

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>. May 2021

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

### Summer Half Term Newsletter

#### **CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:**

This half term the children from all the classes have been involved in a variety of enrichment activities. The teachers have shared what the classes have been doing this half term.

**Reception:** Reception have had a super half term 'Down in the Garden'!

The main focus of this topic was nature, through learning about lots of different mini-beasts and plants. The children have absolutely loved having the extra forest school sessions to really embrace this topic and take their learning outdoors as often as possible.

The children have particularly loved observing the tadpoles grow and change into little froglets. They've also really enjoyed watching the tiny caterpillars grow bigger and bigger before changing into beautiful butterflies. Both of these 'real-life' experiences have really captured the children's interest and it has been wonderful to observe them initiate discussions and describe the changes that they see each day.



In English lessons the children have been using their phonics skills to write independently by listening carefully to the sounds that they can hear in each word. They've also been learning about the importance of using finger spaces between their words and trying to remember to do this every time they write!

In maths, the children have been working very hard on learning how to double, half and share different amounts. They have also been concentrating on their number formation - making sure that all numbers start at the top and that they use their neatest writing all of the time!

In outdoor P.E. lessons the children have been developing their gross motor skills through using the large outdoor equipment and bikes. It has been excellent to see their confidence in these sessions really grow, as well as their independence in getting changed before and after the sessions too.

Well done for a super half term Reception, you should be very proud of yourselves!

**Year 1:** Year 1 have been so busy that this half term has flown by! Their first **English** topic was 'Traditional Tales', where they enjoyed the stories of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. They made some lovely story maps and used these to retell the stories in their own words, as well as putting themselves into the characters' shoes. They also produced some lovely writing, including wanted posters for the wolf and speech bubbles for the Jack and the beanstalk characters.



As part of our recent 'Fantasy Stories' topic, they have had a great time exploring pirate stories. They started off by listening to the story of 'The Night Pirates' by Peter Harris then creating their own pirates on the computer using Purple Mash, just like the one below. They went on to write some super pirate descriptions, and also came up with some interesting questions to ask a pirate, should they ever meet one!



In **maths** they have continued with their work on place value, focusing in particular on using a number line to help them add and subtract to 50 and beyond and have also done some practical work on volume and capacity. As well as continuing to learn their key number facts (number bonds and doubles) they have also been having a big 'push' on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, ready for learning their times tables in Year 2.

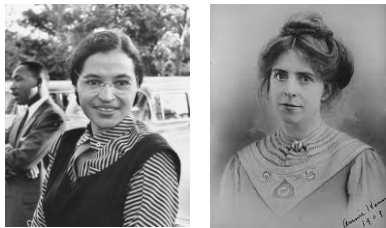
Their latest **science** topic is 'Plants'. The children have been learning the names of the different parts of plants such as roots, stem, leaves and flower and have enjoyed exploring the plants and trees we have in our school grounds. They have been learning all about trees and have impressed us with their ability to name and explain terms such as evergreen and deciduous! This work has also fitted in nicely with their work on Seasons.



In **computing** the children have continued with their work on coding and have enjoyed using Bee Bot to help them learn more about position and direction, as well as the importance of giving clear instructions! Their key computing skills are improving all the time and it is lovely to see so many of them now saving and printing their work independently.



We have introduced a new **history** topic this term, something we have not done before in Year 1 - 'Important Women in History', focusing upon Rosa Parks and local activist Annie Kenney. As we said on Tapestry, the children thoroughly enjoyed this topic and have blown us away with how they have blown us away with how well they have tackled tricky topics such as segregation and women's rights.



Finally, the children have also been working very hard on their **phonics, reading and spellings** and they should be proud of the progress they have made here so far this year. Many thanks for keeping up the good work at home - practising weekly spellings and reading regularly, as well as completing homework tasks.

*Please note that there will be no official phonics screening check for Year 1 children this year but we will still be completing practice checks with the children after the half-term break. Please look out for a little phonics pack coming home soon. The children have worked ever so hard this half-term and are now looking forward to a well-deserved half-term break!*

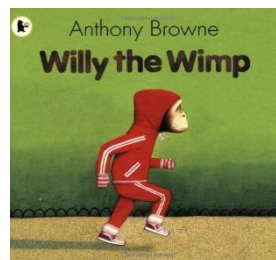
**Year 2:** The children have had another super half term. They have shown an amazing attitude, a desire to do well and a really positive approach to learning. Well done Year 2!

In Maths, the children have been continuing their work on fractions; in particular, how to find fractions of quantities. They have also worked on the measurement of length and solved problems

involving metres. During the past couple of weeks the children have been busy learning to tell the time to the nearest five minutes. Thank you for all the hard work you have done at home with your child to tell the time. This really is a most important life skill.



The author Anthony Browne has been our focus for study in English lessons. The children discovered that although his stories are very picture based and humorous, they often have very deep and complicated themes. They have written some fantastic character descriptions about one of Anthony's more famous characters; Willy the Wimp, and did an amazing job writing their own stories based on an animal character who after a few problems and difficulties in life, conquers their fears and emerges a hero!!!



As part of our Science topic on Living Things and their Habitats, Year 2 went on a minibeast hunt in our school grounds. The children searched sensibly and carefully and found slugs, snails, earthworms, woodlice and beetles. They have learned about typical British habitats including woodland, coast and pond and have also studied the Arctic habitat in more detail. They have written some excellent pieces of information on how Arctic animals have adapted to life in the ice and snow.



We have really enjoyed our History Topic on Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. The children have amazed us with the amount of facts they have retained about these two significant historical figures. The focus of our work this week has been the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. We have watched parts of the original BBC television broadcast and are currently writing newspaper reports to describe the events of the day. It has been lovely to watch the children proudly share their homework about our Queen.

Thank you for your continued support with the weekly spellings. I know how hard the children try to learn and retain the patterns each week. Also, we now have many children who can spell all 64 of the Year 2 common exception words, which is fantastic!!! Keep practising!!!



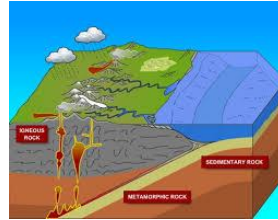
**Year 3:** We have all been delighted to welcome Miss Butterworth back to school this term for her final teaching practice in Year 3.

In English, the children have been reading and writing performance poems. They have worked very thoughtfully to produce their own versions of Ten Little Children and some excellent 'Opposites' poems. They have also been researching their favourite authors, writing some very interesting fact-files and book reviews. Finally, after learning how to write letters for different purposes, they have written, and sent, a letter to their favourite author. Fingers crossed for replies! I have explained to the children that replies are not guaranteed and that they can sometimes take a while to arrive. With wonderful timing, a letter arrived in school last week from Jeff Kinney (American author of Diary of a Wimpy Kid), which was a reply to a letter sent by a Year 3 child who is now in Year 7!

Maths topics the children have been working hard on this term have included fractions, symmetry, parallel and perpendicular lines, reading scales and mass, including problem solving and reasoning. They have also extended their use of standard methods of addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. Well done to those children who have worked hard to learn their times tables so thoroughly.

In Science the children have been learning about Rocks and Fossils. They completed a survey of the school grounds to record where rocks can be found in the environment, and they worked in pairs to

complete a range of experiments, testing the properties of different rocks. I was very impressed with the way the children worked scientifically, carrying out fair tests and recording results carefully.



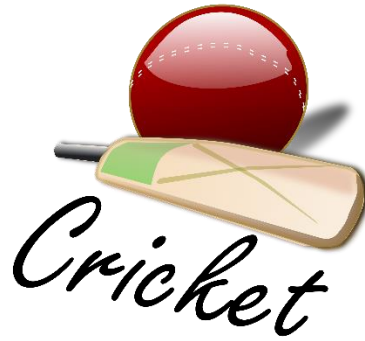
Our *Geography* topic this term has been Rivers. The children have been learning all about features of rivers and they have been independently researching important rivers of the world. They have learnt how rivers are shown on a map and how to use a key and grid references to locate specific features.

In RE the children have been learning about Jewish festivals and family life, exploring the importance of family and home. The children have taken part enthusiastically in these lessons, demonstrating a great deal of thought and understanding when relating the lessons to their own lives.

Music lessons have focused on learning about pentatonic scales. The children have enjoyed listening to, copying and composing simple musical phrases of their own using xylophones.



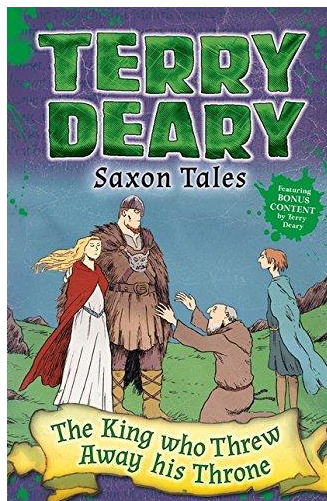
The children were excited to resume their weekly swimming lessons at Royton Baths this term. They have worked very hard and have made excellent progress. In other sports lessons, they have been learning Cricket skills, including throwing and catching, batting and fielding. They thoroughly enjoyed the session from Lancashire Cricket Club on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Their behaviour, effort and skills were highly praised by the coach. Well done, Year 3!



**Year 4:** Year 4 has had another fantastic half term and they have been very busy with their learning. We've been having lots of fun with our new topic and unit in Science!

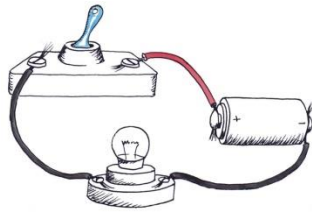
Maths - This half term, we have been focusing on fractions. We have been learning about different types of fractions, how to spot an improper or mixed fraction and how to match equivalent fractions together. We have also been recapping how to add and subtract fractions. Our knowledge on fractions is going to be really handy when we move onto our last unit, decimals!

English - We have been extremely busy in English this half term, especially as we have read poems and a new book! We began by reading different poems and looked at the different between closed and open form. We then decided to write a recount of a poem about spring, changing the descriptive language to make it more powerful. Then, we wrote our own poems about the different seasons. After this, we moved on to stories with dilemmas, focusing on a Saxon tale called, 'The King Who Threw Away His Throne', a story about foolish King Vortigern and how he was tricked by the savage Saxons.



History - Year 4 have had lots of fun the last 6 weeks learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Scots. We have learned about where they came from, what it was like to live in a Saxon village and how they changed from Paganism to Christianity! We have also looked at some the food that the Anglo-Saxons ate and have made biscuits based on a Saxon recipe.

Science - For this half term, we have been focusing on electricity and how to make circuits. Year 4 have really enjoyed being active in our lessons and have been creating closed circuits and testing different materials. We have also learned about different switches and how they work. We really enjoyed using the light bulbs, buzzers and motors in our lesson!



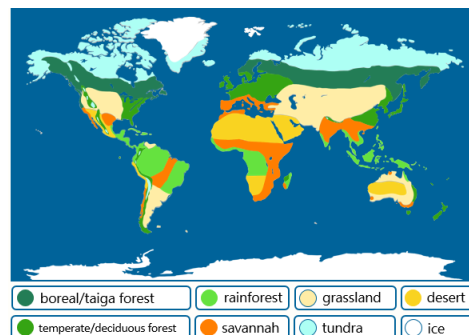
PE - Even though we have had a lot of rain this half term, we have still been able to play rounders! We have worked together as teams to practise our throwing and catching and spent a lesson learning about bowling and batting. We have really enjoyed the rounders matches and have really developed our hand-eye coordination this half term!

Well done for another fantastic half term Year 4, you have been brilliant!

Keep safe and have a wonderful holiday!

Miss Thomas

**Year 5:** Year 5 have created some fantastic work this half term. In topic, they have been learning about biomes. They have found where the different biomes are typically located on a world map and have conducted some research in order to create an information page on their chosen biome. They used their most fascinating desert findings to create a persuasive brochure to encourage people to visit the desert biome. In doing so, they have learnt about ways in which plants and animals have adapted to survive in the extreme conditions. It was interesting to see the differences in biomes around the world and to compare them with one another. Year 5 especially liked looking at the different animals- as did I!





In PE last week, Year 5 were lucky to participate in a cricket taster session. They really enjoyed learning new skills and trying to improve their performance during the session. It was great fun! Year 5 have also been learning how to improve their throwing and striking skills in PE. They have learnt how to stand and hold a rounders bat in order to have the best possible chance of hitting the ball. They have really improved their ability to bowl and bat by keeping their eyes on the ball. During their sessions with Sports Development, they have been improving their PB (personal best) for long jump, speed bounce and various sprinting distances.

In computing, Year 5 have been coding objects to move. They have used their knowledge of coordinates to move from one position to another, including using commands to trigger movements e.g. when tapped. They have been able to change various movements e.g. the speed from faster to slower etc. Most impressively, they have been able to debug broken programs and have even been creating their own designs from scratch!

In the final week of this half term, Year 5 participated in a Road Safety session. They were very sensible when learning how to cross the roads safely. Well done Year 5!

**Year 6:** Our Geography topic, this half-term, has been about London. The children have learned about the importance of the River Thames to the growth of London and its continuing use. They have also used Underground maps to plan different routes around the capital.



In Art, the children have been looking closely at older (e.g., Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, etc.) and more modern buildings (e.g., The 'Gherkin', Millennium Dome, etc.) in London. They have carefully sketched an example of one of each with some excellent results.



Year 6 children have been practising their athletic skills in Games on Mondays and have been learning and developing tennis skills during Thursday lessons with Mr Thompson (Oldham Sports Development). We have some budding Andy Murrays!

As part of our end-of-Year 6 festivities, we are hoping to be able to perform a play. We have already started learning and practising the songs in preparation - the children seem to be enjoying the different accompanying tracks.

### **CLASS AND TEAM PHOTOS:**

A new photographer was in school on Tuesday 25th May to take class photographs. She will come back on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>. June to take the Year 6 vista photograph. The proofs will be sent home after half term.

### **FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:**

Friends of Buckstones met via zoom on Thursday 13th. May. During the meeting we began to plan a treat day for all the children and also a scavenger hunt the children can do over half term. During this week an A3 sheet of paper will be sent home and the children will be asked to find things in nature that spell out BUCKSTONES e.g. for B it could be a picture of a blackbird, U a photograph of an umbrella in the rain. The winner from each class will get a Mud and Bloom Nature box, which look amazing.

I also hope you all received the email about signing up for 'Amazon Smile'. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Friends of Buckstones at no cost to you, every time you shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), Amazon Smile will donate a portion of the purchase price to Friends Of Buckstones (0.5% of the net purchase price).

So if you would like to support Friends of Buckstones please sign up or change your support to Friends of Buckstones. Please look out for the products marked "Eligible for [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

### **SCHOOL DINNERS**



We have collated all the information you have given us via the survey. Thank you so much to everyone who took part it has been really useful in developing our menus to cater for your children.



We are excited to announce that from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July we are taking over the catering service.

This means we will be offering more of the foods you have asked for, and, as parents, you will have the opportunity to guide your children through the menus.

From **September** parents will have the facility to pre order your child's meal choices at home via ParentPay. More information on this will be available in the coming weeks. This will give you and your child the opportunity to explore the menus together.



*Hopefully in September government guidance will allow all our pupils to dine in the school hall*



From the **9<sup>th</sup> June**, all Junior children on school meals will be offered the same hot meal choices as the Infants, these will be provided in the classroom for Junior children.

The other positive news is that from **1<sup>st</sup> July** meals are now back at the more affordable price of £2.40 per meal, after listening to your survey responses we felt this was very important and our new suppliers allow us to offer amazing meals using fantastic, fresh produce at a lower price.

We break up for half term on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. May and return to school on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>. June.

Friday is a non-uniform day and the children can come to school dressed as their sporting hero. We ask for £1 donation, which will be put towards new sports equipment.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey