

Wednesday 29th. March 2023

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.

Reception: The children in Reception have shown just how resilient they are by the way they have dealt so well with all the disruption caused by the flood. They have navigated their way through home-learning, and classroom changes, as well as having to eat their lunches in the classroom and no indoor P.E. sessions! They should be incredibly proud of the way they have coped with all of these changes and taken everything in their stride.

Academically, the children 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 had an amazing day at the Sealife Centre, to give real meaning and first-hand experiences to their learning.



In phonics lessons the children have been making great progress with learning all 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.

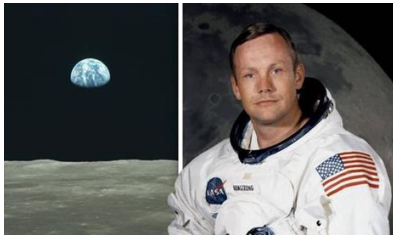
The children have been focussing on addition skills and telling the time (o'clock) in their maths sessions and are doing so well with these skills. They are also trying to make sure that their numbers are formed correctly and that they are always written the right way round.

The class have particularly loved their outdoor P.E. lessons this half term. Their confidence on the large-scale equipment has really grown as well as their friendships and sharing skills too... What a busy half term Reception, you should all be very proud of yourselves! ☐

Year 1: What a half-term it has been! Despite the upheavals, the children have coped remarkably well and have packed an awful lot into the past six weeks.

In English, they have also been learning about instructions. They followed the instructions beautifully to make themselves a pirate hat 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 for their pets (even Fudge got one!).

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



In maths they have been working hard on developing their reasoning skills, as well as working on addition to 100, fractions and 3d shape. They have also been learning to tell the time to o'clock. Please could we ask that your child practises reading the time at home? We will be looking at half past after Easter.

The children continue to do well with their doubling and counting (in 2s, 5s and 10s) skills and we are pleased with their progress when 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 everyday materials and their properties. They looked at why certain materials are used to make certain products, they had fun experimenting with magnets and even carried out their own waterproofing investigation where they had to choose the best material for Teddy's umbrella!

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. They even turned their hands to weather forecasting and have enjoyed 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 has involved them learning about algorithms and programs and they have especially had fun programming with the Bee Bots. They have also produced some fabulous topic-related work on the computers and iPads this half-term.

In R.E. the children have continued to learn about Islam, learning more about fairness and talking about objects that are important to them. The highlight of the topic was when they got to bring their special teddies into school to share with the class.

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 - please look out for a note coming home after the holidays. Many thanks for your support this term - the children have now earned a well-deserved rest over the Easter break after a very hectic half-term ☺.

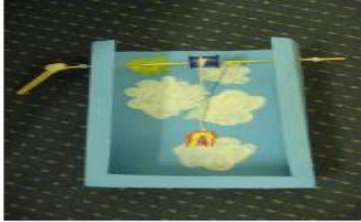
Year 2: We started this term with a visit from Mr. Plater, the curator of the Hull Dinosaur Museum, who brought with him some amazing artefacts, including the skull of an Allosaurus, a Tyrannosaurus Rex's tooth, claws, bones and some wonderful fossils. The day was a huge success and the children loved seeing and holding all of the amazing artefacts.



'Dinosaur Day' really inspired our writing in our English lessons and the children have produced fantastic reports about their chosen dinosaur. The children carried out their own research, wrote and published their own fact files. This week the children are writing their own dinosaur poems using the four sentence types; questions, statements, exclamations and commands. We are very much looking forward to the children performing their poems too, thinking about their tone of voice and actions to include.

In Maths, the children have been learning about 3D shapes and their properties. They have also been working on fractions of shape, objects and quantities and have been trying so hard to learn to tell the time to five-minute intervals. The children have also been introduced to column addition and subtraction and have made a fantastic start. Please continue to practise your times tables at home.

