

Wednesday 24th. May 2023

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

Summer Half Term Newsletter

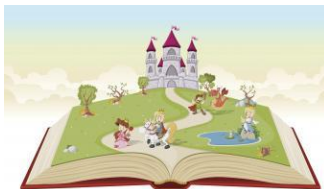
CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

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

Reception: Reception have had a super half term immersed in their 'Once Upon a Time' topic. They have loved the different traditional tales that they have been reading and the links to other areas of learning... especially baking and decorating their own gingerbread people!



In English lessons the children have been using their phonics skills to write independently by listening carefully to the sounds that they can hear in each word. They've also been learning about the importance of using finger spaces between their words and using these skills to retell some of the traditional tales. The children are making excellent progress with learning their key words and this is really helping with their written work too.



In maths, the children have been working very hard on learning how to double, half and share different amounts. They have also been concentrating on their number formation - making sure that all numbers start at the top and that they use their neatest writing all of the time!



In outdoor P.E. lessons the children have been developing their gross motor skills through using the large outdoor equipment, bikes and scooters. It has been excellent to see their confidence in these

sessions really grow, as well as their independence in getting changed before and after the sessions too.

Well done for a super half term Reception, you should all be very proud of yourselves! ☺

Year 1: Year 1 have been so busy that this half-term has flown by! They really enjoyed their recent pretend day trip to London ☺ What a magnificent array of crowns we had! The children completed their **Design-Technology** project (A Moving London Postcard) and made some beautiful postcards of London. Not only did they design their backgrounds on the computer, all of the postcards had moving parts such as a spinning London Eye and boats going up and down the River Thames. We even had lift-the-flaps which revealed The King and Queen hidden behind!

In **English** they have been looking at 'Traditional Tales', and have enjoyed the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. They had fun putting themselves into the characters' shoes and came up with some lovely character descriptions of Granny, Red Riding Hood and The Wolf. They were all very proud of their lovely writing.



Our latest English topic is 'Fantasy Stories'. The children have enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Night Pirates' by Peter Harris. They created their own pirates on the computer using Purple Mash, just like the one below. Their next tasks are to retell the story of *The Night Pirates* and to also come up with some interesting questions to ask a pirate, should they ever get to meet one!



In **maths** they have continued with their work on place value, focusing in particular on using a number line and 100 square to help them add and subtract to 50 and beyond and have also done some practical work on weight, volume and capacity. As well as continuing to learn their key number facts (number bonds and doubles) they have also been having a big 'push' on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, ready for learning their times tables in Year 2.

Their latest **science** topic is 'Plants'. The children have been learning the names of the different parts of plants such as roots, stem, leaves and flower and have enjoyed exploring the plants and trees we

have in our school grounds. They have been learning all about trees and have impressed us with their ability to name and explain terms such as evergreen and deciduous! This work has also fitted in nicely with their work on Seasons.



In **computing** the children have continued with their work on coding and have enjoyed using Bee Bot to help them learn more about position and direction, as well as the importance of giving clear instructions! They have also been learning how to find and save images using a search engine on the iPads. To finish, the children created their own Pic Collage of all the images they had found. Their key computing skills are improving all the time and it is lovely to see so many of them now saving and printing their work independently.



We have introduced a new **history** topic this term - 'Important Women in History', focusing upon Rosa Parks and local activist Annie Kenney. As we have shared on Tapestry, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and have blown us away with how well they have tackled tricky topics such as racial segregation and women's rights.



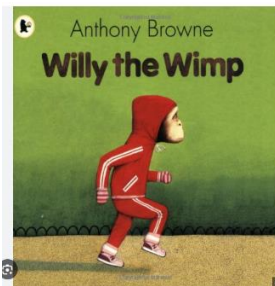
Finally, the children have also been working very hard on their **phonics, reading and spellings** and they should be proud of the progress they have made so far this year. Many thanks for keeping up the good work at home - practising weekly spellings and reading regularly, as well as completing homework tasks, really does make a difference!

Please note that the official phonics screening check for Year 1 children will take place the week beginning 12th June i.e. the second week back after the holidays. Many thanks to those of you who were able to attend our recent phonics meeting; should you have any further phonics or reading-

related questions, just ask ☺ The children now have a little pack in their green homework folders to help them to practise their phonics. We will add some phonics related tasks each week. **The children really have worked ever so hard this half-term and everyone is now looking forward to a well-deserved half-term break!**

Year 2: This term the children have been working extremely hard and have had an amazing attitude to their learning. All of the children have coped really well with the SATs and have taken them in their stride.

Anthony Browne's wonderful stories have been the focus of our English lessons. The children really enjoyed reading his stories and they discovered that although they are very picture-based books, they can take lots of deep and complicated meanings from them. They have written some fantastic character descriptions about the famous 'Willy the Wimp'. This was followed up by the children writing their own stories based on an animal description who after a few problems overcome their fears and emerge as a hero!



In maths the children have been solving tricky addition and subtraction word problems, multiplication and division problems and comparing intervals of time. They have also been trying to beat their score in our 'beat that' tests and they have loved challenging themselves!

As part of our Science topic on Living Things and their Habitats, Year 2 went on a minibeast hunt in our school grounds. The children searched sensibly and carefully and found slugs, snails, earthworms, woodlice and beetles.

In computing, the children have been directing the Probot around a 'swamp' map. They worked out how to instruct the Probot to move around the map, being careful to avoid the dangers in and around the swamp!

In Design and Technology we have been learning about the history of 'Afternoon Tea'. We are looking forward to baking scones on the last day of term to celebrate a fantastic term!



A huge well done to Year 2 for all of your hard work and dedication this term! Thank you all for your continued support with weekly spellings, reading and times tables practice.

Year 3: In English this term, Year 3 have been reading and writing performance poems and finding out more about their favourite authors. They have worked thoughtfully to produce some very funny versions of *Ten Little Children* and some excellent 'Opposites' poems. After watching the opening scene of the *BFG*, they have looked at how Roald Dahl created effective story openings and memorable characters. They have produced an author study after researching the life of Roald Dahl and they have written some interesting book reviews to share with their classmates.

Maths topics the children have been working hard on this term have included standard written methods of multiplication and division, multiplication and division problem solving and reasoning, parallel and perpendicular lines, pictograms and bar charts. Well done to those children who have worked hard to learn their times tables so thoroughly!

In Science the children have been learning about Rocks and Fossils. They completed a survey of the school grounds to record where rocks can be found in the environment, and they worked in pairs to complete a range of experiments, testing the properties of different rocks. I was very impressed with the careful and thoughtful way the children worked, carrying out fair tests and recording and explaining results.

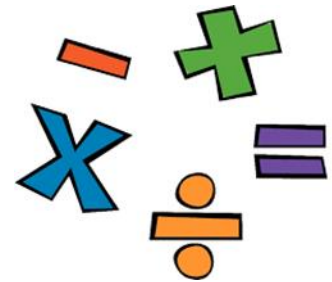


Our Geography topic this term has been Rivers. The children have been learning all about features of rivers and how they are shown on a map. They have learnt how to use a key and grid references to locate specific features on maps. They have independently researched important rivers of the world, producing a fact-file of their findings. We are looking forward to the field trip to Crompton Moor on Friday, 9th June

In PE, the children have been learning the skills of Orienteering with Miss Knight from Oldham Sports Development. She has been very impressed with the progress they have made this term, especially in terms of teamwork. Well done!

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

In Maths, we have been knuckling down practicing our times tables in preparation for our Multiplication Tables Check after half term! We have also been looking closely at fractions, decimals, shape and written methods for multiplying three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers.



Please note that the official multiplication tables check for Year 4 children will take place the week beginning 12th June i.e. the second week back after the holidays.

Our English has been centred around stories with a dilemma or issue. We looked at a range of stories whereby the main character had a difficult choice to make, and wrote our own stories discussing our own (not too serious) choices. We then moved on to studying different forms of poetry, including kennings, haikus and limericks. We have written our own version of each of these different forms and had great success.

In science, we have been exploring sound. We have investigated how sound travels through different mediums, how to change the pitch of a sound, and we will be carrying on to look at how to create soundproofing.



Our history topic this term has been the Anglo Saxons. We have explored why the Angles, Saxons and Jutes decided to settle in Britain after the Romans left and the long-term impact they have had on Britain, particularly on place names! We look forward to continuing this topic after half term, beginning with our trip to Murton Park.

During our art lessons we have been exploring different types of printing and have begun to create our own printing blocks that will allow us to create some beautiful, Anglo-Saxon inspired repeating patterns.

Our French lessons this half term have been based on exploring different musical instruments in French. The pupils did a fantastic job in their pronunciation and identifying patterns in the words that will support their learning.

Our Thursday outdoor P.E has been taken by Oldham Sports Development, who have been teaching the children how to play rounders. As a special event, Lancashire Cricket Club ran an amazing session for the children. We have also had outdoor P.E on a Monday, where we have been practicing our teamwork skills.

Have a lovely half term everyone!

Year 5: Year 5 have created some fantastic work this half term. In PE, Year 5 have really enjoyed learning new skills in cricket and tennis. Their throwing and catching has really improved in cricket and they have enjoyed playing matches against one another in tennis.

In computing, Year 5 have been coding objects to move. They have used their knowledge of coordinates to move from one position to another, including using commands to trigger movements e.g. when tapped. They have been able to change various movements e.g. the speed from faster to slower etc. Most impressively, they have been able to debug broken programs and have even been creating their own designs.

Year 5 have been learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam in RE. They have found interesting similarities between Christianity and Islam. They enjoyed finding out about the charity work that both faiths encourage.

In science, Year 5 have been learning all about animals and their habitats including the important work of Jane Goodall and David Attenborough.





In art, Year 5 have created some wonderful pictures in the style of Andy Warhol. They have been drawing different flavoured Campbell's soup cans and have used their colour wheels to ensure their art work is as striking as possible using complementary colours. They have also created a self-portrait and have coloured them in the same style as Andy Warhol's famous Marilyn Monroe picture.



Some beautiful art homework has been completed too.

They should be very proud of themselves for attending their first residential at The Anderton Centre. They had a wonderful time and participated well in a range of activities such as; archery, tree climbing, leap of faith, canoeing, paddle-boarding and bush-craft skills. You can see what they have been up to on Tapestry. Well done Year 5!

Year 6: Year 6 children have been developing their techniques in a variety of athletic sports: running, relay, standing jump/long jump and quoit discus.

In Science, the children are learning about the heart and the circulatory system including making a simple model of how the heart works.

To complete their Geography topic about London, the children are creating a travel brochure about the Tower of London.



In computing, Year 6 children are learning how to create quizzes based on the appropriate level for the contestant and their interest level.

In R.E. children have been discussing whether it is better to express religion through arts/architecture or through charity/generosity. They have looked at different charities and the amount of money donated to the restoration of Notre Dame Cathedral.

The children have been learning how to use the GarageBand app to create a piece of music which incorporates different instruments, controlling the length of the piece and loop sequences. The children are in the process of learning their songs for the end of year play.

Year 6 children worked very hard on the run up to the SATs - so well done for their efforts.

I am sure you will have seen in the press how difficult the SATs papers were this year, especially the Reading paper. Our children too found the paper tricky as there was lots of reading to do and some ambiguous questions, this slowed the children down and meant some children didn't finish. However, all our children showed great resilience and a very positive attitude which made both myself and Mrs. Adamson very proud of them all.

STAFFING NEWS:

As I said in my last newsletter Mrs. Phythian will be going on maternity leave at the end of this academic year. The Governors and I have appointed a new teacher, who will teach Year 5 next year. His name is Mr Hazlehurst and he will be coming into school next half term to meet the children.

We have some more exciting news as Miss Ewbank is also pregnant, her baby is due early October.

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:

The Friends of Buckstones Snail Race is after half term on Friday 9th. June at 6pm. It is always a great night and I know there a few tickets left if you would like to come.

The Friends of Buckstones met on Thursday 27th. April to plan for the Summer Fair, the Summer Disco and a treat day for all the pupils. Anyone who would like to help out or organise these events please contact school.

Also, a big thank you to Claire Barry for the fantastic cake design she created from the winning design. £61 was raised.



DOGS IN THE PLAYGROUND:

I am sure you all know how much I love dogs but can I please ask for the safety of all our visitors, that if you have a dog it is carried when coming onto the school grounds. If you are unable to carry your dog please could you leave it tied at the gates.

SUN SAFE POLICY:

With the warmer weather arriving and I hope here to stay, I would like to remind you of our Sun Safe Policy. The children can be outside at lunchtime for a long time and although we do have some shaded areas, for much of this time the children enjoy playing on our fields.

Children must bring in with them a sun hat to wear but these do not always protect them fully. We recommend that you put a high factor sun cream on your child before they come to school in the morning. Also, children can bring in their own NAMED sun cream, for them to apply to themselves before they play out. Companies now do make long lasting sun creams.

For this to work and cause the least amount of fuss, it is important that you teach the children at home how much to apply and where to apply it. It must also be stressed that they are not to share sun creams. If the children do not have sun creams on them we will encourage them to cover up or stay in the shade.

This warm weather also causes hay fever to start. If your child has hay fever please inform school and if they need any medication during the school day please send in written permission and name the medication.

We break up for half term today on Friday 26th. May and return to school on Thursday 8th. June.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey