

Thursday 14th. July 2022

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 they particularly enjoyed watching and looking after the chicks. What an amazing experience! 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 making sure that all of their letters are formed correctly.

In maths, the children have been focussing on learning the number bonds (pairs of numbers) that go together to make other numbers (for example  $3+2$ ,  $4+1$  and  $5+0$  are all number bonds of 5). They have also enjoyed learning how to tell the time and ordering objects by length.

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 independence and confidence skills. 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 with your families over the Summer!

**Year 1:** Year 1 have had such a very busy final half-term! In English the children have done some lovely descriptive writing, the highlight being their fruity riddles, where they wrote descriptions of

different fruits and their friends then had to guess the fruits based upon the clues. They have also been learning facts about penguins in Antarctica as part of their work on Information Texts and are proving themselves to be dab hands at 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.

## Phonics

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, as well continuing to develop their problem-solving and reasoning skills.



Topic-wise they have 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 been making comparisons between the two. They were amazed to learn that not all deserts are hot - in fact, some are cold and icy!



As part of their art work, the children have been working hard on their sketching skills and they have created some lovely sketches of animals from around the world, ranging from zebras in Africa to Emperor penguins in Antarctica. They also created some amazing silhouette pictures of animals in Africa at sunset. Some of the artwork they have produced has been truly beautiful!



In RE they have been learning about sacred books and texts, and what it means to belong to a faith community. These topics have led to some thoughtful discussions and the children have created some lovely work related to these topics. In computing, they have produced some super pieces linked to our science and geography topics. Their computing skills have really come a long way this year and it is lovely to see so many of them now working independently in the computer suite.



To finish, the children had an amazingly busy week last week - not only enjoying the summer fair and the infant disco, but also taking part in their very first sports day and a pretend 'trip' to Africa on Wednesday! They are now looking forward to our Friends of Buckstones Treat Day on Friday; what a fun end to the year! Wishing everyone a well-earned rest over the summer.

**Year 2:** 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.



The children have 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!!



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. Our visit to Oldham Central Mosque was fantastic. The children were full of awe and wonder as we were shown around by Mr Mufti Helal. As always, the children behaved beautifully and Mr Helal praised them for their behaviour and their mature questions.



The children really enjoyed our visit from Hannah and 'The Animal Club.' They were able to have a close look and touch animals ranging from a Hognose snake and a Giant African Land Snail, to a Chinchilla and a Leopard Gecko!! Hannah was extremely knowledgeable about these creatures and the children learned so many new facts.



In Maths we have had a big push on learning the 2- and 5-times tables. The children practise every day; 30 questions in a minute and are really motivated to beat their score from the previous day. The results have been amazing with some children dramatically improving their scores!! Please

continue to work on the instant recall of the 2, 5- and 10-times tables and the related division facts, over the summer, ready for Year 3.

Thank you so much for all of your support this year. I know that the children of Year 2 will continue to sparkle as they continue their learning journey in Year 3.

**Year 3:** On 1st July, Year 3 sadly had to say goodbye to Mrs. Littlewood, as she finished her final teaching practice at Buckstones. She has made a wonderful contribution to the progress Year 3 children made this year, and the children and I have loved having her with us. Much of this term's work has been taught by Mrs. Littlewood. We are delighted that she will be the new Year 2 teacher at Buckstones and wish her all the best as she starts her new teaching position in September.

Year 3's English work this term has been based on Pirates! On the 15 th June, an 'honest fisherman' came to Buckstones to teach the children all about life on board ship as an ordinary sailor and compared it to life as a pirate. By the end of the morning, the children wholeheartedly agreed that life as a pirate was much better!!! Following this visit, the children worked enthusiastically to produce excellent pirate descriptions and, after designing their own islands, used these as the setting for their exciting pirate adventure stories. They have enjoyed listening to, and acting out, the story of Treasure Island. On 1 st July 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.



On 28 th June, as part of the Geography topic on Rivers, Year 3 went on a field trip to Crompton Moor to follow the course of Old Brook to its source. I was impressed with the children's ability to recognise and name features of a river and with their stamina in reaching the top of the moor. Well done to everyone! In the new Geography topic on Mountains, the children 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.

Our Maths work this term has focused on position, direction and movement, fractions of numbers, capacity and time. The children have worked exceptionally hard on these topics and have tackled some tricky reasoning and problem-solving tasks with enthusiasm and determination.

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 and how shadows change during the course of a day. Thankfully, we have had just enough sunshine this term for us to complete all the planned activities!

The children have produced some wonderful Art in response to the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. They have made detailed studies of a wide range of flowers and how they were drawn and painted by Georgia O'Keeffe, gathering ideas for their own large-scale drawing in a similar style. They then used a range of vibrant colours to create some excellent paintings. Well done, Year 3!

**Year 4:** Year 4 have had an incredibly busy half term! In the first full week back, they all completed the Multiplication Tables Check. The children have worked so hard on their times tables this year and this effort paid off because everybody did really well! Year 4's Maths focus this half term has been on Geometry which is a really fun part of maths and they have loved it! They have learnt some very advanced vocabulary to describe different types of angles, triangles and quadrilaterals. They have also learnt about lines of symmetry as well as building on their co-ordinates knowledge from Year 3.

In English, Year 4 have learnt about different types of poetry including kennings, haiku, cinquains and limericks. They particularly enjoyed coming up with their own limericks and have shown themselves to have quite a talent for it! They have also been looking at stories with dilemmas and have written their own story which involves a character having to make a difficult decision.

Year 4's Science this half term has been all about Electricity. They have learnt about how a circuit works as well as how to make different switches to turn a bulb on and off. They have also been learning about Living Things and their Habitats and have been classifying different vertebrates as well as conducting a survey of the different types of invertebrates that live around our school grounds.



In PE, the children have been developing their athletics skills in preparation for sports day. They practised throwing the Javelin as well as running from different start positions. They also had a go at creating their own games using a range of PE equipment and some of their ideas were very imaginative indeed!

**Year 5:** 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 enjoyed their trip to Formby and Southport Eco Centre where they learnt about changes to the coast and coastal management strategies. They enjoyed the interactive cinema room where they destroyed the bad gases that are polluting our planet.

In art, they have created some beautiful 3D models of Durdle Door which look so striking against their backgrounds! They have also created some amazing sketches of Durdle Door, which are so impressive! We have a whole class of talented artists. They have created their own coastal resorts for homework. I am so proud of children for the amount of effort which has gone into this homework.



In science, Year 5 have been learning about animals, humans, living things and their habitats. They were so sensible throughout the topics and enjoyed learning about the development of humans and animals. They have also learned how to create bar and line graphs on the computer as part of their science topics. They plotted the growth of baby boys and girls. Jane Goodall was of a particular interest. They enjoyed talking about the work that is underway to help save endangered animals. They are all keen to play their own part in preventing the negative impacts of climate change and in preventing more animals becoming endangered or extinct.

Year 5 have been learning how to play rounders and athletics in PE. They are becoming much more confident in striking the ball. Their fielding skills are also much improved and we have some excellent bowlers.

In the last week, Year 5 have really enjoyed participating in their Year 5 Sports Day, Treat Day and other lovely activities.

**Year 6:** Year 6 children have had an exciting half-term. On the 17th of June the children went to Castleshaw to learn about different types of maps, keys and how to orientate a map. Using these skills, the children were able to successfully navigate a short course and a longer course around the countryside and reservoir near the centre. Bolstered by this success the children were challenged to navigate a much larger area around Dove Stone Reservoir in Saddleworth using OS maps. In the morning the children had to find symbols in the wooded area and paths and in the afternoon, in and around the remains of the old Ashway Gap house, drive and on the hillside.





We have been learning about the ancient Greeks. We have looked at how they used to live: their belief system; their influence on our language, government, justice system and architecture. We have, also, looked at the differences between the modern and ancient Olympics.

The rehearsals for the end of year production are in full swing. We have had our ups and downs in terms of practices but I am sure it will be alright on the night. I would like to thank parents for helping the children to learn their lines and song words

**FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:** The Summer fair held in school was a great success and made over £2,200, which was an amazing amount. The children have all said how much they enjoyed it being in school so they could go to the fair with their friends.



The end of year disco was also a great success and we raised over £950.

The Friends of Buckstones arranged a Sporting Day which was amazing! Everyone loved the crazy golf, enjoyed the sports activities on the field and have all had an ice-pop.



The money raised will be used to update the pond area, the Junior play equipment 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 who has contributed to our events by sending in donations. We appreciate any involvement you may have had to contribute to our profit this year!

**GOVERNORS:** I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Valerie Joyce will be joining our Governing Body in September.

Governor meeting	Agenda
Full Governors - 15.6.22	During the meeting the Governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received a report outlining what we have been doing in school which included reviewing the recent parental questionnaire</li> <li>• Reviewed the School Development Plan</li> <li>• Reviewed our safeguarding procedures and training</li> <li>• Reported on the fire drill</li> <li>• Shared the School Evaluation Form</li> <li>• Discussed the proposal for a School Street in the vicinity of school.</li> <li>• Set the school year for 2023-2024</li> </ul>
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 3.5.22	During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee also reviewed and agreed to update the following policies:</li> <li>• Reading Policy</li> <li>• Foundation Stage Policy</li> <li>• Speaking and Listening Policy</li> </ul> Governors also reviewed the curriculum planning on the school website.
Pay/Finance - 24.5.22	During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed the new budget</li> <li>• Agreed how to use any balances</li> <li>• Reviewed and agreed the staffing structure</li> </ul>
Premises/Health and Safety/Wellbeing/Health and Safety/Safeguarding - 28.6.22	During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fire Risk Assessment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety Policy</li> <li>• Critical Incident Plan</li> <li>• Lone Working Policy</li> <li>• Dog in School Policy</li> <li>• Stress Policy</li> <li>• Attendance Policy</li> <li>• Discussed and agreed to use Canopy uk to carry out work on replacing the canopy outside the Reception classroom</li> </ul>
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### **ATTENDANCE:**

The policy has been updated in line with the DfE Guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' May 2022 and the new procedures have been put in place for September 2022. The updated policy is available to view on the school website.

Please note from September 2022 all holidays taken in school time will be unauthorised and may incur a fine.

### **LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY:**

Parents from each Year 6 family have been invited to come and watch the Leavers' Assembly on Tuesday 19th. July at 10. 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:**

<b>Reception</b>	<b>Mrs. Pearson</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Miss Platt (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Mrs. Tetlow (Thursday and Friday)</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Mrs. Littlewood</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Mrs. Charnley</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Miss Hughes</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Mrs. Phythian</b>

### 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. You can purchase uniform from:

- 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.

- <https://www.discounteduniforms.co.uk/>  
Discounted Uniforms  
Unit 1a  
Union street  
Royton  
OL2 5JD

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. **The skirts, pinafores and shorts need to be no shorter than just above the knee.**

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. **It is essential the children have black pumps in school.**

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 Tuesday 19th. July until Monday 5th. September.**

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

**S.E.Healey**