In our Design and Technology topic we have been learning about winding mechanisms. We identified real life examples and then designed our own winding mechanism using a dinosaur theatre that the children also designed. The children have been extremely creative in their designs and we look forward to evaluating the finished product.



Our RE lessons have focused on why Easter is important to Christians? We have been reading extracts from the children's bible about the events leading up to Easter, including Palm Sunday, The Last Supper and Good Friday. The children enjoyed sharing hot cross buns and making thoughtful contributions. They have also planted a seed to signify new life.



Year 3: 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 Egyptian hieroglyphs, mummification and the afterlife, Tutankhamun, Cleopatra 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 excellent throughout the visit. Well done, Year 3! They are now thoroughly enjoying designing and making their own Egyptian mummies in Art lessons.



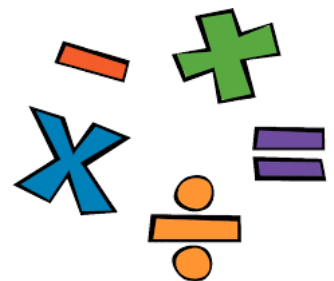
In Maths, the children have been extending their understanding of a range of strategies to add and subtract numbers with up to 3-digits, including a range of mental calculations. They have used this knowledge to add and subtract amounts of money and calculate change. They have also been learning how to tell the time on analogue and digital clocks, including their equivalence, and how to calculate time intervals and solve word problems. Well done to all those children who continue to practise their times tables regularly and develop their speed of recall of associated number facts.

In Science, Year 3 have been learning about the different parts of plants and their functions and they have carried out a series of investigations to find out the conditions required for plant growth. They observed the different parts of a flower by dissecting tulips and learnt how the different flower parts are involved in the process of pollination and fertilisation. Finally, the children explored the reasons for, and different methods of seed dispersal.



Year 4: Well done Year 4 for another brilliant half term!

In Maths, we have been working on written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have also been exploring Roman numerals and decimal numbers, in addition to developing our ability to read and calculate intervals of time. We have continued to practice our rapid recall of times table facts and have introduced the 11 and 12 times tables into our repertoire.





In English, we have created some eye-catching explanation texts all about the Water Cycle and how a dishwasher works! We then moved on to learning about Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories. These beautiful stories explore Aboriginal beliefs about how the world was created and provide some moral lessons to live by. We have met characters like the Rainbow Serpent, the koala with a stumpy tail and Tiddalick the Greedy Frog. We then created our own versions of a Dreamtime Story based on our own greedy character.

We have continued to learn about States of Matter in Science, with a focus on the Water Cycle. We have created detailed explanation texts all about the stages of the Water Cycle and have conducted our own experiment into evaporation.

Our history topic this term has been the Romans. We have explored why the Romans decided to invade Britain in 43AD and how the Britons responded to the invasion. We have been introduced to the powerful tribal leader, Boudicca, and learnt how her armies waged war against the Romans in 60AD.

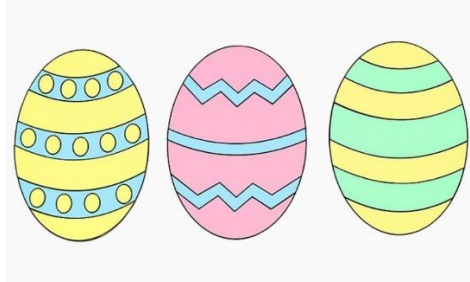


Most excitingly this half term, Year 4 became budding chefs as they researched, designed and created their own pizzas! Using seasonal vegetables, Year 4 made some delicious pizzas that they thoroughly enjoyed taste-testing afterwards.

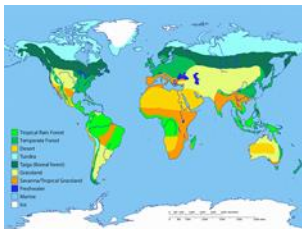


Our Thursday outdoor P.E has been taken by Oldham Sports Development, who have been teaching the children how to play tennis. We have also had outdoor P.E on a Monday, where we have been practicing our athletics skills such as running and throwing.

Have a lovely Easter everyone!



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*, they have been learning about forces. They have been learning about different types of forces and have been investigating friction and air resistance.

In *PE*, Year 5 have been perfecting their netball skills with Mr Rawlinson from Sports Development. They have been practising throwing strategies, footwork and how to play in team games. On Wednesdays, they have been learning different athletics skills and strategies. They have been perfecting their running style for short and long distance running. They have also been learning how to complete the long jump and triple jump successfully.

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.

Year 6: The children in Year 6 have been writing in a range of formats. They have written poetry about animals in captivity, written flashback stories in English, written a report in *Geography* and factfiles in *Science* and *R.E.*

In Maths they have worked on a number of concepts including multiplication and division involving fractions and decimals, calculating missing angles and problems involving money and measures and handling data.

In Science children are looking at how animals are classified into different groups and the importance of Carl Linnaeus in setting up the system of classification. They are also finding out about different types of microorganisms and whether they are helpful or harmful.

In P.E. and Games, the children have been learning skills to develop their knowledge and abilities in Basketball and Lacrosse.

In P.S.H.E. children have been looking at how to keep themselves healthy. They have found out how they need to look after themselves to maintain a healthy mind and body. This has included turning off electronic devices well before bedtime, reading at bedtime and ensuring they go to bed at a reasonable time to get a good night's sleep.

Our London topic has focused on how Greater London is made up of many different boroughs, how to use London Underground maps and the importance of the River Thames and its many different roles over the centuries to the present day.

Year 6 had a wonderful trip to London. The tour took us around Westminster, the West End, Trafalgar Square and along the River 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 and vast amounts of food did not seem to exhaust them!!!!!!!



EXCITING NEWS

I am pleased to be able to share with you that Mrs. Phythian is expecting a baby in the summer. We are all very excited about the new addition to the Buckstones family.

GOVERNORS

The Governors are pleased to welcome Miss Melanie Platt as a new staff Governor onto the Governing Body.

Governor meeting	Agenda
Full Governors - 1.2.23	<p>During the meeting the Governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a report outlining what we have been doing in school which included reviewing the recent pupil questionnaire • Reviewed the School Development Plan • Reviewed a Safeguarding Audit • Discussed a Safeguarding report • Discussed Music teaching in school • Food standards • School website • EYFS provision • Received a report from the Chair • Agreed the SEND Local Offer and SEND Policy • Agreed the Accessibility Plan • Agreed the following policies: Intimate Care • Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 24.1.23	<p>During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics Policy • Writing Policy • Educational Visits Policy • Maths Policy • Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy • Standards • KS2 Reading Questionnaire
Pay/Finance - 28.2.23	<p>During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Report • SFVS • Financial Skills Matrix • Finance Policy • Charging Policy • Whistleblowing Policy • Financial Risk Assessment • Best Value Statement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarking Report Card • Internet Banking and Debit Card Policy
Premises/Health and Safety/Wellbeing/Health and Safety/Safeguarding - 7.3.23	<p>During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Action plan • Kitchen Audit • Condition Data Collection 15.3.2022 • Carried out a Health and Safety Walk

THE FLOOD

Thankfully school is slowly returned back to normal after the flood at half term. I would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time. The children have shown a great deal of resilience coping and adapting to the disruption.

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES

The Friends of Buckstones Easter Egg competition and the Name the Bunny competition has been a great success. The Easter Egg Competition which has raised £101 and Name the Bunny has made £165 for the school. The entries were amazing and we are amazed at the standard of the competition. The winners all received their prizes which have been kindly donated by Mrs. Gledhill. Thank you to everyone who entered.

The money raised this year has [paid to repair the play equipment and buy 10 new ipads, cases and charging trolley. We came second place in the Asda competition and this money has been put towards a new football kit.

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 this money will be put towards a dechoker for school, which is an airway clearing device for choking emergencies on anyone 12 months and up.

School reopens on Monday 17th. April



Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey