

Wednesday 6th. April 2022

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. The teachers would like to share what their classes have been learning about this half term.

Reception: The children in Reception have had a wonderful half term focussing on all things 'Under the Sea'. They have really enjoyed learning about different sea creatures, as well as animals they might find in water near their homes. They especially loved the experience of collecting the frogspawn from our school pond and then watching it grow and change each week. They were very



happy to discover that this project will continue into next term!

The 'Under the Sea' topic has given the children many different opportunities for scientific enquiry. They have taken part in some really interesting floating and sinking experiments over the last few weeks and particularly enjoyed our whole-school science day, where they had lots of 'hands-on' science activities to take part in.

In phonics lessons the children have been making great progress with learning each of the level 3 phonemes and are using these well now to blend when reading. They are also becoming much more confident with their writing and have been trying to 'give it a go' themselves during their writing sessions.

The children have been focussing on addition and subtraction skills in their maths sessions and are doing so well with this! They are also trying to make sure that their numbers are formed correctly and that they are written the right way round, all of the time!

The class have particularly loved their forest fun and P.E. lessons this half term. It has been great to see their confidence grow and develop in these sessions, as well as their friendships too... What a busy half term Reception, you should all be very proud of yourselves!

Year 1: Year 1 have packed an awful lot into this half-term! The children really enjoyed their 'Great Fire of London' history topic. They were keen to find out what happened back in 1666 and did a wonderful job writing letters to King Charles II, as well as their own eyewitness accounts as though they were the children of Samuel Pepys. They learned plenty of facts about the fire and their Great Fire of London artwork was also amazing!

The children have also enjoyed our recent work on Information Texts in English, and have learned all about Neil Armstrong and the Apollo 11 mission, as well as finding out more about London. They proved themselves to be super detectives and did some lovely research for both topics.

In English, they have also been learning about instructions. They followed the instructions beautifully to make themselves a pirate hat (Fudge even got one!) and then wrote a set of 'How to ...' instructions the following day. It was great that some children had remembered how to do it and even made their own pirate hats at home!



In maths they have been exploring measurement. This has been taught practically this half term and the children have been learning to measure length and height with a ruler accurately. They have also been working hard solving practical time problems, as well as learning to tell the time to half past the hour. Please could we ask that your child practises reading the time at home?

After Easter, there will be a big 'push' on learning key number facts for their Beat That! mental maths tests. The children continue to do well with their doubling and counting (in 2s, 5s and 10s) skills and we are pleased with their progress learning their number bonds to 10 - some are even now working on their number bonds to 20!

In science the children have been learning all about seasonal changes and in particular have been looking at how this affects both humans and animals. When the weather was lovely all the children went on a wonderful spring walk to explore the changing environment. For science day the children

compared seasons, looking at which months were in which season and creating some beautiful blossom trees to signify the beginning of the spring season. Great fun was had by all!

In geography the children have been learning about The United Kingdom (flags and capital cities of the four home nations), as well as looking at London in more detail. After Easter, they will turn their hands to weather forecasting and will be finding out more about weather around the UK. They will also be completing their DT topic 'A Moving London Postcard' after the break.

Their computing work this half term has been mainly the programming of the Bee Bots. We have also looked at search engines this half term and saved pictures we have searched for in files to use later to make a pic collage. They have also produced some fabulous topic-related work on the computers and iPads this half-term.

The R.E. focus for this half term has been on what it is like to belong to a faith community and we have all brought in our favourite teddies to explain to everyone why it is their favourite and why it belongs to them. This topic will be continued next half term.

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. Well done also to all the children who have completed some - or even all - of their Spring Reading Challenges ... it has been so lovely to see their photos and video clips on Tapestry.

Finally, well done to the children who attended Art Club this half term - we had a lovely time! Art Club has now finished, but French Club will start next term - look out for a letter coming home after the holidays. Many thanks for your support this term - the children have now earned a well-deserved rest after a very busy half-term.

Year 2: In English lessons, Year 2 have been studying the long-awaited topic of dinosaurs! They have learned to pronounce some very difficult dinosaur names and use their knowledge of alphabetical order to create dinosaur indexes. The children then researched a particular dinosaur skill and created a report all about this dinosaur, including a physical description, references to what it ate, where the fossils were found and other fascinating facts!! They are looking forward to writing dinosaur poems using the four sentence types; questions, statements, commands and exclamation sentences.



Our Dinosaur Day was a huge success and the children impressed us greatly with their enthusiasm and with their quality of questions. Mr Plater, the curator of the Hull Dinosaur Museum brought some

amazing things with him, including the skull of an Allosaurus, a variety of teeth, claws and bones and some amazing fossils of ammonites and starfish.

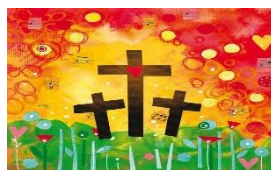
In Maths, the children have been learning about 3D shape and had great fun making models of shapes using straws, geoshapes and polydron. The children showed great patience and resilience as these activities were very tricky. They have learned about position and direction and enjoyed guiding the Probot (a programmable toy car) around a floor mat, using various commands including forwards, backwards, left and right turns.

In the first week back after the February half term, we had our Katie Morag Day. The children looked great in their costumes. We had a fantastic and very busy morning making our Katie Morag winding mechanisms as well as some porridge. In the afternoon we learned a Scottish reel and had the pleasure of a visit from Mr Horrocks who played for us on his accordion.

Our topic on St. Lucia has been really enjoyable. We have all loved learning about this beautiful island in the sun! Along the way we have compared St. Lucia to the Isle of Coll and discussed many geographical similarities and differences. This has included daily checks on the weather, in which we have seen the temperatures in St. Lucia rise to 32° and the temperatures in Coll fall to 7°!!!



In R.E the children have learned about some of the events in the lead up to Easter, including Palm Sunday, The Last Supper and Good Friday. It has been wonderful to listen to the children's sensible and thoughtful contributions to each lesson.



Science Day was a huge success! We watched a fabulous show in the morning all about 'Forces.' We then made our own bubble mixture using Fairy Liquid, water and sugar. In the afternoon we looked at how the colours of felt pens separate using filter paper and water. Finally we tested to see which was the most absorbent kitchen roll.....it was Aldi's Ultra Super Soaker!

A huge congratulations to all of the children who have been awarded with a book prize for their many reads at home. Remember every five reads means a sticker on the bookmark.

Year 3: Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day on 4th March. Their costumes were amazing and they took part enthusiastically in all the book-related activities on the day.

In English, the children have been listening to, analysing and writing myths. I have been very impressed with their use of rich, descriptive vocabulary in these stories, particularly in relation to their chosen mythical creatures. They have also been learning how to write historical reports based on the History topic of Ancient Egypt. They researched one particular aspect of life in Ancient Egypt before planning and writing their own historical reports on papyrus. They completed the reports by decorating them with hieroglyphs. The children have taken a great deal of care with this work to produce eye-catching and informative reports. Well done!



The children have worked very enthusiastically throughout all the History lessons about Ancient Egypt. They have investigated the importance of the River Nile and how archaeologists use artefacts to build a picture of life at that time. They have learnt about Tutankhamun, Egyptian hieroglyphs, mummification and the afterlife and some important Egyptian gods and goddesses. The trip to Bolton Museum significantly developed the children's understanding of Ancient Egyptian life and beliefs. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout the visit. Well done, Year 3! They are now thoroughly enjoying designing and making their own Egyptian mummies in Art lessons.

In Maths, the children have worked hard developing their ability to use standard methods of multiplication and division, including division with remainders, and answer a range of associated reasoning and word problems. They have been using practical equipment to develop their understanding of mass, using balance scales and weights to estimate, compare and measure mass.

In PE, the children have been extremely lucky to have Cricket lessons from Ian Shaw from Lancashire Cricket Club. The children have loved these sessions and have clearly developed a wide range of skills in a very short time. They have also enjoyed learning new Gymnastics skills in lessons from Mrs. Crossley and Miss Ewbank on Tuesday afternoons.

Science Day on 25th March was a great success. Year 3 spent the morning investigating the different parts of a flower by dissecting tulips. After that, they learnt how the different flower parts are

involved in the process of pollination and fertilisation. The children thoroughly enjoyed the Science show in the afternoon and were still talking about it on the Monday morning!

Year 4: Year 4 have had a very busy half term! In maths, they finished their work on multiplication and division, then moved onto finding the area of rectilinear shapes before starting to learn about fractions.

In English, they have been working on play scripts and explanation texts. They have also done a wonderful report based on their History topic.

The children have been learning all about how transport changed in Manchester during the Industrial Revolution. They have also been looking at how these transport changes helped to change Oldham

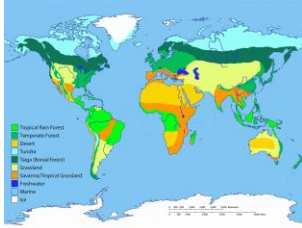


from a tiny village into the town it is today.

Year 4 have also been designing and making their own pizzas! By the time you read this, you will have seen the finished product. To get to this point, the children sampled existing pizzas from the supermarket and a variety of cheeses before deciding on their final design.

The children in Year 4 have also been learning about Sound. On Science day, they conducted a number of experiments into how sound is made and how to change its volume and pitch. They have also been learning about how you hear sounds and investigating how sound travels differently through a solid than it does through a gas.

Year 5: Year 5 have been learning all about Biomes in their Geography work this half term. They have been finding out how plants and animals are adapted to survive in their biome. Some wonderful, imaginative classwork and homework has been created for this topic.



In Science, Year 5 have been learning about forces. They investigated the amount of friction caused by different materials by launching rocket balloons along different tracks. They found that string created very little friction because the balloon travelled along the string track easily and it the quickest time. Bumpier surfaces, like wool, velvet ribbon and sequin thread created lots of friction and the balloon struggled to travel along those tracks. The children had a wonderful time on Science Day- they especially enjoyed the Science Show at the end of the day.

In PE, Year 5 have been perfecting their gymnastics skills with Mr Rawlinson from Sports Development. They have been practising balances, rolls and sequences. They have been playing cricket with Mr Shaw from Lancashire Cricket Club for outdoor PE. In the sessions, the children have been learning how to bowl, field and strike with accuracy. Their throwing and catching skills have really improved and they are all becoming fantastic batters.

In computing, Year 5 have been busy coding. They have manipulated the speed, direction and location using the coding program on Espresso. They have also learned how computers can generate random numbers and how these can be used in simulations.

To end the half term, Year 5 have been completing outdoor and adventurous activities at 'The Anderton Centre'. The trip consisted of low ropes, tree climbing, map reading/orienteering, canoeing and rafting. They have been using their problem-solving skills and have been working cooperatively as a team. They have been very grown up and independent. Well done!

Year 6: In P.E. and Games, children have been developing their gymnastics skills and learning the rules, skills and tactics needed for handball.

On Science Day children looked at the conditions needed for microorganisms to grow. They carried out an experiment with yeast to find the best conditions for growth. They looked at how some microorganisms are harmful and those which are helpful.

Year 6 children have researched the importance of the Thames to the development of London from a Roman settlement to its usage today. The children have also used a variety of maps to locate London, know the names of some of the key boroughs and how to use an Underground map to travel in and around London including changing lines.

As part of the London topic, we invited our local MP Debbie Abrahams in to speak to the children about her role as a Member of Parliament and what had inspired her to take on this role. The children were then able to ask questions related to many of the issues of today which included energy prices, the effects of pollution , global warming and the situation in Ukraine.

Year 6 had a wonderful trip to London. The tour took us around Buckingham Palace, Westminster, Harrods and along the banks of the Thames. As well as seeing many of the iconic landmarks, such as the Shard, the "Gherkin" and the "Cheese Grater", we were able to tour the grounds of the Tower of London, see the Crown Jewels and visit the exhibits in the White Tower and the Bloody Tower. Even the long journey did not seem to exhaust them!!!!!!!



GOVERNORS

Sadly the Governors are saying goodbye to Rev. Adrian Burdon as he has decided to retire from being a Governor. Rev Burdon has been a Community Governor at Buckstones since 2018. This does leave a vacancy for a Community Governor if you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a Governor please ask them to contact the school office.

Governor meeting	Agenda
Full Governors - 02.02.22	During the meeting the Governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a report outlining what we have been doing in school • Reviewed the School Development Plan • Reviewed our safeguarding procedures and training • Reported on the fire drill • Reviewed the Pupil premium strategy statement 2020-2023
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 25.01.22	During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards and reviewed the Sports Premium strategy. The committee also reviewed and agreed to update the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing Policy Maths. Policy Display Policy
Pay/Finance - 15.01.22	<p>During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the bursars report and noted any differences within the cost centres. <p>The committee reviewed and agreed to update the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Skills Matrix Finance Policy Charging Policy Whistleblowing Policy Financial Risk Assessment Best Value Statement <p>The committee also reviewed their SFVS and their Benchmarking Report Card.</p>
Premises/Health and Safety/Wellbeing/Health and Safety/Safeguarding - 08.03.22	<p>During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fire Risk Assessment The Interim Health and Safety Audit report Carried out a Health and Safety walk around the school and the grounds.

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING COVID-19 IN SCHOOL

The Government's "Living with COVID-19" approach to testing came into effect on 1st April 2022. This marks the end of the broad availability of testing for the general public. Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education setting.

The updated advice to follow:

- Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.

- Children and young people who are **unwell and have a high temperature** should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.
- If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We all had a wonderful World Book day on Friday 4th. March. Everyone had made so much effort with their costumes and it was a lovely way to celebrate World Book Day.

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES

The next Friends of Buckstones meeting is Thursday 7th. April at 6.30pm at the Park Inn everyone is welcome to attend.

The children are enjoying reading their new reading books which the money the Friends of Buckstones has raised has been used to buy.

EASTER EGG COMPETITION

The School Council Easter Egg competition has been a great success. The Easter Egg Competition which has raised £87 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 were kindly donated by Mr. and Mrs. Marsden. Thank you to everyone who entered.

The winners were:





SCHOOL UNIFORM

All pupils should be wearing black school shoes and not trainers in school.

The last day of school will be a non-uniform day and our theme is to wear blue and yellow. Please send in a voluntary contribution of £1 in an envelope.

School reopens on Monday 25th. April



Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey