

## Welcome to our NEWSLETTER 01.03.24



PIC•COLLAGE

To celebrate The Year of the Dragon, we all decorated a paper plate.

Orange 1 made this **AMAZING** dragon with all the paper plates! Happy Chinese New Year.

### March Outdoor Learning Challenge

In school we have been noticing lots of signs of spring this week. Can you go for a walk and listen for the birds singing? Can you see them making a nest? Look out for snowdrops and daffodils. We'd love to see your photos or videos on Evidence for learning.



### Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who wore stripes for our Rare Disease Day on Thursday. It was a great way of raising awareness.





## Moments Matter, Attendance Counts!

Being in school every day that it is open, is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and their wider development. We understand that sometimes your child may be ill and unable to attend school, however face-to-face education is important in helping pupils to fulfil their potential.

### When can my child be absent from school?

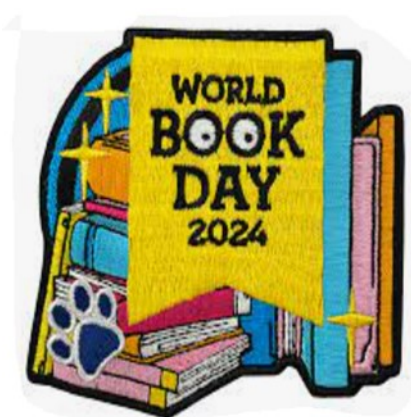
When you register your child at school, you have a legal duty to ensure your child attends that school regularly.

This means that your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet

If your child needs to be absent from school for one of the reasons above, you should contact school as early as possible to explain why. If not, we will contact you on the first morning of their absence to find out why. If we are unable to contact you, we may be required to do a home visit to check everything is ok. If your child continues to be ill and unable to attend please keep school updated.

There may be barriers as to why your child is not attending school. In most cases, if your child's attendance level is falling, we will contact you to explore the reasons and discuss what can be done to help you overcome the barriers they are facing. As always, we are here to help and support you. Don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything.



**Thursday March 7th 2024**

### **Read your way this World Book Day**

This year, we would like to celebrate World Book day at Evergreen by having a, 'Snuggle up with your favourite book' event. Children (and staff!) can come to school on Thursday March 7th wearing their pyjamas or comfy clothes. Everyone is invited to bring in their favourite book or let us know their favourite story or rhyme that we can snuggle up with.

World Book Day 2024 celebrates reading for pleasure and advocates that children are more likely to enjoy reading when their choices are championed and they make reading fun . So, let's take this opportunity to share lots of stories and have fun! More information will follow soon!

# Introducing our new Executive Head

Hi everyone,

I would like introduce myself. My name is Martyn Tweddle and after the retirement of Andrea English, I have taken over the role of Executive Headteacher for the North and South-West Durham Learning Federation. This role involves leading and supporting all three schools in the Federation including The Oaks Secondary School and Croft Community School. In my previous role, I was Head of School for nine years at The Oaks Secondary School.

I started as Executive Headteacher in January and have already had the opportunity to get to know staff and pupils a little more. One of the first things I noticed about Evergreen School is the positivity and enthusiasm of all the staff. People always remark about an 'atmosphere' of a school and Evergreen has a buzz of excitement and drive for learning.

So far during the last half term, staff have arranged a variety of whole school events promoting academic, social and physical outcomes. The school celebrated the Chinese New Year, both staff and pupils were encouraged to create a design using a paper plate which formed part of the dragon's body. It is a great design which allowed for whole school participation. Next time you pop into school have a look for yourself, as the dragon has been positioned in reception. Thank you to Sophie Hartshorn and staff for leading on this celebration event.

I attended the Dance Festival on the last day of term. Pupils from different classes performed brilliantly alongside support from class staff. A big thank you must go to Kay Harrop for organising this event. A great way to finish the half term.





### School holidays for the 2023/2024 academic year

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-opens for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2023 (6 weeks 2 days)	Friday 21 July 2023	Wednesday 6 September 2023
Autumn Half-Term 2023 (1 week)	Friday 27 October 2023	Monday 6 November 2023
Christmas 2023 (2 weeks 1 day)	Tuesday 19 December 2023	Thursday 4 January 2024
Spring Half-Term 2024 (1 week)	Friday 16 February 2024	Monday 26 February 2024
Easter 2024 (2 weeks 3 days)	Thursday 28 March 2024	Wednesday 17 April 2024
May Bank Holiday (1 day)	Friday 3 May 2024	Tuesday 7 May 2024
Summer Half-Term 2024 (1 week)	Friday 24 May 2024	Monday 3 June 2024
Summer 2024	Tuesday 23 July 2024	TBA

**Inset days 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**  
**15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

## Dates for Spring Term

Thursday 7th March—World Book Day

Monday 11th March—Science Week

Tuesday 12th March—parents' evening

Friday 15th March—Red Nose Day

Thursday 28th March—break up for Easter

Wednesday 17th April—back to school

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd May—Musical theatre performances of Matilda

Monday 13th May—Autism Week