

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>.. October 2024

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !



### Autumn Half Term Newsletter



#### **CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:**

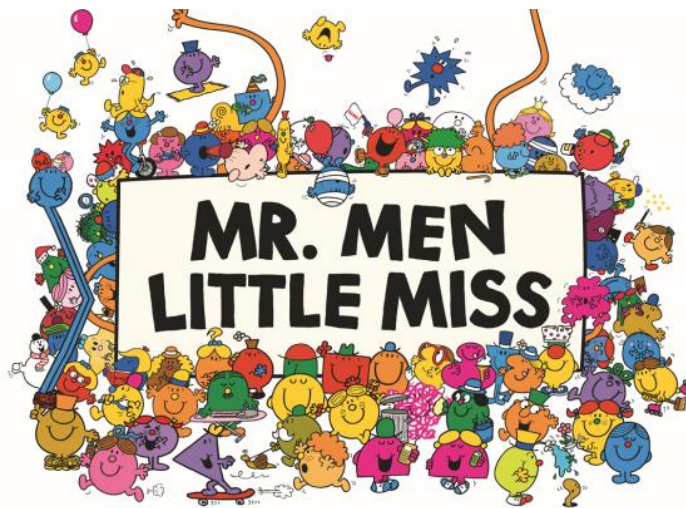
This half term the children all the classes have been involved in a variety of activities.

The teachers have all written about what their classes have been doing this half term.

**Reception:** Reception have settled in extremely well and have made an excellent start to their school life. They are following the class rules and expectations brilliantly and have all enjoyed making lots of new friends.

The topic for the half term was 'All About Me'. Through this topic the children have taken part in a wide range of different activities which have allowed them to think about and describe themselves in different ways, as well as getting to know each other better.

In English lessons, the children have enjoyed reading a range of Mr Men and Little Miss books and



have been comparing themselves to the different characters. The children have also been working very hard in their daily phonics lessons and have now learnt twelve different phonemes, which they have been practising to write too.

In Maths sessions, the children have been reading, writing and ordering numbers to 10. They have loved singing different number songs and also watching the fantastic 'Numberblocks' episodes to help

them learn about the different numbers. They have also been learning about repeating patterns and all enjoyed making their own repeating patterns out of natural resources.

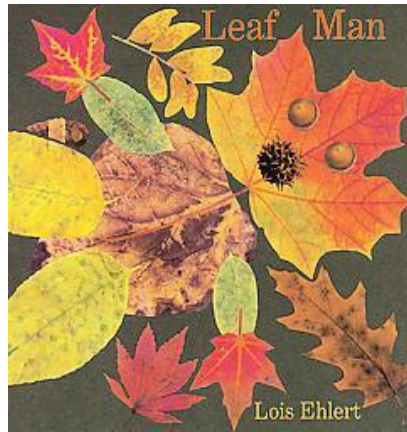
The children have particularly enjoyed their forest fun sessions this half term, where they have experienced all types of weather over the last few weeks! They have loved having the freedom to explore, climb trees and collect lots of natural treasures to bring back to our classroom to investigate and create with too.



What a busy and wonderful first half term in Reception!

**Year 1:** We are so pleased with how well the children have settled into Year 1! They have had a very busy first half term and they should be very proud of themselves and all that they have achieved. ☺

Much of our **English** work has been based around key skills and descriptive writing. The children's writing skills continue to 'come on' and they have come a long way this half-term ☺



As well as our work on basic sentences (capital letters, finger spaces, full stops) the children have been learning all about adjectives and they have written some lovely autumn leaves poems, full of super adjectives. Having listened to the story of Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert, they then created their own leaf people and wrote some lovely descriptions to match. On top of this, they have loved sharing their hand-made leafy creations from home - we were most impressed! ☺

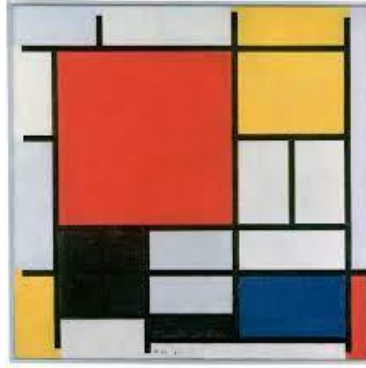
In **phonics** they are learning about adjacent consonants in Level 4 and recapping on the Level 3 phonemes. It is lovely to see the children's hard work beginning to pay off in their reading and spelling. We also continue to have a big 'push' on **handwriting** and correct letter formation - many thanks to everyone for supporting us with all of this at home.



In **maths**, the big 'push' for the children has been making sure their numbers are formed correctly, as well as securing their understanding of the language of place value. They have been working on calculations within 10 and are doing well learning their number bonds to 10. They have especially enjoyed singing songs to help them with their maths learning.

In **Science** they have been learning about the parts of the body and have enjoyed investigating the senses. They have also been looking at seasonal changes and what happens to our environment during the autumn season. An autumn walk was just the trick for experiencing the leaves changing colours and falling to the ground.

The children continue to enjoy their time in the computer suite and on the iPads. Their **Computing** work has been two-fold - some topic-related tasks as well as looking at how to keep safe when using the internet through stories such as Smartie Penguin and Digi Duck.



Year One's **artwork** this half term has focused on painting - they have learned about primary colours and the work of Piet Mondrian. They have also impressed us with their colour-mixing skills! It has been so nice to see the lovely artistic creations they have come up with.

As part of their **Geography** work on our Local Area, the children have had fun outside exploring our school grounds and beyond. They have done a great job sketching what they can see from the playground and they agree how lucky we are to live so close to Crompton Moor and to have such a wonderful view from our playground! The children also enjoyed going up to the bus terminus to take photos of what we can see beyond the school gates and to do a little traffic survey too. It was such a shame that we had some poorly children who missed it.

Many thanks to those of you who have supported your child when completing our homework tasks, including hearing your children read and practising spellings / handwriting at home. We have been blown away by your support - it is very much appreciated and it really does make a huge difference 😊

We are all very proud of how hard the children have worked this half term and we are sure they are now looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the half-term break! 😊

**Year 2:** All the children have settled extremely well into life in Year 2. They have had a very busy first half term and should be so proud of themselves for all that they have achieved.

In English the children have been writing animal stories in a familiar setting, based upon the book 'A Lion in the Meadow'. They have also had a lot of fun writing a set of instructions for a 'lonely traveller' to navigate their way round Fairy Land. Their instructions included bossy verbs, adverbs and time openers.

In Maths, the children have been focusing on the place value of numbers from 0- 100 and different ways of representing, ordering and comparing these. The children have been focusing on learning addition and subtraction facts to 20 off by heart. We have also been drawing lines of symmetry in 2D shapes and identifying which shapes have right angles. The children are becoming more confident in explaining their answers too, well done Year 2!

Our Geography topic has focused on our local area, including our 'Shaw Trail'. The children followed a set of instructions to guide them from school, into the center of Shaw. Along the way they looked at the different types of houses, old buildings, cobbled streets and shops. The children were so well behaved and we were super proud of their observations and questions.

The children have also been learning about the history of Shaw and finding out about the cotton mill industry. The children have been learning about what life would have been like for them in the Victorian times and what it would have been like working in the mills. The children really enjoyed the workshop experience they attended at the Oldham Art Gallery. They got the opportunity to dress up as a Victorian child and shovel coal.



It has been great to see so many children reading and practising their spellings at home - it really does make a positive difference! Well done Year 2 for making a great start to the year! Enjoy your half term break!

**Year 3:** The children have settled in to Year 3 and the Juniors exceptionally well this half term, getting used to the new routines and expectations. Well done!

The main topic in Year 3 this half term has been the Science Topic: Animals including Humans, focusing on Nutrition, Skeletons and Muscles. The children have enjoyed learning all about the different food groups and how to create a balanced meal. They have been finding out about the functions of the human skeleton and animals that have different types of skeletons. They have also been learning how muscles work and how they allow us to move.

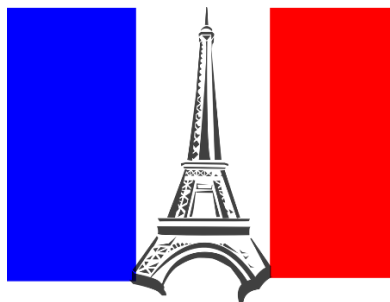




In English, the children have been working very hard learning how to write a mysterious setting description of a familiar place, such as the school playground. They enjoyed using their senses to collect ideas for their writing and the quality of the final pieces was impressive. In addition, the children have written recipe instructions for their special sandwiches as part of their DT topic work, and they are writing some lovely colour poems, based on the book *A Song of Colours* by Judy Hindley. In Reading, the children have focused on developing their written answers to comprehension questions and developing their inferential understanding, referring back to the text to justify their views.

Maths work has centred on place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, doubling and halving, time, 2D and 3D shapes and using number lines to find the difference between two numbers. The children have worked hard to develop their mental calculation strategies, problem-solving and reasoning. Well done to all those children who have been practising their times tables so thoroughly.

The children have made a great start in French lessons, using the Language Angels scheme. They have learnt lots of everyday greetings and some common conversation questions. They should be very proud of their efforts.



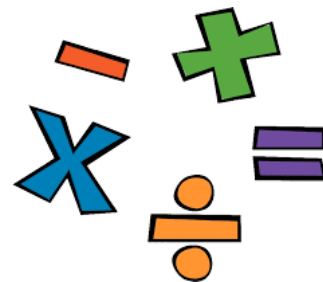
In the DT unit of work, linked to the Science topic, the children investigated, designed and made some eye-catching healthy sandwiches for special occasions. They each worked with a great deal of thought and care to produce an original sandwich that was a balanced meal. They worked very carefully during the making process, using their knowledge of food safety and hygiene. They also evaluated their finished product with a great deal of thought, identifying where improvements could be made in the future. Well done!

In RE, the children have worked very thoughtfully during the Judaism unit: 'What do Jewish people believe and how do they live?' They have seen what a Jewish home looks like and learnt how and why Shabbat, Hanukkah and Passover are celebrated in Jewish families.

Swimming sessions are now well under way, and the children are enjoying their weekly trip to Royton Pool. In Outdoor Games, the children have worked very hard to develop their hockey skills. Well done Year 3!

**Year 4:** Year 4 have started the new year brilliantly and have settled in well to life in their new classroom.

In Maths, we have been studying place value in 4-digit numbers and written methods for addition, subtraction and multiplication. We have also begun to revisit time and measure. Everyone has worked incredibly hard on their times tables - Times Tables Rock Stars has never been so well used!



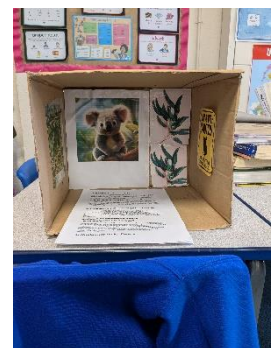
In English, we have been writing Witness Statements from the perspective of a character in Snow White, based on the stories Who Pushed Humpty Dumpty and Never Meddle with Magic Mirrors. They have also written beautiful descriptive poems about a gentle wolf from the myth of Romulus and Remus, using figurative devices such as similes, metaphors, personification and hyperbole.



Our Science topic this half term has been Living Things and Their Habitats. The children have created a variety of different classification keys and diagrams to group different vertebrates and invertebrates. The children will



finish the topic with an exploration of the wildlife in our own playground and nature area. We have been particularly impressed with the children's home projects on endangered animals, which we shared as part of a classroom gallery.



In Geography, we have been learning more about Manchester – its history, human and physical features and its importance in the country and the world. We will be continuing this theme next half term as we explore the industrial revolution in more detail.

Although slightly out of season, the children have been practicing sewing in preparation for creating our stuffed Christmas decorations as part of our D and T topic. The class have worked incredibly hard to master the running and blanket stitches and created some beautiful designs for their decorations. We are looking forward to making them after half term!

In outdoor PE, we have been learning how to play tennis and developing our racket and ball skills. Our indoor P.E lessons have been centred around developing our gymnastic skills, practicing a series of balances, jumps and rolls which they have linked to create some impressive pieces of choreography.

Have a lovely half term everyone and well done for all your hard work!

**Year 5:** In History this half-term Year 5 have been learning all about the Vikings. They have learnt when and where the Vikings came from and why they raided Britain. They compared the significance of Anglo-Saxon kings and focused on who King Ethelred II was. They looked at what life was like as a Viking and learnt about some punishments given out under their legal system.



In Science, Year 5 have been learning about materials and their properties. They compared materials according to their properties and carried out investigations, learning about thermal conductors and insulators, which materials will dissolve in water and how to separate mixtures using different methods. They learnt the difference between reversible and irreversible chemical changes, and discussed how to carry out a fair test.

In RE, Year 5 have focused on the values of Humanists and compared these to those of Christians. They learnt about the code of conduct that Humanists follow and thought about their own values and what matters most to them.





In Computing, Year 5 have learnt about how to stay safe when online. They created E-Safety posters to give advice about making secure passwords, having strong usernames and being aware of the dangers that come with sharing information online.

Year 5 have been using watercolour paints to learn about tints, tones and shades in Art. They have been mixing colours to create calm and angry moods, and have used this work to produce a painting of a volcanic eruption. They focused on the different shades of their paints to create the desired impact.

In PE, they have been taking part in a range of challenging fitness activities during their Monday sessions. They have developed their strength, control, balance and flexibility. On Wednesday's they have developed their hockey skills. They have taken part in dribbling and shooting activities, and have enjoyed getting stuck into some small-sided games.

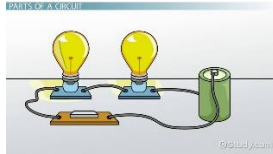
**Year 6:** The Year 6 history topic this term is World War II: Battle of Britain. The children completed a timeline, have researched the causes of the Second World War and have seen archive footage of the time. They have found out about evacuations, who was evacuated and why.



PE has focused on developing football skills and developing fitness skills such as stamina, balance, and agility etc.

In Computing and PSHE, children have been learning about how to keep safe online, for example, making games and creating a slogan for a poster.

In Science, Year 6 children have investigated how different circuits work. They have constructed circuits from rectilinear diagrams, drawn rectilinear diagrams and have been able to trouble-shoot potential problems explaining why some circuits may not work.



Our RE topic has focused on how different belief systems can help people overcome difficulties in their lives and build resilience when faced with such occurrences.

### **OFSTED**

AS you know Ofsted came to carry out a Graded Inspection of Buckstones on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>. and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. October. As soon as we receive our report we will share with you. Ofsted no longer give an overall judgement but will give judgements in Quality of Education, Leadership and management, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and early Years.

The 2 Inspectors spent time in all classrooms, speaking to staff, parents, reviewing the surveys, looking at pupils' books and speaking to children. They did comment how welcoming and how eager all pupils were when they spoke to them. We were all extremely proud of how the children behaved and engaged with the inspectors.

### **CHARITY**

The School Council have arranged a non-uniform day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. October, the money raised will be donated to Dr. Kershaw's so please all remember to wear something green and bring your £1 donation.

### **GOVERNORS**

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Elizabeth Rudd and Mrs Ann Hanaghan have been re-elected as Governors.

The full Governors meet on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>. November.

The Curriculum/ Standards Committee met on 1<sup>st</sup>. October

The items discussed and/or agreed were:

1. School Development Plan
2. Standards Report
3. School Evaluation Form

## PARENTS' EVENINGS:

Parents' Evenings have been arranged for Tuesday and Thursday this week. It has been good to see how many of you have taken the opportunity to come into school to discuss your child's progress.

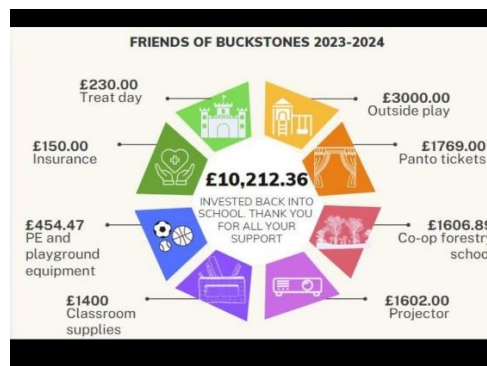
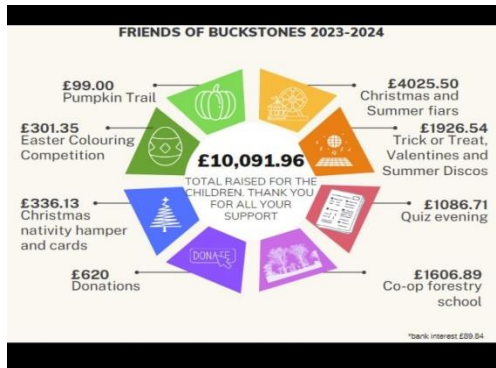
## FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:

The AGM took place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>. September in school. We are pleased to announce the elected members:

- Kim Barry reappointed as Chair.
- Sonya McCabe appointed as Vice Chair.
- Andrea Heslop reappointed as Treasurer.
- Sarah Gledhill appointed as Secretary.

I know you will support and wish them good luck in their roles.

Last year was an amazing year for the Friends of Buckstones.



This shows how much we raised and what we invested the money in.

Friends of Buckstones have also arranged for Christmas card templates to be sent home so the children can all design their own Christmas card. You will have the opportunity to buy a variety of items with your child's personalised design at great prices. Items include additional Christmas cards to send to friends and family, mugs, bags and tea towels. I hope you will be able to support this lovely fundraising idea.

The Friends of Buckstones have also organised a Disco for the children on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>. November.

Infants is 6 until 7.15pm and Juniors is 7.30 until 8.45pm.

ENTRANCE £3.00 to be paid via PARENTPAY (please pay before the event so we know how many children are attending)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE ON SALE!

Prices of refreshments:

Sweets 5p, 10p or 20p

Drinks 40p

Candyfloss 70p

Crisps 70p

Glowsticks, bracelets and rings various prices.

### **PENALTY SHOOT OUT AND YEAR 6 DONATION**

Due to the amazing amount of money we raised we the penalty shoot out we have been able to buy:

- goal posts
- bean bags and other sports equipment such as cones, skipping ropes, blind folds
- music stands

We were also gifted money from last year Year 6's families and we have bought:

- 15x Atlas
- 15x thesaurus
- Maths resources (shapes/clocks)
- Colour monster pop up book
- Colour monster puppets x2
- A4 Frames Rec
- Standing Frames
- Reception blending books

### **DOGS IN SCHOOL**

Please can I ask for the safety of the children in school that if you bring your dog to school, it is carried if it comes onto the playground or tied up at the school gate.

### **HALF TERM:**

School will be closing on Friday 25th. October for 1 week, re-opening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>. November.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey