

Thursday 29th. March 2018

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

Easter Newsletter

CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

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

All the children have loved coming to school today in their pyjamas and I hope we raise lots of money by selling biscuits this afternoon for the Down's Syndrome Support Group.

Reception: The children in Reception have been finding out about 'people who help us'. The children have had visits from people who work in our community. The children have enjoyed finding out about the important work these people do each day. The children were able to participate in 'hands on' activities, and also ask the visitors some questions.

The children have been finding out all about growing and new life. They have been writing about Jasper's Beanstalk and playing in the soil. They children have also been finding out about Easter. They have made yummy Easter nests, cards and baskets.



Year 1: Year 1 have had another busy half term! One of their English topics this half-term has been 'Labels, Lists and Captions'. To fit in with their work on traditional tales, the children have helped to plan an end-of-term party to celebrate Goldilocks being a good girl again. Each group wrote their own list - party songs, food, music and games. They all had a wonderful time at the party - photos will be on the website soon!

Their English work on labels and captions has come in really handy with their geography topic work too. The children have loved learning all about London and they are now such experts that they have each earned their tourist guide badges. They have done some lovely London artwork and have also made some super posters all about London, each with their own alliterative captions.

Following on from their London geography topic, they have now started their 'Great Fire of London' history topic. The children have been really keen to find out what happened back in 1666 and have

done a wonderful job writing their own eyewitness accounts as though they were one of Samuel Pepys' children.

In maths they have been working hard on developing their reasoning skills, as well as working on naming and describing the properties of both 2d and 3d shapes. They have also been working on time - solving practical time problems, as well as learning to tell the time to half past the hour.

The children have also been making good progress learning their number facts for their Beat That! tests. They continue to do well with their doubling and counting (in 2s, 5s and 10s) skills and we are thrilled that many of them have now progressed onto learning their number bonds to 20!

In science the children have been learning all about everyday materials and their properties. They have completed materials searches around the school, looked at why certain materials are used to make certain products and are now looking forward to making their own houses for the three little pigs, using unusual materials!

In geography the children continue to learn about The United Kingdom and have enjoyed being weather forecasters and finding out about the weather around the United Kingdom. Their art and computing work has been mainly topic-related this half-term.



The R.E. focus for this half term has been on Easter. The children have learned why Easter is celebrated, the different symbols associated with Easter and how different people celebrate it. The children have really enjoyed creating their own Easter cards to share with their families too.

Many thanks again to those of you who have worked with your child on homework tasks (including reading and spellings). It is much appreciated and really does make a huge difference. French Club starts again after Easter - look out for a letter coming home after the Easter break.

Finally, Year 1 will be having some road safety training the first Wednesday back after the holidays. Please look in your child's book bag for a permission letter which needs to come back by the first Tuesday back please.

Year 2: The Year 2 History topic this half term has been based on Queen Elizabeth II. The children have learned and retained so many facts about Her Majesty. Thank you for supporting your child with the Queen Elizabeth research homework. The class thoroughly enjoyed looking at the

wide range of posters, paintings, leaflets and booklets that each other produced and have retained a lot of facts about the life and work of Her Majesty.

In Maths, the children have been learning about multiplication through arrays and repeated addition, and then using multiplication facts to solve word problems. Please keep practising the 2, 5 and 10 times tables at home. The children must learn the facts by heart and recall them automatically when asked.

In English lessons, Year 2 have been revising the four main types of sentence and using these in their writing. They have read many sets of instructions of varying types, looking at the use of bossy verbs, culminating in them writing lists of instructions varying from how to make chocolate cornflake cakes to how to prepare Katie Morag's sheep for the Isle of Struay Show! They had great fun writing descriptive poems about a dinosaur using exclamation sentences. What an amazing job they all did!!!

The long awaited dinosaur topic has been very well received by the children. Thank you so much to all the children who have lent us some books to supplement our collection. They have been busy researching facts about a particular dinosaur using the books and various websites. Mr Plater, the curator of Hull 'Dinostar' Museum visited us on Wednesday 14th March with an array of exhibits, including an Allosaurus skull and a Triceratops leg bone. Mr Plater was very impressed by the amount and quality of the questions that the children asked and was very complimentary about their



behaviour.

Thank you so much for all of your support this half term with reading and homework. Again, some of the children have been awarded with a book prize for their many reads at home. Well done to them. Remember every five reads means a sticker on the bookmark.

We look forward to seeing many of your children at Health and Fitness Club next term. Letters will be sent out after the Easter holidays.

Year 3: Ancient Egypt has been the History topic this half term, and the children have worked with great enthusiasm throughout. They have investigated how archaeologists use artefacts to build a picture of life at that time and they have worked with a partner to research in detail an aspect of everyday life in Ancient Egypt. From this research the children have produced some excellent historical reports written on papyrus and decorated with hieroglyphs. They have also thoroughly enjoyed designing and making their own Egyptian mummies.



In English, the children have enjoyed listening to many exciting stories in their topic of Myths and Legends (there is a link on the school web-site for these). The children have worked extremely hard over the past few weeks, using ideas and language features from these stories to produce some excellent myths of their own. Linked to the Myths and Legends topic, the Music theme for this half term has been based on the legend of Robin Hood. Mrs. Charnley has been very impressed with the children's enthusiasm to develop their singing voices and learn a significant number of songs in a very short time. Well done, Year 3!

In Maths, the children have worked in pairs and groups on a series of practical problem solving and reasoning tasks, using grams and kilograms. They have also developed their ability to use standard methods of multiplication and division and answer a range of word problems, including division with remainders.

This term's Science topic has been on Plants. The children have been learning about the functions of plant parts and the life cycle of flowering plants. In addition, the children have set up a series of experiments to test plants requirements for water, light and heat. They have planted and germinated sunflower seeds, which they are going to look after at home over the Easter holidays, as they complete a weekly diary of the plant's growth and development. The plants and diaries should be returned to school on the first day back after the Easter holidays. Thank you.

Year 4: This half term, Year 4 have been studying States of Matter. They found out about how different materials change state as you raise or lower the temperature. They conducted an experiment which helped them to work out what the melting point of chocolate must be by placing pieces of chocolate into foil trays and floating them on water at 3 different temperatures. Everyone was very hungry after that investigation!

They have also been learning about France. They did some research on France as a whole country where they located and labelled some of the major cities and physical features of the landscape before focusing on Cannes in the South of France. They compared the weather there to the weather in Manchester using climate graphs which showed rainfall and average temperature over a year in both places.

The children in Year 4 have been making trinket boxes out of clay as part of their Design Technology topic. They put a lot of effort into making and decorating their boxes and I'm sure you will agree they looked wonderful.

In Maths, the children in Year 4 have been learning about coordinates and translation of 2D shapes. They learnt how to plot a missing coordinate to make a specified polygon and also how to identify the way a shape has been translated on a grid. They have also been working on converting time from 12 hour to 24 hour digital time and converting hours into minutes and minutes into seconds. They have been solving problems relating to time as well.

Year 4's English lessons this half term have focused on stories from other cultures and traditions. They watched a video and read a written version of a story called Ride of Passage which is set in a rainforest. The children wrote their own story in which a child has to complete a challenge in order to gain the respect of their tribe.



Year 5: Year 5 have been busy completing their Road Safety training session with Oldham Council. The children were sensible and well-mannered throughout. Well done, Year 5!

In their writing, Year 5 produced some wonderful descriptive pieces about 'The Piano'. They used high level vocabulary, a range of clause structures and noun phrases and were able to link the passage of time accurately. They were a pleasure to read.

In maths, they have worked really hard on decimals, fractions and percentages. They have continued to work hard solving problems, developing stronger resilience and reasoning skills.

As part of the Early Islamic Civilization topic, Year 5 have learned all about the Golden Age and the



Round City of Baghdad.

They compared the events happening in Baghdad during that era to Europe and noticed how different the two were. Their D&T project linked into this topic as they designed photo frames using Islamic geometric artwork patterns by overlapping circles. The children learned how to use a compass and the frames were carefully

measured out. The children selected a stand design which best suited their needs. The finished photo frames looked great!

Year 5 have been learning how to play rounders with Mr Nield from Sports Development. Their catching, throwing and striking skills have improved considerably through the variety of games they have played in their lessons.

Everyone is looking forward to Robinwood after the Easter holidays.

Year 6: Year 6 children have been using keys to identify different types of insects and plants. They have been looking at how different plants and animals are suited to their environment.

The children have started our topic on the Brazilian rainforest. They have found out that there are two types of rainforest, where they are located, some types of animals and plants found there, the different layers and how important the rainforests are to the world.

As part of the R.E. curriculum, the children have recounted the Revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and how the Qur'an was produced. They have also made a wonderful effort at calligraphy, producing some beautiful designs.

The children have created some wonderful drawings of London landmarks. They have chosen to use either paint or pastels to complete their pictures.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Dance: Mrs Kulczycki and her Dance Group are enjoying their after school dance activities.

Football: We are well into the season; the team have been playing well on a Friday evening against other Oldham schools.

Football: Mr John Platt runs football training for the children on a Tuesday night.

Football: Mr Ryder runs football training for the children on a Wednesday night.

Gymnastics: Miss Martland runs a gymnastic club.

Choir: The choir are enjoying learning new songs with Mrs. Pearson.

Health and Fitness: Year 1 children are enjoying getting fit with Mrs. Joyce.

French: Year 2 and Miss Platt are enjoying learning French words and singing French songs. They have had a great time at their French feast.

Gardening and Wildlife Club: The Gardening and Wildlife Club has now resumed with Mrs Charnley and Mr Brown.

Netball: Well done to the netball team who came second at the inter-schools' netball competition yesterday.

GOVERNORS

On Wednesday 7th. February the Governing Body met. During this meeting the Governors:

- Received a head teacher's report outlining what we have been doing in school
- Reviewed the School Development Plan
- A number of HR policies were updated and accepted
- Mr. Beckley (chair of Governors) gave a presentation about the changes in data protection and how that will affect us at Buckstones
- Reported on the fire drill and lock in drill

Curriculum Committee met and reviewed the Analysing School Performance report. The committee discussed the attainment and progress in KS2, 1, Foundation Stage and the phonics tests. They also looked at the progress and attainment of different groups at the end of KS1 and 2. The groups discussed were boys, disadvantaged and SEN.

The committee reviewed and agreed to update the following policies:

- Educational Visits
- Foundation Stage
- Medicines

Pay and Finance Committee reviewed the bursars report and noted any differences within the cost centres.

The committee reviewed and agreed to update the following policies:

- Finance Policy,
- Scheme of Delegation
- Charging Policy
- Best Value Statement
- Purchasing Procedures
- Statement of Internal Control
- Financial Risk assessment.

Members of the Governing Body Premises Committee met on Tuesday 20th November 2018. The Committee considered and approved a new policy on Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Governors also considered a report on the outcomes of an interim health and safety audit which confirmed a good standard of health and safety management, with just a small number of minor issues identified which are being dealt with.

Also Mr. Hartley has been into work with Year 3 on a Moneysense project. He explained to the children the difference between needs and wants and different ways to spend/save/donate their money.

PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all the parents who completed the questionnaires during the two parents' evenings. Altogether we had 130 returns.

While we are very pleased with the responses we have noted all the comments and will be working with the Governors and children to see how we can improve even further.

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
My child is happy.	85%	12%	1%	2%	
My child feels safe.	88%	11%	1%		
The school enables my child to make good progress in their learning.	85%	14%	1%		
My child is well looked after.	88%	12%			
My child is well taught.	86%	13%	1%		
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	72%	21%	3%	2%	2%
The school expects high standards of behaviour.	88%	11%	1%		
The school deals effectively with any poor behaviour.	66%	20%	13%	1%	
The school is well led and managed.	87%	13%			
I feel comfortable approaching the school with a question or problem.	86%	13%		1%	
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress through parents' evenings and end of year reports.	82%	16%		2%	
I would recommend this school to another parent.	90%	8%	1%	1%	

Some of the Parental Comments:

"Fantastic teachers and Head who teach our children fantastically! Pleased we are part of such a great school. Very happy with the school and my children are all very happy and settled."

"Always been very happy with the school - spanning 17 years."

"Homework could be more advanced? Homework could be more frequent."

"That my child feels safe and nurtured and is encouraged to work hard and to do the best with their ability. I feel lucky my children have had Buckstones to foster their primary learning and prepare them for the next stage at secondary school."

"What I value you most about Buckstones is the 'community spirit' and feeling of belonging, such high standards and give each child all the encouragement needed for high school."

"It would be useful to have more notice for events and activities as far ahead as possible."

"My little girl is always happy to go to school."

"I value the after school activities, also seems to be a very well disciplined school. I am very happy my child comes here."

"It's like a family."

"The amazing amount of effort put in to help my child."

"The sense the teachers/head care. Always attentive to my child's needs."

"Each member of staff takes time to know and understand the children. They are not just a number. The school is fantastic in all aspects of learning and development."

"More diverse and inclusive extra-curricular needed."

"Great staff and a brilliant place to send our child to learn and grow every day."

"Fabulous school. I find both Miss Healey and all staff approachable and honest."

"The way the school is run is excellent. Could do with more sports activities!"

"The direction and security of the school. Great teachers and values."

"I would like more homework."

"That our queries/worries/suggestions are dealt with efficiently and effectively."

"Too much homework. Primary school is about learning through play not reams of paperwork!"

"How many different experiences the children get whether it be in school time, trips, raising money etc."

"I've always been extremely happy with the standard of teaching. Also, it's very open with regards to seeing teachers, regarding any issues parents may have."

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES

This term Friends of Buckstones held a Snail Race night at school which raised £753.89. It was a super night with lots of excited children cheering their snails to win on screen. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us by attending or sponsoring the races. Our sponsors for the evening were Singleton Transport, Vape My Day, Nikki Leigh Studio, Joe Palombo Fencing and Landscaping, The Bluebell Shop, Microsystems and Oldham Solid Fuels. We really appreciate everyone's support.

We have also held an Easter Egg Competition which has raised £115 for the school. The entries were amazing and we are amazed at the standard of the competition. The winners all received an Easter Egg which was kindly donated by Mr. and Mrs. Marsden. The winning designs are displayed in the blue noticeboards in the playgrounds. The Infants are in the top noticeboard near the main entrance and the Juniors are in the Junior playground. Thank you to everyone who entered.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19th April at The Park Inn on Buckstones Road, where we will be discussing a Fashion Show by Fizz in Shaw, which is booked in for Thursday 3rd May. Letters will be going out in the first week back, so ask your friends and family if they would like to attend to make it a successful evening. We will have a licenced bar available on the night! We will also be discussing the Summer Fair, which will be here before we know it. A Bags to School is also going to be arranged, so please keep any unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and belts to one side. Bags will be sent out which can then be weighed and exchanged for cash. All parents are welcome to attend the meetings.

Every penny we earn goes straight back into the school!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School trends, our uniform supplier are updating their carriage charges for their on-line uniform service. They have listened to feedback from parents about the cost of our delivery service, and so from 27th April 2018 they are reducing the carriage cost of parent orders from £4.95 to just £2.99. This charge will apply to all parents' orders, whether delivered to home or to school. Free delivery will apply on all orders over the value of £75 including VAT.

You will now be able to have delivery to home or an alternate address before the start of term, and to school during term times and all at a very reasonable cost.

Please can I remind parents only to allow children to wear small blue/black/yellow headbands and bobbles. The large colourful headbands/bows are becoming a distraction and are not part of school uniform.

DAILY MILE

I am pleased to say Buckstones is continuing to support the 'Daily Mile' and I would like to share with you an announcement from Manchester.

"It gives me great pleasure to inform you of a special announcement that was made on Monday afternoon.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester was joined by Elaine Wyllie, founder of The Daily Mile, to celebrate Greater Manchester becoming the world's first City Region committed to The Daily Mile. The Mayor was presented with a special pair of 'The Daily Mile' plimsolls to commemorate this achievement.

The Daily Mile forms part of the GM Moving ambition to get everyone in Greater Manchester more active and to secure the fastest and greatest improvement to the health, wealth and wellbeing of its 2.8 million residents.

Whilst we know many primary schools have embraced The Daily Mile, and we will continue to help grow the number of 5-11 year olds participating, our commitment to this will extend beyond schools into nurseries, workplaces and community settings. We really want to create a Daily Mile movement with people from right across the life course walking, jogging or running 15 minutes every day!"

SHAW CRICKET

Junior Cricket Training

SHAW CRICKET CLUB

Interested in playing cricket?

Under 13's, U15's Tuesday's 6.15-8.00pm Starts 17th April

Under 9's, U11's Friday's 6.15-8.00pm Starts 20st April

Ring Craig 07976 474087



We offer training and representative league and cup games for boys and girls

**New players always welcome, all abilities catered for
NEW PLAYERS -COME AND TRY 1ST SESSION FOR FREE**

Fun practice sessions with our team of fully qualified coaches including sessions with the club professional

**Venue: Holebottom Clough, Mark Lane, Shaw, OL2 8QG
Go to the Shaw CC website or Facebook pages for more info.**

School reopens on Monday 16th. April

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey