



OUR NEW #HASHTAGS!

You may have noticed that our tweets have looked a little differently recently! That is because we have been using new #hashtags! We have created a system that embeds tweets onto our school website using a social media aggregator tool. Basically, that means that when we tweet, if we use a #hashtag, the tweet will automatically post on specific pages on our school website. We think that this is a great way to promote specific areas and easily collate tweets around a subject or theme. For example, if you are a parent of a child in Year 2, if you visit the Year 2 page on the school website, all of our tweets containing the #flomellyyear2 hashtag will be there - in one place. Check it out for yourself: <https://florencemelly.org/children/year-2/>. Please be aware that not every page is set up in this way yet - but we are in the process of pulling this together and should all be ready and running perfectly in the very near future!

Developing our Understanding of LGBTQ+

Ahead of LGBTQ+ month in February, the LFC Foundation paid a visit to our Year 6 children in order to raise awareness of the 'Rainbow Laces' campaign and educate our pupils around this very important subject. For almost ten years, Rainbow Laces has brought visibility for LGBTQ+ people in sport and raised awareness both on and off the pitch. They have been supported by all twenty Premier League clubs and many huge sporting names. The staff delivered an informative workshop full of activities aimed at raising our pupils' understanding of some complex issues! For more information on LGBTQ+ month, please see their website: <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk>.

Standing up for Refugees - Human Rights Workshop with LFC!

Our Year 5 children recently took part in a very informative workshop focussing on raising awareness of asylum seekers and refugees. The children discussed why every person on this planet has a right to seek safety - whoever they are, wherever they come from and whenever they are forced to flee. The workshop shone a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees and allowed the children to reflect on the journey of those who have come to our school under the same circumstances. At Florence Melly, we are inclusive and diverse!

Miss Foley and Mrs O'Keefe's Joint Weekly Book Recommendation...

This week's book recommendation comes from Miss Foley and Mrs O'Keefe! It is [When the Sky Falls by Phillip Earle](#). It is a perfect novel for mature readers in Years 5 & 6. It is set in 1941 when war is raging. One angry boy has been sent to the city, where bombers rule the skies. There, Joseph will live with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no fondness for children. Her only loves are the rundown zoo she owns and its mighty silverback gorilla, Adonis. As the weeks pass, bonds deepen and secrets are revealed, but if the bombers set Adonis rampaging free, will either of them be able to end the life of the one thing they truly love?



IMPORTANT DATES!

10/02/23
Children finish
for half-term

09/03/23
Class
photographs

27/03/23
Parents'
evenings

For more important dates, please visit the 'parent zone' of our school website!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Year 3 (97.8%)

Year 5 (97.4%)

Year 1 (95.8%)

Year 4 (94.1%)

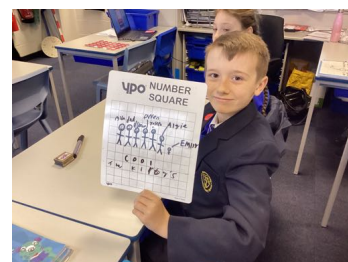
Year 2 (93.7%)

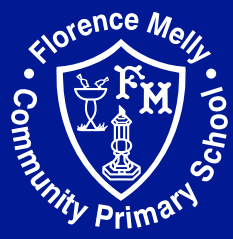
Nursery (92.3%)

Reception (92.0%)

Year 6 (91.1%)

94.4%
Whole-School
attendance this week!





FLORENCE MELLY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT/CARER UPDATE

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT!



End of the Week Update for Parents/Carers - Friday 20th January 2023

Industrial Strike Action - You may have heard on the news that members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take strike action. The dates of the strikes, for our area, are as follows:

- Wednesday 1st February 2023
- Tuesday 28th February 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

At this moment in time, we have no updates to share with parents/carers. We are assessing the impact the strike action is likely to have on our school and children and we will provide an update shortly. Please be aware, that you may need to organise childcare for your child/children on the days listed above, as there is a strong likelihood that our school will be closed to some/most/all pupils on these days.

Whilst we understand the huge inconvenience this may cause, we respect that members of any professional association/union have the right to take this action following a legal ballot. It is important to note that there is the potential for this strike action to be called off subject to further talks and negotiations between the government and NEU. Further information will be provided as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and support in dealing with this very complex matter.

Online Safety Update - Since returning after Christmas, lots of our pupils have been telling us about the great electronic devices they received as presents. As with every device, it is important to understand how they are used and how to keep your child safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to understand how to keep children safe, but you do play a key role in helping to protect them.

The current generation are the first children to grow up in a world where digital devices are the 'norm'. Recent studies have found that:

- 88% of British children under 13 have a smartphone.
- Four out of ten 6-year-olds own a tablet.
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of children aged 8-11 use a games console.

It's has become rare to find a child who doesn't regularly use internet-enabled technology. Each new device means exciting new corners of the digital world to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of! Remember, to monitor your child's internet usage, always set a password, set up parental controls and pay attention to age ratings! Internet Safety Day is fast approaching and we have some exciting events planned, so keep an eye on our Twitter and Class Dojo feeds for updates!

Please see the links below which provide guidance on setting up and using new devices. Should you wish to discuss anything about keeping your child safe online, please see our Designated Safeguarding Lead - Mr Baillie.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Thank you - Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting us with our stance on banning energy drinks, PRIME and air up bottles. We really do appreciate your support and you helped to create a united front to address the issues.

Have a great weekend. Take care and stay safe.

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT!