

Wednesday 27th. March 2024

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

Easter Newsletter

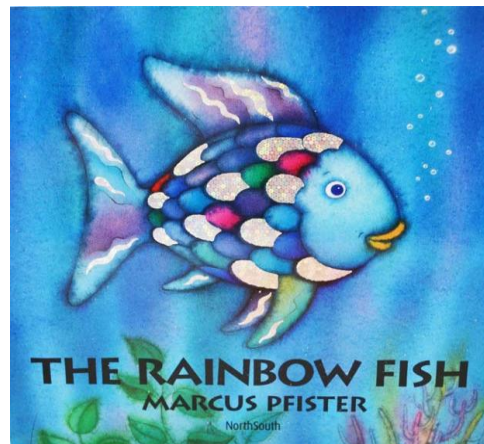
CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

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

Reception: The children 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 that they might find in water near to their homes. They especially loved the experience of collecting the frogspawn from our school pond and then watching it grow and change each week in school. They were also 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 interesting floating and sinking experiments as well as learning about the life cycle of a frog. The children have also enjoyed reading a range of different sea-based stories, including *The Snail and the Whale*, *Commotion in the Ocean* and *The Rainbow Fish*.



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 writing sessions.

The children have been focussing on addition, subtraction 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!



During their P.E. sessions, the children have been focussing on balancing skills. They have been using the fun of the circus to help them with this; by pretending to be tight-rope walkers, trapeze artists and even jugglers!

What a busy half term Reception, you should all be very proud of yourselves! ☺

Year 1: To say it has been a short half-term, our Year 1s have packed an awful lot in! In **English**, they have had fun learning about instructions, following instructions really well to make their own pigeon puppets and pirate hats. Following on from that, they then wrote two sets of 'How to ...' instructions and did a grand job. It was great that some children had remembered how to do it and even made their own pirate hats for their pets (even Tilly and Ted got one!).



The children have also enjoyed our work on **Information Texts**, and have had fun learning all about London. They proved themselves to be super detectives and have done some lovely research all about a variety of London landmarks and also King Charles III.

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 the days of the week and have been working on telling 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! They also had a lovely morning at their science workshop at the start of the half-term.



In **geography** the children have been learning about The United Kingdom (including naming the home nations and their capital cities, as well as recognising their flags). As part of this, they have looked at London in more detail and had a lovely time showing and sharing their London homework with their friends. They have had fun looking at maps and atlases and will also be completing their DT topic 'A Moving London Postcard' after the Easter 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.

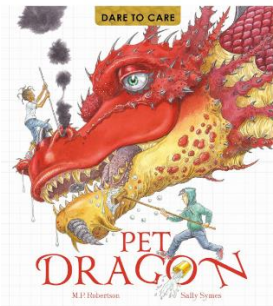
Many thanks again to those of you who have worked with your child on **homework** tasks (including reading and spellings). It is much appreciated and really does make a huge difference. ☺ Well done also to all the children who have completed some - or even **all** - of their Spring Reading Challenges ... it has been so lovely to see their photos 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 half-term - the children have now earned a well-deserved rest over the Easter break after a very hectic March!

Year 2: Year 2 have had another wonderful term demonstrating what super learners they all are! It is wonderful to see so many children filling their reading bookmarks and completing their spring challenges!

In Maths, the children have been working extremely hard doubling and halving numbers, finding fractions of shapes and writing mixed numbers. The children have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, hopping on number lines and making arrays, and rotating arrays to show they are commutative. The children have also been recognising the value of coins, and adding amounts of money by counting in tens and ones.

In English, Year 2 have been sharing different dragon stories and describing the characters in the books. The children captured different ideas from the stories read, to plan their own dragon story. All of the children wrote an amazing fantasy story and they are proudly displayed on the classroom wall for all to read. The children have also been writing instructions on how to take care of a pet dragon. Year two all 'dare to care' for a dragon!!



Year 2 have been enjoying their Yoga lessons with Mrs Crossley and in PE the children have been developing their batting and fielding skills.

In our Geography lessons, Year 2 have been learning about the beautiful island St Lucia! The children have been identifying human and physical features of the island, how chocolate is produced and the types of foods that are eaten on the island..... 'Banana Ketchup' was a bit of a surprise to the children!

In our Design and Technology topic the children have been learning about winding mechanisms. They identified real life examples, and then designed their own winding mechanism and decorated their theatre style box with a dinosaur or dragon theme. The children have been extremely creative in their designs and we look forward to evaluating the finished product.

Our RE lessons the children have been focusing on why Easter is important to Christians? They have been read 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 about whether they consider the Easter story to be a happy or sad story.



Well done Year 2 for all your hard work this term. Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break!!

Year 3: This term's History topic has been Ancient Egypt. The children have worked very enthusiastically throughout all the lessons. 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 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 are also learning how to write historical reports. They are researching one particular aspect of life in Ancient Egypt before planning and writing their own historical reports on papyrus, decorated with hieroglyphs.

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 and standard written methods. They have learnt how 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 time

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.

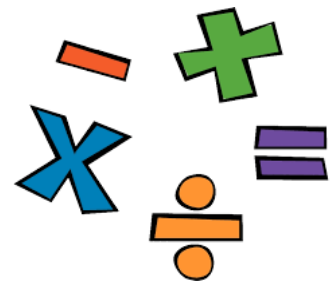
In RE, the children have produced some very thoughtful work on their understanding of Christian and Muslim beliefs and why people pray. They have demonstrated clear interest, respect and tolerance of different religious beliefs and practices throughout the year. Well done, Year 3.

In Computing, the children have enjoyed using Espresso Coding to learn how to program buttons to complete a series of space related coding tasks.

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 continuing to work on written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have also been working hard to develop our ability to read time and calculate intervals of time. The children have been working incredible hard on their times tables and have made great progress in building their rapid recall - well done!





In English, we have been 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. The children then created their own versions of a Dreamtime Story based on their own morals and messages.

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, showing our understanding of this fundamental process.

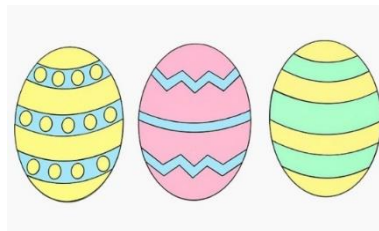
Our history topic this term has been the Romans. We have explored why the Romans decided to invade Britain in 43AD and how the Britons responded to the invasion. We have been introduced to the powerful tribal leader, Boudicca, and learnt how her armies waged war against the Romans in 60AD.



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.

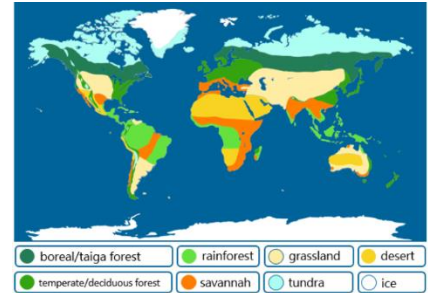
Our Wednesday outdoor P.E has been taken by Oldham Sports Development, who have been teaching the children how to play tag rugby. We have also had indoor PE on Mondays, where we have been honing our dance skills to create a piece of choreography based around 'The Spy.'

Have a lovely Easter everyone!



Year 5:

In English this half term, the children have written a piece of flashback description about the short film 'The Piano'. Everyone stretched their vocabulary use and developed their use of emotions when describing. We have also created an interesting persuasive piece of writing to demonstrate the benefits of Year 5 taking part in the residential visit. We looked at how different persuasive techniques could be used to impact the reader.

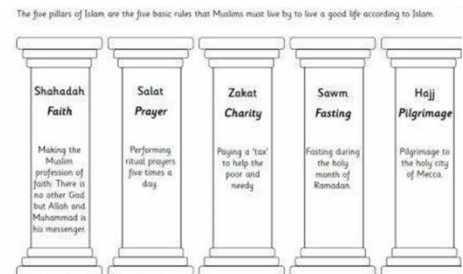


Year 5 have been learning all about Biomes in their Geography work this half term. We have been finding out how plants and animals are adapted to survive in their biome, and have researched to compare and contrast the different areas of the world.

In Science, we have been learning about forces. We have learnt how forces (gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction) act upon an object. We completed a couple of investigations to test the impact surface type has on friction and how air resistance is needed when using a parachute. We used Newton meters to test the force applied to an object.

During their Monday PE sessions, the children have created a 'Dance by Chance' by using a random structure of actions and performed them with quality and control. On Wednesday, we have learnt the sport handball. We have developed our passing, shooting and dribbling with the ball and have taken part in small sided games to follow the rules.

In RE, we have learnt about the five pillars of Islam. We focused on each pillar in turn and learnt about how Muslims follow the five obligations in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam.



In PSHE, we have taken part in class discussions about the positives and negatives of the use of social media.

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: Year 6 children have been learning about how London is made up of many different boroughs, the importance of the River Thames to its growth (and its uses today) and have found out about the Tower of London. They have also learned how to use a London Underground map. 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.

They had a great trip to the Tower on Friday 22nd March - a very successful and enjoyable day was had by all. 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.

In Music, the children have explored a range of rounds to develop their vocal skills by singing in unison and up to 3 parts. They have also worked on their instrumental skills, playing accompaniments on both untuned and tuned percussion.

Year 6 children have been learning about different microorganisms - how some can be helpful whilst others are harmful.

In P.E. children have been learning tennis skills during games lessons and, during indoor P.E., they have been learning about maintaining rhythms and movements before moving onto Bhangra dancing.



GOVERNORS

The Governors are pleased to announce that the school has been awarded Good Travel Plan Modeshift STARS accreditation for our efforts to increase levels of walking, cycling, and other forms of sustainable travel.

Governor meeting	Agenda
Full Governors - 31.1.24	During the meeting the Governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Received a report outlining what we have been doing in school; including reports

	<p>from individual committees (Premises, Curriculum and Finance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the School Development Plan • Discussed a Safeguarding report • Reviewed Food standards • Reviewed the School website • EYFS provision • Received a report from the Chair • Received reports from Governors who had visited the school to discuss Early Years Provision, English, Phonics and enjoyed their lunch on the Captain's table • Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 23.1.24	<p>During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics Policy • Foundation subject assessments • Standards
Pay/Finance - 27.2.24	<p>During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFVS • Finance Policy • Charging Policy • Whistleblowing Policy • Financial Risk Assessment • Best Value Statement • Benchmarking Report Card • Staffing Structure • Internet Banking and Debit Card Policy • Lettings Policy
Premises/Health and Safety/Wellbeing/Health and Safety/Safeguarding - 5.3.24	<p>During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Recruitment Policy • Safeguarding Report • Kitchen Audit/Condition • Allergen Policy • Connect the Classroom • Health and Safety Walk

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES

The Friends of Buckstones Easter Egg competition, the entries were amazing and we are amazed at the standard of the competition. Thank you to everyone who entered. Also thank you for the Easter hampers which have been donated and everyone who has bought raffle tickets. The raffle will be drawn in Assembly on Thursday.



Our next meeting is on Thursday 25th. April at 6pm in the park Inn when we will be planning our next event -A Family Quiz Night - which will be held on Friday 10th. May in school. We are grateful for all and any support you can give as the money raised is to be put towards a new projector in the hall.

ONLINE SAFETY

Keeping children safe online is something I know we all worry about and something we talk to the children about in school. I have uploaded some information for parents - on the school website in the section about e-safety advice for parents - about how to keep your children safe online and how to manage how much screen time children have. I hope you find them useful.

Booklets include:

- A PARENT'S GUIDE TO: Discovering digital at primary school
- Online safety tips to support young children
- Online safety tips for parents of primary school children 6-10 Year Olds
- Balancing screen time
- Parents' guide: Gaming advice

School reopens on Monday 15th. April



Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey