

Wednesday 2nd. April 2025

Dear Parents,

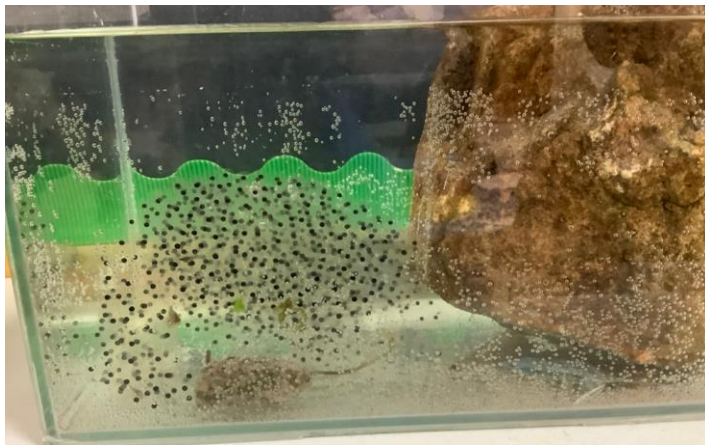
Bonjour !

Easter Newsletter

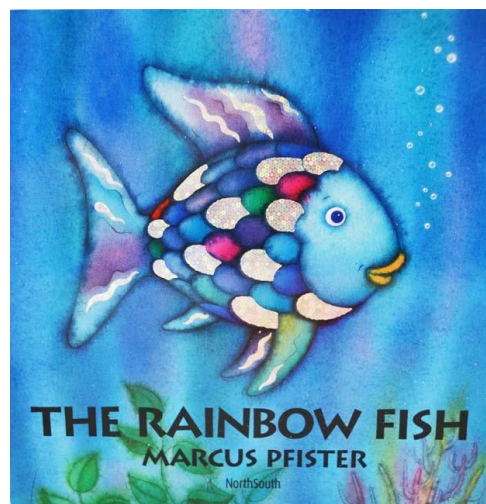
CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

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.



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 their dance and movement skills. They've had a great time learning and performing dances themed around our water topic and have loved pretending to be lots of different sea creatures!

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

Year 1: Our Year 1s have packed an awful lot into this half-term! 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. They also did a great job following a set of instructions to make sandwiches at home!



The children have also enjoyed their 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 about a variety of London landmarks. Most recently, they have had fun looking at various London books, which helped them to come up with ideas for their **DT** topic 'A Moving London Postcard'.

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 months of the year, and have been working on telling the time to o'clock. Please could we ask that

your child practises reading the time - on analogue clock - 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!



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 their geography and English work, they have looked at London in more detail and had a lovely time showing and sharing their London homework with their friends.

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.

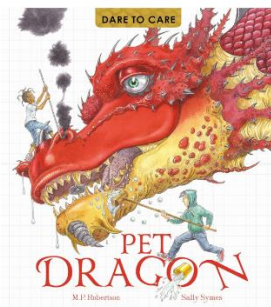
Many thanks again to those of you who have worked with your child on **homework** tasks (including reading and spellings). It is much appreciated and really does make a huge difference. ☺ Well done also to all the children who have completed some - or even all - of their Spring Reading Challenges ...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

Year 2: In Maths, the children have been working extremely hard doubling and halving numbers, finding fractions of shapes and writing mixed number fractions. The children have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, hopping on number lines, making arrays, and recalling multiplication facts from memory. The children have also been recognising the value of coins, and adding coins and notes by counting in tens and ones.



In English, Year 2 have been sharing different dragon stories and describing the different characters in the stories. 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 have also been writing a set of instructions on how to take care of a pet dragon. Year two 'dare to care' for a pet dragon!!



Year 2 have been enjoying their Yoga lessons working on holding different poses by balancing and being mindful. In PE the children have been developing their batting and fielding skills with Mrs Crossley.

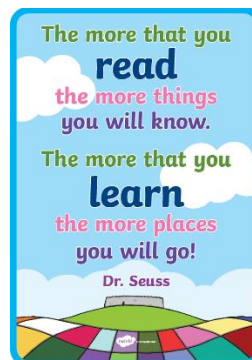
Year 2 have been learning about the beautiful island St Lucia in our geography lessons. The children have been identifying human and physical features on the island, and learning how chocolate is produced.



In our Design and Technology topic, the children have been learning about winding mechanisms. They identified real life examples, then designed their own winding mechanism and decorated a 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.

In RE the children have been focusing on why Easter is important to Christians? They have been reading extracts from the children's bible about the events leading up to Easter, including Palm Sunday, The Last Supper and Good Friday. They made 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, both at school and at home, reading at home really has a positive impact. 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 learnt about 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 highlight of the topic was a trip to Bolton Museum, which significantly developed the children's understanding of Ancient Egyptian life and beliefs. The staff at the museum commented on the children's excellent knowledge and behaviour 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 learning how to write historical reports. They researched one particular aspect of life in Ancient Egypt, before planning and writing their own historical reports on papyrus, decorated with hieroglyphs. The children have taken a great deal of care with this work and should be very proud of the final results. Well done!

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 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 the importance of worship. They have demonstrated clear interest, respect and tolerance of different religious beliefs and practices throughout the year. Well done, Year 3.

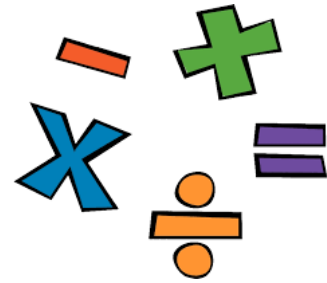
In Computing, the children have enjoyed using Espresso Coding to learn how to program buttons to complete a series of space related coding tasks.

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 - keep up the good work!



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. On our trip to Castleshaw, we even got to have a go at creating Roman testudo formations and finding genuine Roman artifacts!



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.

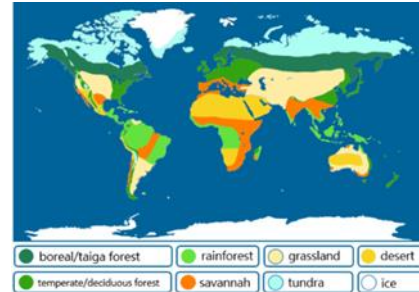
During outdoor P.E, we have been playing tag rugby and the children have developed their throwing, catching and team work skills. We have been dancing in indoor PE, exploring the 1960's 'Twist' dance style and creating our choreography.

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. The children have also written a persuasive letter to Miss Healey after choosing their topic of focus. 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

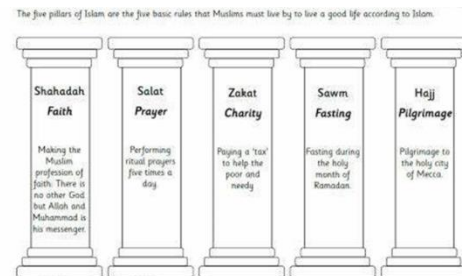


compare and contrast the different areas of the world.

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 PSHE, we have taken part in class discussions about the positives and negatives of the use of social media. We have continued our learning around staying safe when online and using a range of digital technologies.



In Art, we have looked at the work of Andy Warhol. We studied his style of art and focused on the bright colours and repeated images he used. We also focused on using shading, hatching and cross-hatching to show the impact of light on our images.

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.

A main highlight of this half-term has been the learning we have completed during our Enterprise Project. The children worked in teams to create a business, choose an idea and then sell their items during the Enterprise fair in the last week. The children learnt about budgets, income and profits, and had to show their knowledge during the challenging Miss Healey pitches. All children

contributed to their group's business presentation well and moved onto the fair afternoon. They invited all year groups to buy their items and had to use their best persuasive skills. A massive congratulations to all children as the afternoon was a fantastic success and lots of money was raised.

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. They had a very enjoyable trip to the Tower on Friday 28th March.



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 as part of their science topic - about 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 developing their netball skills and learning about maintaining rhythms and movements in Bhangra dancing.

During R.E. sessions they have looked at the work of some charities, how religions encourage giving to charity and how it makes people feel to donate to good causes.

GOVERNORS

Governor meeting	Agenda
Full Governors - 29.1.25	<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 • Discussed a Safeguarding report • EYFS provision • Received a report from the Chair • Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 21.1.25	<p>During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASP/Data Pack • ISDR • Handwriting Policy • Collective Worship Policy
Pay/Finance - 11.3.25	<p>During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Report • 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 - 4.3.2025	<p>During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Risk Assessment • Emergency Lighting update • Electrical Meter update • Kitchen floor and equipment • Dukefield Report
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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 Friday, we raised an amazing £421.80.

STAFFING

Sadly, Miss Ewbank has left Buckstones to take up a new position nearer to her home. Mrs Leavy is still absent from school as she continues to recover.

Miss Sophie Broadbent and Miss Rebecca Hartley are temporarily covering the positions.

School reopens on Tuesday 22nd. April



Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey