

Wednesday 13th. February 2019

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

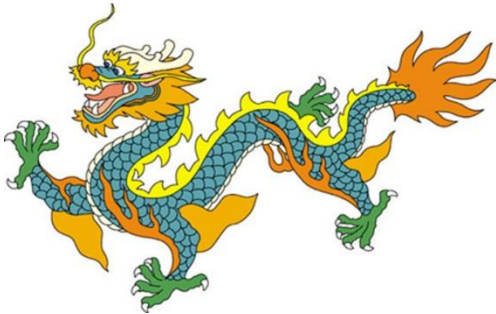
Spring Half Term Newsletter

CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

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

Reception: The children in Reception have been finding out about day and night / light and dark. They have investigated some sources of light. They have discovered how day and night are different and what activities are done at these times. The children have also been finding out about nocturnal animals. They have made nocturnal animal pictures and clay models.

The children have been finding out all about Chinese New Year. They have learnt new songs, and listened to Chinese music. The children have enjoyed watching the dragon and lion dances and used their creative flair to make lanterns, paper dragons and lion masks. The children had a wonderful time trying Chinese food during the Chinese New Year celebration.



Year 1: Year 1 have had another busy half term! In English they have been learning all about 'Information Texts'; they are now space experts and have enjoyed learning all about the planets. They have produced some wonderful writing about Earth, as well as some of the other planets. Linking in with this they have also learned all about Neil Armstrong and the Apollo 11 mission of 1969, something which they really enjoyed. They even got to write their own newspaper reports to commemorate this important event!



In Maths they have been continuing to develop their calculation skills; they have also been working hard on doubling and halving, as well as learning by heart their numbers bonds to 10. Some of them have even progressed onto learning their number bonds to 20, which is great for this stage in the year.

Their problem-solving and reasoning skills are improving all the time and they continue to do well with their counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. The children have also enjoyed their recent practical maths sessions, involving position and direction. As a result they are now Bee Bot experts ... look out for the Bee Bot app in the App Store.

The children are especially enjoying 'having a go' at their Hit the Button number challenge games on the iPad. They continue to learn new maths songs to help them with their counting skills and recall of key number facts.

Their Science topic for this term is 'Materials'. The children have enjoyed exploring the properties of a range of different materials and have been grouping objects by which material they are made from. In particular they have been focussing on the materials wood, metal, plastic, glass and fabric and had great fun completing a search of the school for these materials. After the half term break they will be using the traditional tale of 'The Three Little Pigs' as a focus for their materials work. The children will be working in small groups to build their own house for a little pig, with the extra challenge of making sure it is able to survive the big bad wolf (hairdryer!) trying to blow it down!



In their Geography work they have continued their learning on 'The United Kingdom'; they have been learning about the points of a compass and have even made their own compasses in Art. Much of their other Art / Technology work has been space-related and they have made some lovely splatter planets and chalk planets, as well as some super space junk models.

Many thanks to those of you who have helped support your child by not only reading with him / her at home, but also practising his / her spellings and playing his / her number games. We are really starting to see a difference with those children who have the extra input at home.

After a very hectic half-term we are looking forward to our half-term break.

Year 2: In Geography the children have been learning about the Scottish island of Coll. This is the island that Mairi Hedderwick has based her Katie Morag stories on. Year 2 had great fun trying to locate Coll on a map and have enjoyed looking at photographs of this beautiful, remote place. Future work will involve looking at the human and physical features of Coll and how life on the island is very different to our own. The books of Mairi Hedderwick have been made into a series for CBeebies and past episodes can be viewed on the CBeebies iPlayer. Of course they are looking forward to dressing up as characters from the stories of Katie Morag on their own Katie Morag Day after half term!!



Their Science topic this half term has been 'Materials and their uses.' The children have discussed the properties of materials, thought about their different uses and learned about some famous inventors including Charles Mackintosh, John Dunlop and John Macadam. The topic resulted in an experiment to see 'Which material is the most waterproof?'

Many wonderful pieces of upcycling were brought in for science homework. The children were so proud of their own wonderful inventions and really enjoyed looking at the work of others. There were some fabulous ideas!!

In English lessons, Year 2 have read an array of dragon stories, including *The Paper Bag Princess* and *The Dragon Machine*, as well as the more traditional legend of St. George and the Dragon. A big thank you to all the children who let us borrow dragon stories from home. The children were very keen to write their own dragon descriptions and adventure stories which were full of action and excitement!



Some of our children have already been awarded with a book prize and certificate for sustained effort with their reading at home. Well done! Please continue to read every night with your child and sign the reading journal. Every five reads earns a sticker on the reward bookmark.

Year 3: Year 3's Maths work this term has focused on telling the time on an analogue clock and extending the children's understanding of multiplication and division. The children have learnt the standard methods of multiplication and division and they have applied these to a range of problem solving and reasoning activities. Mrs. Charnley been pleased with the children's ability to work co-operatively to solve problems and to explain their reasoning both orally and in writing.

In English, the children have worked extremely hard to analyse the structure of particular poems, and then collect lots of ideas, in order to write some wonderful poems about the months of the year. Following a study of a range of Aesop's fables, the children have planned and written some excellent fables based on ones they have read.

Science work has been focused on forces and magnetism. The children have learnt about the properties of magnets and they have carried out scientific investigations to find out if the strength of a magnet is related to its size.

Their Geography topic this half term has been The Countries of the United Kingdom. The children have worked hard in groups, using books, ipads, computers and information sheets to research one



country of the UK in detail, in order to produce informative and eye-catching posters.

This half term, Mr. Garside from Oldham Athletic has been teaching Multi-skills to Year 3 on Fridays, with the emphasis on the social aspects of team sports. The children have found the sessions very enjoyable, and they are making very good progress with their skills.

In the RE topic on Creation this half term, Mrs. Charnley has been impressed by the thoughtful discussions, and the imaginative and caring written work and drawings produced by the children. Well done, Year 3!

Finally, Robin Hood has been the theme of Music lessons, with the emphasis on singing. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these sessions, learning the songs well and taking part enthusiastically in all sessions.

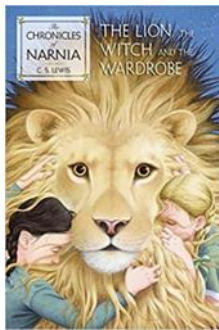


Year 4: This half term, Year 4 have been studying States of Matter in Science. They have learnt about how the particles behave in the different states and they have also done an experiment to prove that gases have weight. They had a lot of fun doing this as it involved shaking a fizzy drink bottle and then letting the gas escape. They also conducted an investigation into the melting point of chocolate which helped them to see that a hotter temperature melts solids more quickly. The children have also looked at evaporation and condensation in action as well as finding out what happens to the temperature when you add salt to ice. This had a surprising result.

Year 4's topic has been France this half term. They have located places in France on a map and have researched the city of Marseille in the South of France. They have also been looking at the artwork of Claude Monet and have had a go at recreating some of his work using pastels and pencil crayons.

In Maths, the children in Year 4 have been developing their skills with division and multiplication. They have been working on the standard method for division as well as lots of different ways of calculating division problems mentally. They have also been using practical apparatus and bar models to represent division and multiplication calculations as well as carrying out some rather tricky word problems.

In English, Year 4's topic has been stories set in imaginary worlds. They have read part of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and have watched a clip from the TV series where Lucy first meets Mr Tumnus the fawn. They had to write their own version of this scene where a character enters an imaginary world and then meets a mythical creature. They also watched a short film called 'Something Fishy' and had to write their own story where a fantasy world is populated by animals



made out of everyday objects.

In PE, Year 4 have been very lucky as Jack from Oldham Athletic has been teaching them new skills to use when playing invasion games such as football or basketball. They have been working on their agility and how to avoid defenders so that they can score.

Year 5: Year 5 have been learning about Andy Warhol's Pop Art. They have been studying famous work such as Marilyn Diptych (1962) and created their own versions of an object of their choice



using ICT. All of their artwork looks fantastic!

In ICT, they have created some fantastic movies based around "The Piano". The movies show a short flashback film and have been carefully composed in groups with an appropriate choice of music and theme. The children used camera angles to create the most effective mood for each scene.

In PE, they have been learning how to play hockey and have improved their passing and control using the hockey sticks. They have also improved their understanding of the rules by taking it in turns to referee small games.

In history, they have learned about the importance of Baghdad as part of their Early Islamic Civilization topic. They have found out some interesting facts about the shape of Baghdad's Round City and why it was built that way. They have found out why Baghdad was so successful and learned all about the House of Wisdom. They have created some beautiful Islamic Art which has been created by repeated geometric circles using a compass. These have been used to create free standing photograph frames which links in with their DT work. They investigated different types of stands and made the stand they thought would be most effective and suitable for their use.

Year 6: Year 6 children have started our London topic: how Greater London is made up of many different boroughs. They have looked at the importance of the River Thames to London. They have found out many facts about the River Thames: data concerning length, source and estuary etc.; the early history of London and the River Thames from Roman times to modern day; how the river has been used and animals and plants which can be found along the stretch of the river.

In Art, they have linked their work to sketching and drawing different London landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament, the Gherkin and Tower Bridge.



Year 6 children have set up spreadsheets to find totals and averages of a set of results and shopping prices. They have used spreadsheets to calculate the perimeter and area of rectangles as well.

In Science, the children have made simple models of the heart and are learning about the importance of a healthy diet and exercise to keep the heart and body healthy.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Dodgeball: There was a Dodgeball competition at Crompton House on 5th. February. The children all played with an excellent team spirit and their behaviour was exemplary.

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

Dance: Mrs Kulczycki and her Junior Dance Group put on 2 lively and energetic performances for the children in school and for parents. The Infant dance group has now started.

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

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Gymnastics: Miss Martland runs a gymnastic club on a Monday.

Choir: The choir had a fantastic experience at the MEN, being part of the Young Voices concert. Well done to Mrs. Pearson and all the children for their great participation and performance.

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.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mrs. Leigh and the School Councillors have been meeting regularly and decided our theme for non-uniform day.

GOVERNORS: On Wednesday 6th. February the Governing Body met. During this meeting the Governors:

- Received a report from myself outlining what we have been doing in school
- Reviewed the School Development Plan
- Analysed the data from our published results

- Reviewed our safeguarding procedures and training
- Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill

Curriculum Committee reviewed the Analysing School Performance report including 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 committee reviewed and agreed to update the following policy:

- Anti-bullying

Pay and Finance Committee met and 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

The committee also reviewed their SFVS.

PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents Evenings this year are on Tuesday 26th. February and Thursday 28th. February. Please make an appointment via parentmail.

SATS

Thank you to all the parents who attended the SATs meeting this half term. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the changes to the SATS and how to support the children in Year 2 and Year 6 so they are fully prepared for the tests in the summer.

PARKING

Once again I have received complaints about parking around school in the morning and in the evening. A resident on Hillside Avenue was unable to get onto their drive because a parent had parked across it. Can I ask that we take care where we park for the sake of the residents and the safety of the children.

PASSPORT TO SUCCESS

All children from Year 1 to Year 6 have brought home their passports to success, I hope they have shared them with you and they have added activities they have done at home. Soon there will be a section on the website, where activities run in Oldham for children to join, will be advertised.

NON-UNIFORM DAY

The School Council have organised the non-uniform day on Friday 15th. February. The theme is to dress up as what you would like to be when you grow up. Children may come into school on that day and wear their own clothes for a voluntary contribution of £1.

School reopens on Monday 25th. February.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey