

Wednesday 19th. October 2022

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !



Autumn Half Term Newsletter



CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

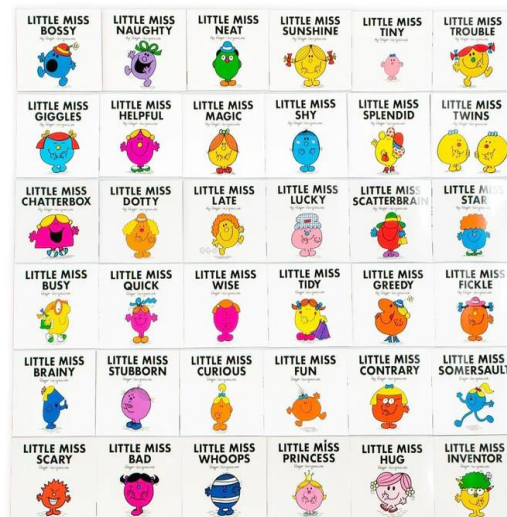
This half term the children all the classes have been involved in a variety of activities.

The teachers have all written about what their classes have been doing this half term.

Reception: Reception have settled in extremely well and have made an excellent start to their school life. They are following the rules and expectations brilliantly and have all enjoyed making new friends.

The topic for the half term was 'All About Me'. Through this topic the children have taken part in a wide range of different activities which have allowed them to think about and describe themselves in different ways, as well as getting to know each other better.

In English, the children have enjoyed reading a range of Mr Men and Little Miss books and have been comparing themselves to the different characters. The children have also been working very hard in their daily phonics lessons and have now learnt twelve different phonemes, which they have been practising hard to write too.



In Maths the children have been reading, writing and ordering numbers to 10. They have loved singing different number songs and also watching the fantastic 'Numberblocks' episodes to help them learn about the different numbers too. They have also been learning about repeating patterns and all enjoyed making their own repeating patterns out of natural resources.

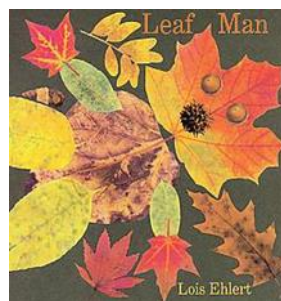


The children have particularly enjoyed their forest fun sessions this half term, where they have experienced all types of weather over the last few weeks! They have loved having the freedom to explore, climb trees and collect lots of natural treasures to bring back to our classroom to investigate and create with too.

What a busy and wonderful first half term in Reception!

Year 1: We are so pleased with how well the children have settle into Year 1! They have had a very busy first half term and they should be very proud of themselves and all that they have achieved.

Much of our English work has been based around key skills, poetry and descriptive writing. The children's writing skills continue to go from strength to strength and they have come a long way this half-term.



As well as our sentence work on capital letters and full stops, the children have been learning all about adjectives. Consequently, they have written some lovely autumn leaves and senses poetry, full of super adjectives. Having listened to the story of Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert, they then made their own leaf

people and wrote some lovely descriptions to match. On top of this, they have loved sharing their hand-made leafy creations from home - we were most impressed!

In phonics they are busy recapping the Level 3 phonemes and key words, and have this week started on Level 4. It is lovely to see the children's hard work paying off in their reading and spelling. We also continue to have a big 'push' on handwriting and correct letter formation - many thanks to everyone supporting us with all of this at home.



In maths, the big 'push' for the children has been making sure their numbers are formed correctly, as well as securing their understanding of the language of place value. They have been working on calculations within 10 and are doing well learning their number bonds to 10. They have especially enjoyed singing songs to help them with their maths learning.

In Science they have been learning about the parts of the body and have enjoyed investigating the senses. They have also been looking at seasonal changes and what happens to our environment during the autumn season. An autumn walk was just the trick for experiencing the leaves changing colours and falling to the ground.

Much of their Computing work has been topic-related and they continue to enjoy their time in the computer suite. They have also been looking at how to keep safe when using the internet through stories such as Smartie Penguin and Digi Duck.

Year One's artwork this half term has focused on painting - they have learned about colour mixing and have looked at the work of two famous artists (Piet Mondrian and Wassily Kandinsky). They have not only impressed us with their colour-mixing skills, they have also gone on to produce some lovely artist-inspired creations, which have turned out really well.



As part of their Geography work on our Local Area, the children have had fun outside exploring our school grounds. They have been on senses walks and have done a wonderful job sketching what they

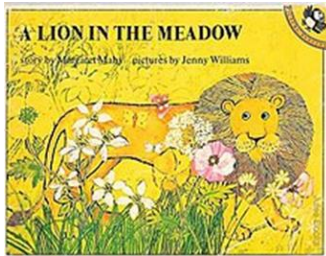
can see from the playground. They all agreed how lucky we are to live so close to Crompton Moor and to have such a wonderful view from our classroom window!

