

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. October 2017

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !



## Autumn Half Term Newsletter



### **CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:**

This half term the children all the classes have been involved in a variety of activities.

**Reception:** The children in Reception have settled in well and have made lots of new friends. They have been finding out about 'ourselves' and 'our senses', looking at their bodies, how they grow, and talking about their families. They have been investigating with their senses to explore their environment.

The children have taken part in lots of creative activities; making collages, painting self-portraits, and singing lots of rhymes and songs. They have enjoyed reading some traditional tales and the children are developing a love of books and stories. They have been using lots of role play to act out familiar stories and they have baked yummy gingerbread biscuits.



The children have been using our outdoor play equipment and resources to enhance their learning throughout all areas of the curriculum.

**Year 1:** Year 1 have settled in really well and have had a very busy first half term! In English they have been looking at stories in familiar settings such as 'The Gruffalo' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. They are really hoping the weather improves so that they can go on their own 'Teddy Bear Hunt' around our school grounds, following directions in order to find their 'missing' class teddy.



They have also done a super job making their own maps of the school grounds, which fitted in well with their Geography work on maps and plans. After the half term break they are going to go out and about, sketching houses on Delamere Avenue and also doing traffic surveys up on Hillside Avenue.

In maths, the big 'push' for them has been on reading, writing and ordering numbers to 20 - they are trying very hard with this (because it is not as easy as you would think!). They have also been learning to count on using a number line to help them carry out addition number sentences.

As well as their number work in maths, they have been learning all about days of the week, properties of 2d shapes and also using the language of position and direction. They have especially enjoyed singing songs to help them with their maths learning.

In Science they have been investigating the senses and really enjoyed their fruit salad making sessions in DT. In Art they have produced some beautiful autumn artwork and also investigated colour mixing, whilst in RE they enjoyed learning all about Islam. Much of their Computing work has been topic-related and they continue to enjoy their time on the iPads.

Many thanks to those of you who hear your children read at home - it really does make a difference. Could we please remind parents that learning to read is not a race- children will be moved onto the next level of books as and when we feel they are ready ☺

We are all very proud of how hard the children have worked this half term and we are sure they are now looking forward to a well-deserved rest!

**Year 2:** It has been a busy half term for Year 2. The children have settled quickly to the new routines and expectations of their new class.

In Maths, they have been studying place value, adding coins as well as learning to measure accurately in centimetres. They have recently resumed 'Big Maths' on a Friday and the children are working hard to beat their score from the previous week as they tackle quick-fire addition sums.

In English lessons, they have created their own stories based on 'The Lion in the Meadow' by Margaret Mahy. Then, following on from reading 'The Shopping Basket' by John Burningham, they have had great fun writing instructions for animal dances ranging from stick insects to giraffes, using a selection of sentence openers and bossy verbs. Also a big 'well done' to the children for trying hard to learn and use their weekly spellings. We are hopeful that they will get some excellent results in their 'Grand Spelling Test.'

Their Science topic this half term has been 'Health and Growth'. They have discussed a variety of life cycles, looked at the difference between babies, toddlers and adults, as well as looking at what it means to have a balanced diet. Their topic resulted in thinking about hygiene, including an experiment to see 'Which method of washing our hands is most effective?' The children have designed some health and hygiene posters in IT, using their typing and editing skills. These can be seen in the IT suite and craft bay.

Thank you so much to the children and parents who lent us their puppets for their Technology topic. They had great fun drawing them and discussing similarities and differences in how they were operated. This led to the children designing and making their own animal hand puppet. They showed great patience in pinning a paper template to a piece of felt material and cutting out their puppet independently. It was lovely to see how well the finished product matched the original designs! The finished puppets look stunning.



They have had so much fun at Health and Fitness Club this half term. They have been so fortunate to have had such lovely weather, which has enabled them to make good use of our outdoor equipment, including the bikes! The behaviour and enthusiasm of the children has been amazing.

**Year 3:** Year 3 have settled into the Juniors very well this term. They have worked hard and made a very good start to the year.

Their topic this half term has been on Food and Nutrition. The children have enjoyed learning all about the different food groups and how to create a balanced meal. They found out all about 'food miles' by working out how far the ingredients of a pizza had travelled before they could eat it! Following a very enjoyable bread tasting session, the children designed, made (and ate!) some creative and eye-catching healthy sandwiches for special occasions. Pictures of these can be seen on the school website.

In Art, the children had lots of fun making Food Faces inspired by the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Some of these can be seen on display in the Junior Craft Bay.



Swimming sessions are now well under way, and the children are enjoying their weekly trip to Royton Pool. In Outdoor Games, the children have continued to develop their hockey skills, making excellent progress with Mr. Nield from Sports Development.

On Friday, 13th October, as part of Oldham Schools Linking Project, they met up with the Year 3 class from Whitegate End Primary School at Castleshaw near Delph. The day was a resounding, (if very muddy!) success as the children made friends easily and thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities provided. The children will meet up three more times this year, and will team up into penfriend pairs to write to each other/send Christmas cards etc...

As a result of all their hard work and good behaviour, Year 3 have earned themselves a play afternoon on Friday, when they can bring in toys from home to play with. Well done, Year 3!



Also a big well done to our Year 3 unihoc team who took part in an inter-schools competition this week. Don't they look great in their Singleton shirts, which Singleton Transport has kindly donated.

**Year 4:** This half term, the children have been learning about the work of LS Lowry. They have created their own artwork in his style using different techniques. Hopefully, you got to have a good look at some of them during parents evening. I'm sure you'll agree that they are almost as good as Lowry's own work!



In RE, the children have enjoyed learning about Hinduism and have found out lots of information about Hindu festivals and customs. They have produced some excellent homework about Diwali which is currently on display on the walls of our classroom.

At the beginning of the half term, the children studied Teeth and the Digestive System. They had fun creating their own comic strips about digestion and an app to teach younger children all about teeth.

During their PE lessons, the children practised their own gymnastic routines using balances and different methods of travelling. Many of the children have great skills in this area and they were able to do some very impressive sequences, including on the ropes!

In Maths, Year 4 have really worked hard to master the standard methods for calculating in both addition and subtraction. They have also begun applying these to helping them to work out the answers to two step addition and subtraction questions.

In English lessons, the children have been mostly focussing on writing newspaper reports. They looked at evidence to decide who stole a valuable painting by LS Lowry and then used this to help them write their own article using relevant vocabulary and sentence structures.

Eight of the children in year 4 competed in a football tournament at Crompton House recently. They played fantastically well. So much so that they won the tournament! What a fabulous result.



**Year 5:** The Year 5 children have been busy learning about properties and changes of materials in Science. They worked out different methods for separating solutions and tested their methods out. They also investigated chemical reactions such as mixing bicarbonate of soda with vinegar to create an eruption. This linked nicely into our Topic work on volcanoes...

As part of their Geography topic, 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes', Year 5 have created beautiful models, projects and posters for homework. They presented their work in class during a speaking and listening session. The work produced was very impressive! They have since learnt about case studies of famous volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis. They have figured out that the Earth has layers and tectonic plates which move around. They created a map of the tectonic plates and compared it to Pangea.

In Art, Year 5 produced sketches and paintings of Turner's Vesuvius. They had to include lots of detail in their drawing and then mix the watercolours to achieve the most suitable colours and shades. Then they created a calmer version of Vesuvius in the style of Xavier Della Gatta. They look extremely eye-catching and contrasting. Well done, Year 5.



#### **Year 6:**

Year 6 children have been studying light and how we see. As part of this topic they investigated the reflective properties of materials by making a light tunnel, investigated how shadows change and how light beams are reflected in mirrors. The children have enjoyed the practical aspects of this topic and have been able to apply their English and mathematical skills by writing science reports, measuring heights of shadows, finding averages/means and drawing line graphs.

As part of their R.E. topic, Worship and the Community, they study a religious group which supports those less fortunate than themselves. The children have found out about the work of the Salvation Army. Using this information they are creating a leaflet about the group using their I.C.T. skills. In this topic they have also looked at artefacts which are used in Christian worship. The children have sketched them, researched how they are used and the importance and symbolism.



Their history topic this term is World War II. The children have discussed the causes of the Second World War and have seen archive footage of the time. They have looked at evacuation: what it was, who was affected and where people were evacuated to and from around Britain.

The Fire Brigade gave a talk to Year 6 about fire safety in the home. The children watched a short presentation, answered and asked questions about a variety of situations. During this discussion, they were called "out on a shout" and had to leave very quickly. We were lucky that they were able to return and give the children a tour of the fire engine.

## **GOVERNORS**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>. September the Curriculum Committee met, during this meeting the Governors agreed the updated School Development Plan, reviewed the prospectus and agreed the following policies:

- Homework Policy, which was updated as we no longer set Big Talk homework.
- Attendance Policy, which was updated in line with Local Authority guidance as fines for term time holidays have been reinstated.
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Collective Worship Policy

The full Governors meet on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>. November.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>. October Mrs. Singleton and Mrs. Parker led our First Aid day in school. Both Governors spent time in all of our classes and talked to the children about dangers in the home, basic first aid and what to do in case of an emergency. It was a worthwhile day and the children learnt a lot about how to keep themselves safe. £130 was donated to the Red Cross.

## **APPLYING FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES**

**The closing dates for making a reception and or secondary school application -**

- **Secondary 5.00pm on 31<sup>st</sup>. October 2017**
- **Primary 15<sup>th</sup>. January 2018**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Children should be 13 years old to access any social networking sites e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube etc. Please do not allow your children on these sites.

Also please may we ask that parents do not use social networking sites to liaise about matters to do with school. Please speak to your child's class teacher about any concerns to do with your child and let us deal with any problem or worries you may have.

## **SCHOOL PROPERTY**

In future if any school property is lost or damaged we will ask for a contribution towards its replacement. This will include: reading books, exercise books, pencils, rulers, school badges etc. Please encourage your child to look after their belongings.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

French: Miss Platt and an enthusiastic group of Year 1 children are enjoying their French lessons on a Wednesday evening. Très Bien!

Football: Our football team coached by Mr Nield have made a promising start to the season.

Dance: Mrs Kulczycki and her Junior Dance Group have fun in an energetic dance session on a Friday evening.

Gardening: The Gardening Club have been planting bulbs and seeds ready for harvesting next year.

Band: Our Band have been busy practising and they have a number of events where they will be playing leading up to Christmas.

Gymnastics: Sports Development runs a tag rugby club for the Upper Juniors on a Monday night and Mr John Platt runs football training for the Junior children on a Tuesday night.

Netball: The practices continue and they are looking forward to competitive games in the future.

Health and Fitness: Year 2 children are enjoying getting fit with Mrs. Joyce.

Mrs. Pearson and the choir are learning songs ready for the Young Voices concert in the new year.

## **FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:**

The AGM took place on Wednesday 21st. September in school. We are pleased to announce the elected members:

- Chair will be Lisa Hurst.
- Treasurer will be Sarah Gledhill.

The following posts have been re-elected members:

- Vice Chair is Kelly Kulczycki.
- Secretary is Catherine Mills .

I know you will support and wish them good luck in their roles.

We have organised our Trick or Treat Disco at Tara Leisure for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the half term. It is an extremely popular evening! We hope everyone will have a lovely time.



Please feel free to attend our next Friends of Buckstones meeting which will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>. November in The Park Inn on Buckstones Road at 6.30pm. All parents are welcome to come to discuss ideas and help with future events as well as make new friends.

**Sack for School** A plastic bag will be sent home this week and will need to be returned by the morning of Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>. November. Please fill it with any unwanted clothes, bedding, shoes, etc.

**PARENTS:**

**Data Collection Sheets:** We are currently updating the data we have in school about your child, please can you check and alter the data collection sheets and return them to school as soon as possible so we ensure our information is up to date.

**Reception reading meeting:** Thank you to all the parents who attended the reading meeting earlier this term. The purpose of the meeting is to share with you how we teach the children to read at the early stages of their education.



**HALF TERM:**

School will be closing on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>. October for 1 week, re-opening on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>. November.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey