thought of if it wasn't for The Brilliant Club." – Lilac (6S)*

## Year 4 Climate Change Workshop



For the second consecutive year, we were joined by **The Big Wheel Theatre Company** led by the magnificent George and the amazing Professor Emily, who performed "**The Pollution Solution**". This performance demonstrated the damaging effects that greenhouse gases cause to our ozone layer. It also showed us that the choices we make - from littering to our mode of transportation - can impact our environment and other living things around us, since we all depend on one another. In the end, we learnt that we can be the **change**, and it simply starts by taking care of our local area.

*"In the climate change workshop, we learnt how greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water vapour have ruined the earth and can cause harm to our lungs and mental health." - Azaan, 4T*

*"We learnt that lots of things can cause climate change like cutting down trees or releasing gases into air, even when cows fart!" – Sidra, 4T*



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## House Points

Winners are:

22/02/24– **Shakespeare** with 1665 housepoints

29/02/24– **Newton** with 1790 housepoints

**Well Done!**



On Tuesday 27th February, author Cliff McNish came into school to start our World Book Day celebrations. Each year group took part in a workshop, with Year 3 creating witch characters, Year 4 writing about travelling to an imaginary world through a magical gateway, Year 5 writing their own stories based on pictures they had been shown and Year 6 creating their own ghosts including back stories and additional characteristics.



The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops.

Our FAB FOUR for February:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. 6P 98.13% | 2. 6C 97.69% |
| 3. 4T 97.28% | 4. 6S 97.09% |

Great attendance!



Introduced in 2011, the pupil premium is a sum of money given to schools each year by the Government to improve the attainment of disadvantaged children. This is based on research showing that children from low income families perform less well at school than their peers. Often, children who are entitled to pupil premium face challenges such as poor language and communication skills, lack of confidence and issues with attendance and punctuality. The pupil premium is intended to directly benefit the children who are eligible, helping to narrow the gap between them and their classmates.

### How do I know if my child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding?

You are eligible for Pupil Premium funding if you are receiving the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA(IB)) - **Not JSA (Contributed based)**
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)) **support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit **and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190.**
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Universal Credit (with a NET of £7400 or less)



**Free School Meals**

Children who are or have been in care, and children who have a parent who is or was in the armed forces, are also entitled to pupil premium.

**In addition, pupils who have qualified for free school meals on the above grounds in the past, but are no longer eligible, continue to receive pupil premium for the next six years.**

**Are you entitled? Pupil Premium contact at Minet Junior School**

Mrs Dobson and Mrs Costello are here to help support you and your family with any questions or queries about Pupil Premium or Free School Meals. Please feel free to contact them on 01895 462 362



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