

Monday 15th. July 2024

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 their forest 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.



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 enjoyed finishing off their 'Pirates' topic that they started before half-term. They did a super written retell of 'The Night Pirates' and also did an interview with a night pirate too. They then moved onto Information Texts and had fun exploring non-fiction books with a friend, finding many interesting facts to share with the class.

They have loved their recent work on Antarctica, doing a great job coming up with some 'Did you know...?' questions about Antarctica and then they amazing us with their wonderful postcards, written as though they had actually visited the world's coldest continent. Their descriptive language and use of adjectives were brilliant!



The children have also been working extremely hard on their phonics and should be very proud of the lovely progress they have made with their phonics work this year ☺.

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 have enjoyed finding out animal-related facts about these two contrasting continents.

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, wax crayons and brusho dyes. Some of the artwork they have produced has been truly beautiful! Keep your eyes peeled on Tapestry for our lovely art gallery.

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. They also looked at the features of this season and how to stay safe in the sun.

In RE they have looked at what it means to be part of a community. They 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. They also had a very enjoyable afternoon visiting St. James' church in Shaw and meeting Father Paul. Finally, they have looked at books that are special to them and then expanded this into looking at other special books that are very important to



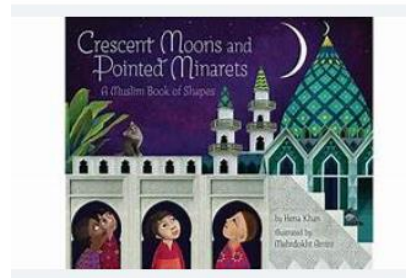
Muslim and Christian people.

As well as all of this they have had a great time at the summer fair as well as taking part in the Friends of Buckstones Treat Day; what a fun end to the year! Well done Year 1!

Year 2: Year 2 have had a very busy summer term. In our English lessons, they have been reading our first chapter book, 'James and the Giant Peach'. They discussed how Roald Dahl writes in a peculiar style and how his use of questions engages the reader. The children went on to write their own peculiar chapter and what an amazing job they did! The latest writing topic has been all about poetry based upon our senses. The children really enjoyed writing a poem about the things they definitely would not like to touch, and they used alliteration.



In RE, the children have been learning about sacred places and really enjoyed reading the book 'Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets'. Our visit to the Oldham Central Mosque was fantastic and the children were full of 'awe and wonder' as they 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 visiting the Mosque made them feel!



The children have been studying Jennifer Angus and Louise Bourgeois' artwork and have produced some wonderful 'Insect Sculptures' of their own. They have been developing their drawing and shading techniques using blending, hatching, cross-hatching and stippling. They then applied these skills using coloured pencils to produce some beautiful butterflies and ladybirds.



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. They have also been telling the time to the nearest five minutes and working out what time it would be ten minutes later than a given time. Year 2 have also been learning their 3 times tables, and are very competitive with each other! Well done Year 2, keep practising ready for heading into the Juniors in September.

All of the children have worked incredibly hard this year and it has been a joy to watch them flourish! Their last week will be made complete with an 'Afternoon Tea' with their Year 5 reading buddies who I know will continue to be warm and welcoming friends as they move into the Juniors. Thank you for the continued support with home reading and spelling practice, it really does make such a difference. I hope everyone has a relaxing Summer break and I wish the children all the best as they head into the Juniors!

Year 3: On Friday 7th 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 and with their stamina in reaching the source. 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 mountains are. Finally, they considered why people visit mountains and the positive and negative impacts tourism can have on mountainous regions.

In Art, the children have produced some wonderful pictures inspired by 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 on display in the Junior Craft Bay. Well done, Year 3!



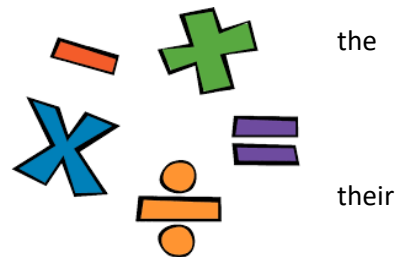
In English, the children have produced some excellent writing based on *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. After watching the opening of the film, they analysed the key moments, gathered lots of ambitious vocabulary and learnt how to compose more complex sentences, which they used to write their own version of the opening scene.

In the 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. They have also investigated and classified materials based on whether they are transparent, translucent or opaque.

Our Maths work this term has focused on statistics, 2-D shape properties, 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. Well done!

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 over year. We have also been exploring co-ordinates and statistics, learning how to draw and interpret line and bar graphs and pictograms. The children did an outstanding job during their Multiplication Tables Check and should be incredibly pleased with results.



During English, we have been writing persuasive letters aimed to convince Miss Healey to either keep or ban school uniform. Their letters were well written and convincing, although we will be keeping school uniform! 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. We ended last term with our trip to Murton Park – where the children had the opportunity to be an Anglo-Saxon villager for the day. 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 beautiful Anglo-Saxon repeating patterns using block printing methods.

Our French lessons this half term have been centred around learning how to introducing ourselves. The children have learnt how to greet each other, ask how each other are and how to say how old they are.

Our Thursday outdoor P.E has been taken by Oldham Sports Development, who have been developing the children's cricketing skills. On Mondays, our PE lessons moved outside where we practiced a range of different athletics activities including running, throwing and jumping.

Over the term, Year 4 have also had the opportunity to work with Groundwork Manchester to Engage with Nature in our local area. The children have conducted wildlife surveys, planted new plants to develop the meadow habitat at St George's Park, and made wildflower 'bombs' to spread more flowers at home or in local green spaces. The children engaged with these activities brilliantly and made us proud in how they conducted themselves within the community.

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



Year 5: Year 5 have been learning about of their geography this focused on human and features of a coastal



coasts as part half term. They physical

setting and included these in their coastal resort maps. They learnt OS Map symbols and how to use 4-figure grid references to identify the position of buildings and features. We enjoyed our trip to Formby and Southport Eco Centre where we learnt about changes to the coast and coastal management strategies. We followed this up with more work on erosion and the impact it is having on our coastline.



Linking in with our Geography work, in art we focused our learning around Durdle Door - a natural, limestone arch on the Dorset coast. All children sketched the rock formation and added colour using pencil colours and oil pastels. We then used clay to create the arch and added this to our stary night backgrounds.

In science, we have been learning about animal including humans and their journey through the different stages on life. They were so sensible throughout the topics and enjoyed learning about the development of humans and animals. We focused on the changes of babies, children, adults and into old age.

In PE, we have developed our cricket skills by learning how to overarm bowl, and improved our batting skills. We have also learnt how to field and the importance of a wicket-keeper. During our Monday PE lesson, we have taken part in a wider range of athletic activities including running, jumping and throwing.

In writing, we have created some excellent stories from other cultures based on Bre-Nancy and the 13 Plantains. The children were able to use their imagination and inspiration from research to create their own story to show off their writing skills.

Year 6: Congratulations to the Year 6 children for their SATs results. They have performed particularly well this year.

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.

In D&T, they have built a Lego WeDo vehicle and have experimented with programming the vehicle to move.

Preparations for the end of year production are nearly 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.

SCHOOL BAND: The School Brass Band performed at the Oldham Music Festival on Monday 8th. July. They were first on and they performed extremely well. They played 3 pieces and the Adjudicator had lots of positive things to say about our performance so much so that he awarded the Band the Martin Evans Shield for Outstanding Brass Performance at the Festival. Well done Mr Byers and the school Brass Band.



PENALTY SHOOT OUT: Well done to the School Council who came up with the idea of a penalty shoot-out. All the children had great fun and we raised a lot of money. Altogether we raised £2647, the money will be used to buy the new nets for football, update some of our old P.E. equipment, new music stands for the band as well each class being able to buy something for themselves.

Thank you to all of you who sponsored the children and a BIG thank you to all of our goalkeepers.

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:

The Summer fair held in school was a great success and made £1882.50, 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 prizes will be drawn in Assembly on Wednesday.

The end of year disco was also a great success and we raised over £668.84, just a shame we had to hold it inside this year.

The Friends of Buckstones arranged a Treat Day which was good fun! All the classes enjoyed 'having a go' at the different games, including darts, archery, jenga, noughts and crosses and snakes and ladders.

The money raised will pay for the new projector in the hall, 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.

We would also like to thank everyone who 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 - 12.6.24	<p>During the meeting the Governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received a report outlining what we have been doing in school; including reports from individual committees (Premises, Curriculum and Finance)• Reviewed the School Development Plan• Adopted the following policies: SEND, Family Leave, Managing Change, Flexible Working and Special Leave• Received a report from the Chair• Received reports from Governors who had visited the school to discuss safeguarding with the safeguarding lead and pupils, Maths. and SEND.• Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 30.2.24	<p>During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment Policy• Foundation Stage Assessment• End of Year Reports
Pay/Finance - 21.5.24	<p>During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New budget - overview• Utilisation of Balances• Staffing update
Premises/Health and Safety/Wellbeing/Health and Safety/Safeguarding - 28.6.24	<p>During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and Safety Audit• Health and Safety Policy• Critical Incident Plan• Stress Policy and Risk assessment• Lone Working Policy• Policy for Dealing with Violence and Aggression• New and Expectant Mothers' Policy• Swimming and Water Safety Policy• Health and Safety Walk around school

LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY:

Parents from each Year 6 family have been invited to come and watch the Leavers' Assembly on Friday 19th. 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'.

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.

School will be closing on Friday 19th. July until Tuesday 3rd. September.

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

S.E.Healey