Many thanks to those of you who have supported your child when completing our homework tasks, including hearing your children read and practising spellings at home. We have been blown away by your support - it is very much appreciated and it really does make a difference.

We are all very proud of how hard the children have worked this half term and we are sure they are now looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the half-term break!

Year 2: All the children have settled well into Year 2. They have had a very busy half term and should be so proud of themselves for all that they have achieved.

In English, the children have been working very hard on writing their own animal stories based on the book 'A Lion in the Meadow'. The children have had great fun writing instructions for an elephant dance and then an animal dance of their choice. They included time openers, powerful verbs and expanded noun phrases! Performing their animal dances was enjoyed by us all! Also, a big well done to everyone for trying hard to learn their weekly spellings and for reading at home.



In Maths, the children have been learning about place value and then addition and subtraction to 20. We have been trying really hard to count in 2s, 5s and 10s also. They are becoming more and more confident in explaining their answers too, well done Year 2!

Our Geography topic started with a trail around Shaw. The children followed a set of instructions to guide them from school into the centre of Shaw. Along the way they looked at the different types of houses, buildings and shops. The children were so well behaved and we were super proud of their observations and questions.

Alongside our Geography topic we have also been learning about the history of Shaw and finding out about the cotton mill industry. The children have also been learning about what life would have been like for them in the Victorian times.



This half term, our Science topic has been 'Growth and Health' with Mrs Tetlow. The children have discussed a variety of life cycles, looked at the differences between babies, toddlers and adults as well as looking at what it means to eat a balanced diet.

Well done Year 2 for making a great start to the year. Enjoy your half term break!

Year 3: The children have settled into Year 3 and the Juniors very well this half term. Well done, Year 3. Keep it up!

The main topic this half term has been the Science Topic: Animals including Humans, focusing on Food and Nutrition. The children have enjoyed learning all about the different food groups and how to create a balanced meal. They have been finding out about the functions of the human skeleton and animals that have different types of skeletons. They have also been learning how muscles work and how they allow us to move.

In the DT topic linked to this unit of work, the children investigated, designed, made (and ate!) some eye-catching and healthy sandwiches for special occasions. They worked with a great deal of thought and care and I have been very impressed by their original creations, which can now be seen on the school website and on display in the Junior Craft Bay.



In English, the children have been working very hard writing detailed descriptions of familiar settings, writing recipe instructions for their special sandwiches as part of their DT topic work, and writing some beautiful colour poems, based on the book *A Song of Colours* by Judy Hindley.

Maths work has centred on place value, addition and subtraction, including mental calculation strategies, problem-solving and reasoning. The children have worked very hard and have enjoyed being challenged. Well done to all those children who have been practising their times tables so thoroughly.

The children have made a great start in French lessons, using our new Language Angels scheme. They have learnt lots of everyday greetings and some common conversation questions. They have thoroughly enjoyed the French songs we have learnt so far.

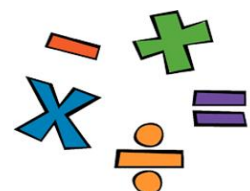


In RE, the children have worked very thoughtfully during the Judaism unit: 'What do Jewish people believe and how do they live?' They have listened to the Story of Abraham, seen what a Jewish home looks like and learnt how and why Shabbat, Hanukkah and Passover are celebrated in Jewish families. They worked with great care to write parts of the Hebrew alphabet during the lessons about the Torah.

Swimming sessions are now well under way, and the children are enjoying their weekly trip to Royton Pool. In Outdoor Games, the children have worked very hard with Miss Knight from Sports Development to develop their hockey skills. Well done Year 3!

Year 4: We have all settled well into Year 4 and we have had a great start to the year! Well done Year 4!

In Maths, we have been studying place value and written methods for addition, subtraction and multiplication. Everyone has been working really hard on their times tables and we have also introduced the 6- and 9-times tables into our repertoire.



In English, we have been writing newspaper articles about Snow White's disappearance into the



woods, based on the story *Never Meddle with Magic Mirrors*. They have also written beautiful descriptive poems about a gentle she-wolf from the story of Romulus and Remus, using figurative devices such as similes, metaphors, personification and hyperbole.

Our Science topic this half term has been *Living Things and Their Habitats*. The children have created a variety of different classification keys and diagrams to group different vertebrates and invertebrates. They also enjoyed taking part in an (indoor) bug hunt, classifying and sketching invertebrates hidden around our classroom.

In *Geography*, we have been learning more about Manchester - its history, human and physical features and its importance in the country and the world. The children have produced some



fantastic home projects, researching a significant person from Manchester's past or present. Popular choices were Emmeline Pankhurst, Alan Turing, Annie Kenney and Marcus Rashford.

Our Art topic has been based L.S Lowry. The children have been drawing their classmates as 'matchstick' men and women to create a scene in the style of Lowry.



Outdoor P.E has been taken by Oldham Sports Development, who have been teaching the children how to play a range of invasion games, with an emphasis on sending and receiving using hands and feet. In indoor P.E, pupils have been practicing their gymnastics skills and learning a series of balances, jumps and rolls which they have linked to create some impressive pieces of choreography.

Year 5: Year 5 have been learning about The Vikings in their topic-work this half-term. They have found out why the Vikings first invaded Britain and have learnt about Viking hierarchy. They have

found out about Viking customs and beliefs and how the Vikings came to settle in Britain. They have imagined what it would have been like to be a Viking and have enjoyed writing using Viking runes. Their reports on Viking Life have been very informative and interesting to read.



In science, Year 5 have been learning about materials and their properties. They have enjoyed completing plenty of experiments and investigations with materials and have learnt a lot of new vocabulary such as: dissolving, permeable, impermeable, mixture and solution.

In RE, they have been learning about values including the values of Humanists. They have been learning about how Humanists like to follow a code of conduct in order to be good people. They have found out about some of the rules/principles Humanists follow and have compared them to Christian

beliefs.

In ICT, Year 5 have made striking E-safety posters. They have learnt about how to stay safe online which included making strong passwords, safe usernames and being aware of the dangers when sharing information online. They worked really hard combining their Microsoft Word skills and knowledge to create informative, attractive E-safety posters for the other pupils in school. They have also been looking at cyberbullying with a focus on how to recognize it and deal with it. Year 5 have created some wonderful tints, tones and shades strips in art. They have been learning how to use a paintbrush accurately and have been mixing watercolours to create new colours. They will be using their knowledge of tints, tones and shades to create calm and violent colour mixes for a painting of a volcanic eruption.

Year 5 seem to be settling in well to the new routines of their new classroom. Well done Year 5!

Year 6: Year 6 children have settled in well this term and have been studying a range of topics.

Our history topic this term is World War II: Battle of Britain. The children completed a timeline, have researched the causes of the Second World War and have seen archive footage of the time.

They have found out about evacuations, who was evacuated and why. PE/Dance has been linked to History as the children have been creating a dance which revolves around the declaration of war, in the bomb shelters and when given the all clear.



In Computing and PSHE, children have been learning about how to keep safe online, for example, making games and creating a slogan.

In Science, Year 6 children have investigated how different circuits work. They have constructed circuits from rectilinear diagrams, drawn rectilinear diagrams and have been able to trouble-shoot potential problems explaining why some circuits may not work.

Our RE topic has focussed on how different belief systems can help people overcome difficulties in their lives and build resilience when faced with such occurrences.

E-SAFETY AND ACCEPTABLE USE OF IT POLICY

Thank you to all parents who have completed the online form. The policy is on our website.

GOVERNORS

I am pleased to welcome Valerie Joyce onto our Governing Body. Val Joyce has been appointed by the Local Authority as a co-opted Governor. As you know Mrs Joyce is very familiar with Buckstones and it is lovely that she has decided to maintain her connection with the school.

The full Governors meet on Wednesday 2nd. November.

The Curriculum/ Standards Committee met on 20th. September.

The items discussed and/or agreed were:

1. School Development Plan
2. Prospectus
3. Art Policy
4. D and T Policy
5. Languages Policy
6. History Policy
7. Geography Policy
8. R.E. Policy

9. Music Policy
10. P.E. Policy
11. Science Policy
12. Computing Policy
13. ICT and Internet Use Policy

PARENTS' EVENINGS:

Parents' Evenings have been arranged for Tuesday and Thursday this week. It has been good to see how many of you have taken the opportunity to come into school to discuss your child's progress.

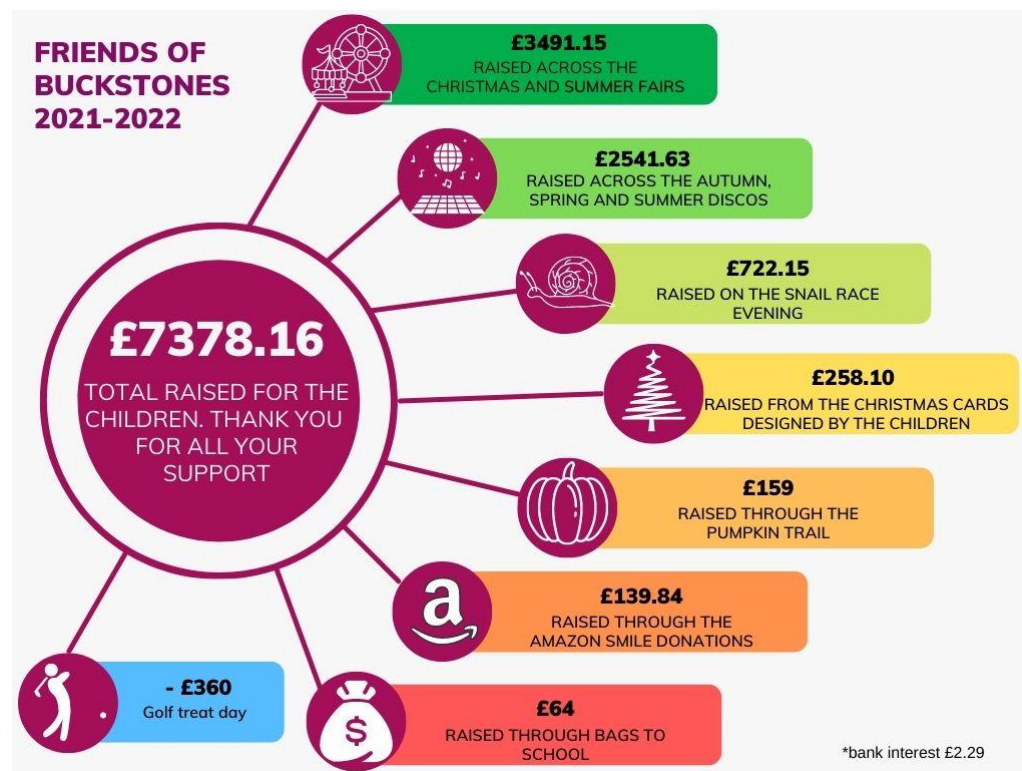
FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:

The AGM took place on Wednesday 28th. September in school. We are pleased to announce the elected members:

- Kim Barry reappointed as Chair.
- Sonya McCabe appointed as Vice Chair.
- Andrea Heslop reappointed as Treasurer.
- Sarah Gledhill appointed as Secretary.

I know you will support and wish them good luck in their roles.

Last year was an amazing year for the Friends of Buckstones.



The money raised will go towards the replacement and repairs of the playground equipment and the pond/nature area.

Also, please can you continue to donate through Amazon Smile:

How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser:

Visit smile.amazon.com

Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com

Select your charity - Friends of Buckstones

Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity.

Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.

How to use AmazonSmile using the Amazon app on your mobile phone:

Open the Amazon Shopping app

Navigate to the main menu (≡)

Tap on Settings and then select "AmazonSmile"

Select your charity, Friends of Buckstones and then follow the on-screen instructions to turn ON AmazonSmile in the mobile app

Once AmazonSmile has been activated in your app, future eligible app purchases will generate a donation for the charity you have selected.

We are also part of the Asda Green Token Giving campaign. Please could you vote for the Friends of Buckstones. <https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4322>

If we win we are hoping to buy new sports kits.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our Trick or Treat Pumpkin Hunt. I look forward to seeing the decorated pictures of the pumpkins in your houses.

Friends of Buckstones have also arranged for Christmas card templates to be sent home so the children can all design their own Christmas card. You will have the opportunity to buy a variety of items with your child's personalised design at great prices. Items include additional Christmas cards to send to friends and family, mugs, bags and tea towels. I hope you will be able to support this lovely fundraising idea.

DISCO

INFANTS 1st November 6.00pm-7.15pm

JUNIORS 3rd November 6.00pm-7.15pm

ENTRANCE £3.00 to be paid via PARENTPAY

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE ON SALE!

The children can come dressed in Halloween costumes or autumn colours or just whatever they want to wear for the disco.

Prices of refreshments:

Sweets 5p, 10p or 20p

Drinks 30p

Candyfloss 60p

Crisps 60p

Hope to see lots of the children at our disco!

DOGS IN SCHOOL

Please can I ask for the safety of the children in school that if you bring your dog to school, it is carried if it comes onto the playground or tied up at the school gate.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

We are once again part of a community programme with other schools in Royton and Shaw. The four Year 6 Councillors are representing the school. We had our first meeting today ago via zoom. The children all introduced themselves and explained how the school helps their community.

The year 6 community project group will meet once every half term to discuss ideas and organise projects to be carried out together to support the community locally.

This may become a social event for the children but principally it is a way of bringing children together across the locality to organise doing something for the wider community.

HALF TERM:

School will be closing on Friday 21st. October for 1 week, re-opening on Monday 31st. October.

It is non-uniform day on Friday 21st. October and the school council have decided to support Manchester Children's Hospital this half term. So please wear bright colours for this important non-uniform day and don't forget to bring in your £1.00 donation.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey