

Tuesday 18th. July 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 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 our little caterpillars grow and transform into beautiful butterflies!



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. The recent trip to Cockfields Farm was a lovely day for everyone involved and gave the children so many 'hands-on' experiences, which hopefully they will remember for many years to come.



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 a very busy final half-term!

In English the children have been looking at Information Texts and have had great fun using atlases and globes to find out more about our wonderful world! They have continued their hard work on using adjectives to make their writing more exciting and it has been lovely to see them using more exclamation marks and question marks in their writing.

The children 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 ☺. They really have come a long way with their reading and their spellings since September; many thanks for your support with this, not only with work done at home, but also supporting us on our recent reading afternoon with parents. They children love it when you come into school to see what they have been up to!

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. They have also been learning about time, money and fractions (halves and quarters).

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 finding out more about the environment, as well as the animals that live there.



As part of their topic work, the children have been working hard on their sketching skills and have also used other media such as chalk pastels and brush dyes. Their day trip to Africa has been a particular highlight of this half-term and after going on 'safari' that day, they then created some wonderful African sunset silhouette pictures. Some of the artwork they have produced this half-term has been truly beautiful.

In science the children have finished their topic on plants by sorting and classifying leaves into deciduous and evergreen and then sorting them again to match the tree they came from. This was done outside in the summer sunshine. Talking of summer, we also looked at the features of this season and how to stay safe in the sun.

In RE we have looked at what it means to be part of a community. We looked at belonging to a family, school, church and discussed why naming ceremonies are so important in many different religions, in particular Islam and Christianity. Finally, we have looked at books that are special to us and then expanded this into looking at other special books that are very important to Muslim and Christian people.

As well as all of this they have had a great time taking part in sports day, our summer fair, as well as our Friends of Buckstones Treat Day; what a fun end to the year!

Year 2: In our English lessons we have been reading our first chapter book, 'James and the Giant Peach'. We discussed how Roald Dahl writes in a peculiar style and how his use of questions engages the reader. The children then went on to write their own peculiar chapter and what an amazing job they did!

In RE the children have been learning about sacred places. Our visit to the Oldham Central Mosque was fantastic and the children were full of awe and wonder as we were shown around and they couldn't wait to sketch some of the beautiful, internal features of the Mosque. The children behaved beautifully and commented how peaceful and calming the visit made them feel!

The children adored the visit from the 'Animal Club'. They were able to hold and touch a range of animals and they were very brave when it came to stroking 'Greg the snake'. Tortilla the Tortoise was also a hit with the children. The children asked so many interesting and mature questions and they came away from the visit with so many new facts!



The children have produced some wonderful 'Insect Sculptures' in response to the work of Jennifer Angus. First the children developed their drawing and shading techniques using a pencil and then applied the skill using colouring pencils to produce some beautiful butterflies that are displayed in our classroom. The children then transformed their drawings into 3D models, and the 'Insect Sculptures' produced are fantastic!



In Maths learning has focused on understanding the place value of 3-digit numbers. The children have worked so hard comparing and ordering 3-digit numbers. Year 2 have also been learning the 3 times tables, and are very competitive with each other! They have loved answering multiplication and division problems. Well done Year 2, keep practising ready for heading into the Juniors in September.

All of the children have enjoyed the lovely activities in recent weeks. Sports afternoon, the school disco, treat day and the summer fair have all been a huge hit with the children. Thank you for your continued support this year and I hope you all have a lovely summer!

Year 3: This half term Year 3's English work has been all about Pirates! On the 28th June, an 'honest fisherman' came to Buckstones to tell 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 unanimously agreed that life as a pirate was much better!!! Following this visit, the children have worked extremely hard to produce some wonderful character descriptions of a fearsome pirate and, after designing their own treasure 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. It was wonderful to have so many parents visit the class for the Reading Afternoon on 30th June, where the children could share pirate reading activities. On 17th 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.



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

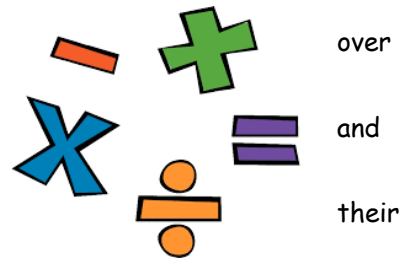
The children have produced some wonderful Art in response to the work of Georgia O’Keeffe. They have made detailed studies of a wide range of flowers and how they were drawn and painted by Georgia O’Keeffe, gathering ideas for their own large scale drawing in a similar style. They then used a range of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

On Friday 9th 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, despite the low water level, and with their stamina in reaching the source in very windy conditions! 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.

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. Science Day on 16th June provided an opportunity to devote the whole day to this topic. Thankfully, we had enough sunshine for us to complete all the planned activities!

Year 4: Year 4 have had a brilliant final term to end a great year - well done!

In Maths, we have been reviewing the skills we have developed the year. We have also been exploring co-ordinates and statistics, learning how to draw and interpret line and bar graphs pictograms. The children did a fantastic job during their Multiplication Tables Check and should be incredibly pleased with results.



During English, we have been writing persuasive letters aimed to convince our school parents to walk to school rather than drive, in support of the School Streets Project. They have created informative, effective pieces and have demonstrated a great understanding of this genre. We have also been exploring the legend of Beowulf, and have written terrifying character descriptions of the monster Grendel.

In science, we have been exploring electricity. During this topic, the children have built their own circuits and switches. They have also designed their own torches, considering the materials they will use for each component and ensuring they are functional and appealing.

We have continued to study the Anglo Saxons this half term, with a focus on religion during this period. The term began with our trip to Murton Park - where the children had the opportunity to be



an Anglo-Saxon villager for the day. The class had an amazing time learning all about life in the village and even got to defend the settlement from invaders! Following the trip, the children have researched significant religious buildings created by Anglo Saxon Christians and written their own information leaflets. The children have also used the Anglo-Saxons as inspiration for our most recent art project, creating outstanding Anglo-Saxon repeating patterns using block printing methods.

Our French lessons this half term have been based on exploring different vegetables in French. The pupils have learnt the names of a range of vegetables, and how to order an amount of each vegetable politely.

Our Thursday outdoor P.E has been taken by Oldham Sports Development, who have been developing the children's orienteering skills. We have also (eventually) taken part in our sports day event, during which the children were able to practice a whole host of sporting skills.

This term has also seen opportunities for our school band to perform at events in Oldham, including a highly successful performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall!



Thank you for a brilliant year, Year 4 - have a wonderful summer!

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 completed an interactive quiz at the end and all remembered SO MUCH! Well done!

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 very impressive! They have created their own coastal resorts for homework. A huge amount of effort has gone into their creative homework this year.



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 graphs on the computer as part of their science topics. They plotted the growth of babies.

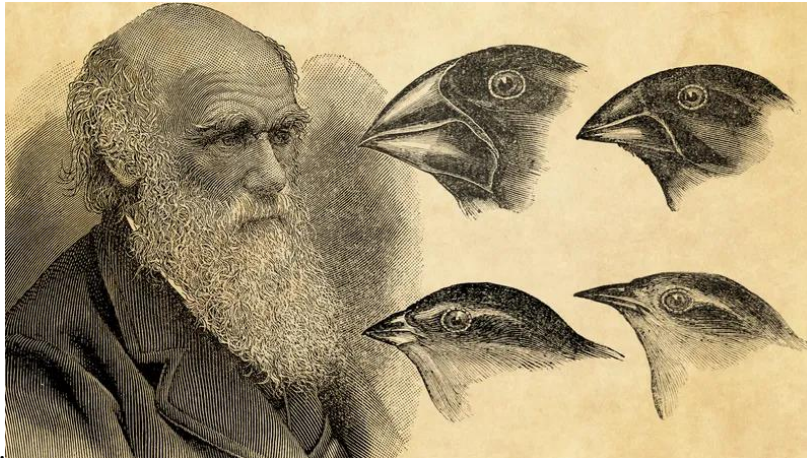
Year 5 have been learning of dance, handball and multi skills in PE. We have some wonderful dancers in Year 5.

In writing, they have created some excellent stories from other cultures based on Bre-Nancy and the 13 Plantains. They were able to draw upon their knowledge from science and geography, as well

as a little research, to create their own story from another culture including a moral. They completed a great piece to end the year!

Have a lovely summer everyone!

Year 6: Year 6 children have been working on evolution and inheritance. They have found out about some of the scientific ideas of the past and the impact of Darwin - they have completed the 'battle



of the beaks'.

In History, Year 6 children have been learning about the ancient Greeks and their influence on modern society. With links to British Values, they have learned about Athens as the seat of democracy. They have learned about the ancient Greek belief system of the gods. They have also researched the difference between the city states of Athens and Sparta as well as learning about the ancient Olympics.

Year 6 children have been learning about perspective in art, using horizon lines, lines of perspective and vanishing points. They have applied these skills to drawing a London scene.

Preparations for the end of year production are at an end. The children have learned their lines, songs, choreographed some dance moves and have helped to make the set and props.



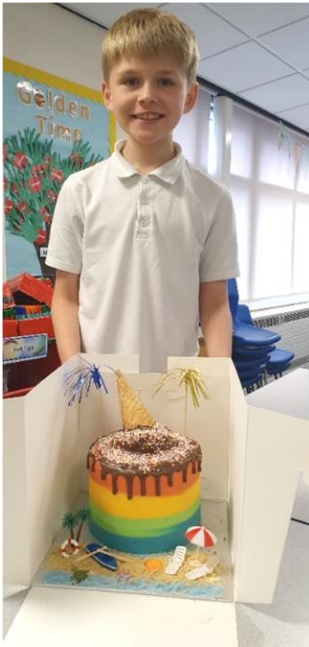
The children have drafted and filmed their memories of school throughout the years for the Leavers' Assembly.

SPELLING BEE

Thank you to everyone who took part in the sponsored spell. The money raised £1620. All the classes were given a share of the money to buy new class books and dictionaries and thesaurus.



FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES: The Summer fair held in school was a great success and made £1430.03, 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 £833.13.

The Friends of Buckstones arranged a Movie which was amazing! Everyone loved the owl display, enjoyed the dancing activities with Millie and all watched a movie eating pop-corn.

The money raised will pay for the tickets for the Panto at Christmas and other projects in school.

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. I would like to thank Sarah Gledhill in particular as her daughter, Lucy, is leaving us this year and Sarah has had a long association with the Friends of Buckstones and volunteering in school. We were worried that when Lucy left Sarah would be leaving too but she has kindly agreed to continue with her support of the school and the Friends of Buckstones.

We would also like to thank everyone 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:

Governor meeting	Agenda
Full Governors - 14.6.23	During the meeting the Governors: <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 • Received a report from our School Improvement Partner

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership School Safeguarding Audit • Received reports from committees • Received a Safeguarding report from the Safeguarding Governor • Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 2.5.23	<p>During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Policy • Foundation Subject Assessments • Standards' report
Pay/Finance - 19.6.23	<p>During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed the new budget • Agreed the Devolved Spend • Agreed the Utilisation of Balances
Premises/Health and Safety/Wellbeing/Health and Safety/Safeguarding - 27.6.23	<p>During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Audit • Lettings Policy • Action Plan from Safeguarding and Prevent Audits • Health and Safety Policy • Critical Incident Plan • Stress Policy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lone Working Policy • Violence and Aggression Policy • Fire Risk Assessment and Procedures
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LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY:

Parents from each Year 6 family have been invited to come and watch the Leavers' Assembly on Friday 21st. 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:

Reception	Mrs. Pearson
Year 1	Miss Platt (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Mrs. Tetlow (Thursday and Friday)
Year 2	Mrs. Littlewood
Year 3	Mrs. Charnley (Monday, Thursday and Friday) and Mrs. Tetlow (Tuesday and Wednesday)
Year 4	Miss Hughes
Year 5	Mr. Hazlehurst
Year 6	Mrs. Adamson

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 www.schooltrends.co.uk
- My Clothing 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 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 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.

Activities for All

As the ongoing cost of living crisis continues to put pressure on families across our borough, Oldham Council has invested in activities that can be accessed by all children and young people over the school summer holidays.

This is part of our ongoing package of support to help families who may be struggling and is designed to ensure all children have the opportunity to have a fun and memorable summer. These activities are available to all families with an Oldham postcode on a first come, first served basis. For further information please visit <https://www.whatsonoldham.org/activities-for-all-intro/>

School will be closing on Friday 21st. July until Monday 4th. September.

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

S.E.Healey