

Thursday 15th. July 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 activities.

Reception: Reception have really enjoyed their 'Amazing Animals' topic this half term. They have learnt about lots of different animals and have really embraced our role play area, which has been transformed into a veterinary surgery!

Through this topic the children have also found out about hot and cold parts of the world, which



animals live there and how they are adapted to survive there.

Each child now has their own firm favourite animal, but all have enjoyed learning lots of new animal songs and stories and especially loved making their own little hedgehogs out of clay.



In English lessons the children have been working very hard on being able to write simple sentences independently. They are trying hard to remember finger spaces between their words and also making sure that all of their letters are formed correctly.

In maths, the children have been focussing on finding 'one more than' and 'one less than' a given number. They have also recapped all of our shape, space and measure topics from over the year, including using analogue clocks to tell the time ('O clock).

As always, the children have really enjoyed their outdoor learning opportunities. Through forest school sessions they have been focussing on the changes to our outdoor areas that the Summer brings with it, as well as developing their gross-motor skills by climbing trees and rolling down the

hills. The children also learnt lots of new skills in our P.E. sessions this half term in the build up to their sports day, including relay races, hockey skills and of course egg and spoon racing too!

Well done for another super half term Reception, we hope you all enjoy a well-earned break!

Year 1: Year 1 have had a very busy final half-term!

In English they have had fun learning and reciting nursery rhymes and they have been working hard on using adjectives to make their writing more exciting. They have also been working extremely hard on their phonics and should be very proud of the progress they have made with their phonics work this year .

The children have also amazed us with how well they have done with the very tricky maths work they have been doing in recent weeks. Not only are they doing well with their number bonds (to 20, as well as to 10), they have been working hard on reading, writing and ordering numbers to 100. They have also been learning about time, money and fractions (halves and quarters).

Topic-wise they have covered enjoyed learning all about the world we live in. They have loved learning the continents and oceans songs and are now experts in naming the seven continents and the five oceans. They have focused in particular on a hot continent (Africa) and a cold continent (Antarctica) and have enjoyed finding out more about some of the other continents too.



As part of their topic work, the children have been working hard on their sketching skills and have also used other media such as chalk pastels, collage and brusho dyes. Some of the artwork they have produced has been truly beautiful!

In science the children have finished their topic on plants by sorting and classifying leaves into deciduous and evergreen and then sorting them again to match the tree they came from. This was done outside in the summer sunshine. Talking of summer, we also looked at the features of this season and how to stay safe in the sun.

In RE we have looked at what it means to be part of a community. We looked at belonging to a family, school, church and discussed why naming ceremonies are so important in many different religions, in particular Islam and Christianity.

Finally, we have looked at books that are special to us and then expanded this into looking at other special books that are very important to Muslim and Christian people.

As well as all of this they have had a great time taking part in their very first sports day as well as our Friends of Buckstones Treat Day last week; what a fun end to the year!

Year 2: It has been a very challenging few weeks for Year 2 but the children have all been amazing and shown so much resilience and perseverance in the ever -changing circumstances.

In our English lessons the children have been learning how to write a non-fiction report. They looked at a variety of non-fiction books to compare and contrast contents pages, glossaries and indexes. Their attention was then focused on a Big Book entitled 'Snail' from which the children gained inspiration to write their own snail reports. They were helped along the way by a visit from some real life specimens from Evie's garden!!!



The children also continued their History topic about Queen Elizabeth II and wrote letters to Her Majesty, telling her a little bit about themselves, about what they had learned about her life and reign and asking her some questions. I was very proud of the respectful and mature manner in which they carried out this task. Fingers crossed we get a reply!!

Our History topic ended in style with a Celebration for the Queen's Official June Birthday! The children played party games outside in the sunshine and then had afternoon tea in the hall, which consisted of scones, jam and cream, juice, crisps, melon and strawberries. The most amazing thing was that the children had made the scones themselves. They were absolutely delicious!! Well done Year 2.



In R.E the children have been talking about sacred places, in particular the mosque. They learned about the internal and external features of a mosque and produced some beautiful drawings of mosques around the world. During isolation many of the children wrote thoughtful and detailed acrostic poems based on the word MOSQUE.



In maths we focused on addition and subtraction. After previous learning using Base 10 cubes, numicon and number squares, the children got to grips with column addition and subtraction. They relished the speed in which they could add and subtract 2 two digit numbers!!!

Please continue to work on the instant recall of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables over the summer holidays, ready for Year 3.

Well done to all of the children who attended our Zoom Reading sessions last week. I was so impressed by the positive attitude and behaviour of the children as we listened to and discussed the story of James and the Giant Peach. The children listened so carefully and asked and answered questions brilliantly.

I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the children's work on Tapestry. Thank you so much for your support, patience and hard work during this really challenging time. I know that the children of Year 2 will continue to sparkle as they continue their learning journey in Year 3.

Year 3: Year 3's English work this term has been based on the children's reading and research about Pirates! The children worked enthusiastically to produce some excellent pirate descriptions and exciting pirate adventure stories. They have enjoyed listening to, and acting out, the story of Treasure Island, and produced some interesting island designs of their own. Finally, we had a Pirate Party Day, where the children came to school in some amazing pirate outfits and took part in a range of pirate activities, including a very successful treasure hunt. In the afternoon, they enjoyed watching the film version of Treasure Island.



Our Maths work this term has focused on standard methods of multiplication and division, measures including grams and kilograms, millilitres and litres, statistics, fractions of numbers and position, direction and movement. I have been very impressed with the hard work many children have put in to learn their times tables so thoroughly this term. Well done!

In our Science topic on Light the children have worked thoughtfully and carefully to carry out a series of investigations looking at how we see, how shadows are formed, how shadows change during the course of a day, and which materials are transparent, translucent or opaque. Thankfully, we have had enough sunshine this term for us to complete all the planned activities!

The children have worked extremely hard in the Geography topic on Mountains this term. They have learnt how to use an atlas to locate mountain ranges of the world, understood how mountains are formed and what the key features of mountain ranges are. Finally, they considered why people visit mountains and the positive and negative impacts tourism can have on mountainous regions.

In PE, Year 3 have been working hard to develop their skills in Cricket and Orienteering. On 17th June, Year 3 enjoyed a wonderful series of activities from Relaxed Kids, including lots of active sessions as well as yoga and relaxation techniques. The final Swimming session for Year 3 was a much deserved play afternoon, after all their hard work throughout the year. They have made excellent progress completing a series of tests, including Water Safety and Personal Survival Well done, Year 3!

On 25th June, we sadly had to say goodbye to Miss Butterworth as she finished her final teaching practice at Buckstones. She made an excellent contribution to the progress Year 3 children made this year, and we wish her all the best as she starts her new teaching position in September.

Year 4: What a half term we have had! We have been extremely busy again in Year 4, learning new things and trying new activities. In Year 4, we have been busy both inside and outside of the classroom. As well as our learning, we have enjoyed sports day, the summer fair, relaxed kids and mystery games in maths and English.

This half term, Year 4 have worked very hard learning about decimals. We spent time comparing, ordering and dividing decimals by 10 and 100 and played some interesting games as well. We also completed the multiplication check this month. The class worked very hard learning and practising their times tables this year using the songs and going onto TT Rockstars, and everyone should be very proud of their results.

For our writing focus, we have been looking at persuasive writing where we watched the trailer for 'Hotel Transylvania' and an episode of 'Our Planet'. We began by writing a recount of the trailer for 'Hotel Transylvania', and then we wrote our own persuasive leaflets to encourage monster to stay at the hotel. Then, we watched the Arctic/Antarctica episode of 'Our Planet' and wrote a non-chronological report, explain why it is important, and persuading people to protect this beautiful place.

During the past 6 weeks, we have been learning about sound in Year 4. We began by looking at different types of pitch and how sound is made. The children then worked together in pairs to plan and built their own musical instruments. The class made some fantastic instruments, and they were able to demonstrate how their instruments worked, as well as reflecting on their creation.



For our final geography topic, we have been learning about the wider world and recapping our map and atlas skills. As a class, we found it very interesting learning about different countries and how to find the equator, the Northern Hemisphere, the Southern Hemisphere and the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Linked to our English, we also did some research on the polar regions and learnt about the habitats and diets of the interesting animals that live there.

This half term, we have had great fun revisiting the different sports we have learnt about this year. For the last 6 weeks, we have been playing a lot of team games, especially dodgeball, netball, rounders and kickball. There some natural born athletes in our class, and everyone has worked very hard on their throwing, catching and coordination. We also had a fantastic sports day with the help of Mr Thompson. The children took part in races, dribbling, throwing and team events, and they all had a wonderful time. It was lovely to see the team spirit that Year 4 has, and how they cheer on their classmates and encourage one another.

This year, Year 4 have been a pleasure to teach. They are hardworking, resilient and enthusiastic about all of their learning, and they never back down from a challenge. Over the course of the year, I have seen everyone develop both academically and personally, and each and every person has done incredibly. The children of Year 4 are wonderful, and I will miss them all dearly next year.

Good luck in Year 5, and remember to keep smiling!

Year 5: Unfortunately, Year 5 have been at home for a large part of this half term. Nonetheless they have achieved some wonderful pieces of work.

Year 5 have been learning about the coasts as part of their geography this half term. They have been watching clips about coastal erosion and the formation of coastal features. They were very good at recognizing the human features of the coast (man-made) and physical features of the coast (natural). They have made wonderful posters to encourage people to visit coastal resorts in the U.K. They are hoping that they might be able to visit some of the U.K. coastal resorts in the future.

In science, Year 5 have been learning about animals, humans, habitats and adaptations. This also linked in to their geography work on biomes. They used their persuasive writing techniques to persuade people to visit the desert biome. They enjoyed finding out about how giraffes and acacia trees have adapted to survive in the Savannah. It was fascinating!



Year 5 have been learning how to play cricket and tennis this half term in PE. They were becoming quite good at bowling and striking the ball with increasing accuracy and power, particularly at cricket.

In the last week, Year 5 have really enjoyed participating in their Year 5 Sports Day, Rainbow Treat Day, Relax Kids afternoon and other lovely activities. It has been lovely spending time together for the end of the year after another challenging year for all. Well done Year 5.

Year 6: Coming back after the half term, Year 6 children have studied the circulatory system and the effect of exercise on the heart rate and other changes in the body.

Thanks to the Relax Kids programme, the children were also taught relaxation techniques and exercises.

We started the ancient Greeks and covered the gods and goddesses as well as the Olympics. Other elements such as language, the importance of the theatre, the contrast between the city states of Athens and Sparta and Greek myths were covered at home.



Year 6 children have practised their play 'WOW! WHAT A YEAR!'. We have had long singing and acting rehearsals and are very near the finishing line. We are recording the production as we speak.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE: To enable everyone to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, the late May Bank Holiday (originally 30th May 2022) has been moved to Thursday 2nd. June 2022, with an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd. June.

The DfE have reduced the minimum number of sessions schools are required to meet in the academic year 2021/22 to allow for the additional bank holiday. As the additional bank holiday falls in the half term dates already set by the LA, the finish date at the end of the Autumn term has

been amended so Buckstones school will now be closed on Friday 17th December 2021 for start the Christmas Holiday. The last day of the Autumn term will be Thursday 16th. December 2021.

BAND: Next year Mr. Byers will be coming into school on Thursdays to teach the brass lessons and hopefully he will be able to start band practice before school on Thursday mornings too. Hopefully band will be able to start Thursday 9th. September.

REPORTS: All children should now have received their reports. If any family requires an additional copy of their child's reports for his/her parent so that both parents have a copy please contact the office.

CLASS PHOTOS: Unfortunately the class photos are not going to be back in school before we break up for the summer holidays. Our normal company let us down on the day of the photographs which has delayed the process. They will be back in school over the summer holidays and we will hand them out in September and deliver the Year 6 ones by hand.

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES: The Summer fair held in school was a great success and made over £1300, which was an amazing amount.

The Friends of Buckstones arranged a Rainbow Themed Day which was amazing! Everyone loved the magician, enjoyed dancing with Mrs. K and have all painted a pebble which will be displayed in the school grounds.

The money raised this year was used to buy new reading books and will pay for the tickets for the Panto at Christmas.

I would like to say a **BIG** thank you to the small but very hard working group of parents who organise all the events for the Friends of Buckstones, without their hard work we would not achieve as much as we do.

We would also like to thank everyone has contributed to our events by sending in donations. We appreciate any involvement you may have had to contribute to our profit this year!

LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY:

Parents from each Year 6 family have been invited to come and watch the Leavers' Assembly on Friday 16th. July at 10 via. It will be a chance to celebrate the achievements of the children and time to say goodbye to Year 6.

The Year 6 pupils need to come to school in their uniform but they can bring a change of clothing for the afternoon 'party'.

CLASSES FOR NEXT YEAR:

Reception	Mrs. Pearson
Year 1	Miss Platt (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Mrs. Tetlow (Thursday and Friday)
Year 2	Mrs. Joyce
Year 3	Mrs. Charnley
Year 4	Mrs. McQuoney
Year 5	Miss Rooney
Year 6	Mrs. Adamson

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Please can I remind all parents and pupils that the following is Buckstones school uniform and the children must come to school in the correct uniform. We can now offer an alternative embroidered school uniform supplier, My Clothing.

School Trends is still active to purchase uniform from.

The website to order uniform is: [<https://myclothing.com/>] www.myclothing.com

Simply go to the website address, then select 'Find My School' and follow the order instructions.

NB: Book bags are only available from school and are priced at £5 each.

Can I remind you that the children in the Infants should only have Buckstones Book Bags, the bags that have been coming in, are too big and bulky and we are unable to store them.

Similarly in the Juniors the children only need a small bag/rucksack for their Games kits, homework and reading books. We are very short of space in our classrooms and the large bags create a hazard.

Uniform:

- Grey trousers / skirt / pinafore / shorts
- Yellow / white polo shirt / shirt
- School sweatshirt / cardigan, blue jumper / cardigan
- Black **school** shoes - NO TRAINER SHOES

For P.E. Yr. R to Yr. 6 children - blue/black shorts and white/yellow plain T-shirt and black pumps

For Games: Tracksuit and trainers. **(No football strips)**

For Health and Safety reasons the only jewellery allowed in school is a wristwatch. **Earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings are not permitted.** No jewellery is to be worn for swimming and P.E. No earrings are allowed in school. Please ensure that if your child has their ears pierced they do so at the beginning of the 6 week holidays.

All shoulder length hair must be tied up.

School will be closing on Friday 16th. July until Wednesday 1st. September.

Thank you for your continued support during this really difficult year and I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday.

S.E.Healey