

Wednesday 21st. May 2025

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

Summer Half Term Newsletter

CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:



Rec: Reception have had a super half term, immersed in their 'Once Upon a Time' topic. They have enjoyed the different traditional tales that they have been reading and the links to other areas of learning... especially baking and decorating their own little gingerbread people!

In English lessons the children have been using their phonics skills to write independently, by listening carefully to the sounds that they can hear in each word. They've also been learning about the importance of using finger spaces between their words and using these skills to retell some of the traditional tales. The children are also making excellent progress with learning their key words at home and this is really helping with their written work too.



In maths, the children have been working very hard on learning how to double, half and share different amounts. They have also been concentrating on their number formation - making sure that all numbers start at the top and that they use their neatest writing all of



In P.E. lessons the children have been developing their gross motor skills through taking on the movements of different characters, such as animals, astronauts and even circus performers! It has been excellent to see their confidence in these sessions really grow, as well as their independence in getting changed before and after the sessions too.

Our topic has also included learning about King Charles, as well as the legend of St. George and the dragon. The children have enjoyed lots of role-play opportunities and re-telling stories with props in our small-world area. They have also learnt to recognise both the English and British flags.



The children have absolutely loved their forest fun sessions this half term and it has been wonderful to see their interest in the natural world around them. They really have embraced their outdoor learning opportunities and spotting the different seasonal changes which are happening all around them!



Well done for a super half term Reception, you should all be very proud of yourselves! ☺

Year 1: Year 1 have been so busy that this half-term has flown by! In **English** they have been looking at 'Traditional Tales', and have enjoyed the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. They had fun putting themselves into the characters' shoes and came up with some fabulous questions to ask Red Riding Hood. They then made a story map to help them to retell the story in their own words. They were all very proud of their lovely writing.



Their latest English topic is 'Fantasy Stories'. The children have enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Night Pirates' by Peter Harris then created their own pirates on the iPads using Purple Mash, just like the one below. They used these as a starting point for writing their own pirate descriptions. Their next task is to retell and rewrite the story of 'The Night Pirates' in their own words.



In **Maths** they have continued with their work on place value, focusing in particular on using a number line to help them add and subtract to 50 and beyond and have also done some practical work on weight, volume and capacity. As well as continuing to learn their key number facts (number bonds and doubles)

they have also been having a big 'push' on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, ready for learning their times tables in Year 2.

Their latest **Religious Education** topic has been about belonging and the children have really enjoyed talking about the things they belong to, such as their family, school and the many clubs they attend. Their latest **science** topic is 'Plants'. The children have been learning the names of the different parts of plants such as roots, stem, leaves and flower and have enjoyed exploring the plants and trees we have in our school grounds on our spring walk. This topic is to be continued in Summer 2.



In **computing** the children have continued with their work on coding and have enjoyed using the Scratch Junior program to help them learn more about position and direction, as well as the importance of giving clear instructions! We have also been learning how to find and save images using a search engine on the iPads. Their key computing skills are improving all the time and it is lovely to see so many of them now saving and printing their work independently.



This half-term's **history** topic has been very interesting 'Important Women in History', focusing upon Rosa Parks and local activist Annie Kenney. As we've said on Tapestry, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and have blown us away with how well they have tackled tricky topics such as segregation and women's rights.

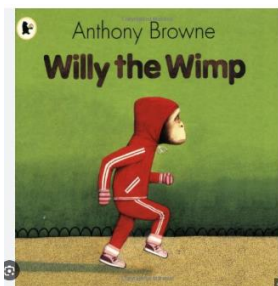
They especially loved their Annie Kenney march around school, where they had great fun chanting 'Votes for Women!' and where they also got to show off their hand-made banners. Thankfully, nobody got arrested like Annie did! If you get the chance over half-term, it would be lovely if you could pay Annie Kenney's statue a visit in Oldham town centre - it's the one outside the old town hall, near the cinema. Please send us a photo on Tapestry if you do 😊.



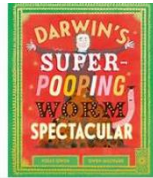
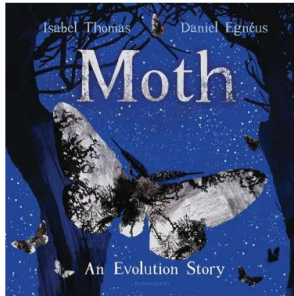
Finally, the children have also been working very hard on their **phonics, reading and spellings** and they should be proud of the progress they have made so far this year. Many thanks for keeping up the good work at home - practising weekly spellings and reading regularly, as well as completing homework tasks, really does make a difference!

Please note that the official phonics screening check for Year 1 children will take place the week beginning 9th June. They really have worked ever so hard this half-term and are now looking forward to a well-deserved half-term break!

Year 2: Anthony Browne's wonderful stories have been the focus of our English lessons this half term. The children really enjoyed sharing his stories and they discovered that although they are picture-based books, they can take lots of deep and thoughtful meaning from them. The children wrote a fantastic character description about the famous 'Willy the Wimp' and was followed by the children writing their own stories about their favourite animal who has a few problems but overcome their fears and emerge as a hero!

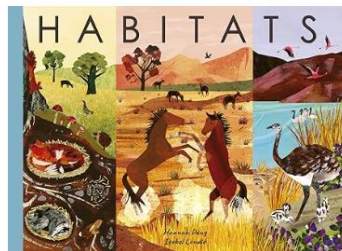


The children have also been researching minibeasts for their non-fiction writing and the projects they completed at home were absolutely wonderful! Well done Year 2!



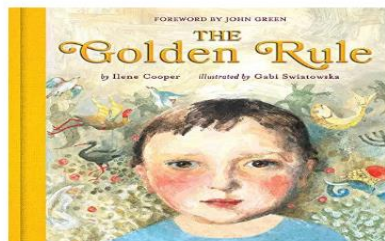
In maths, the children have been focusing on doubling and halving and relating division to fractions, including finding halves, quarters and thirds of amounts. The children have been finding the difference between numbers, by finding the nearest multiple of ten and counting the number of hops between the two numbers. They have also been using column addition and subtraction to solve one step and two step word problems.

As part of our Science topic on Living Things and their Habitats, Year 2 went on a minibeast hunt in our school nature reserve area. The children found slugs, snails, earthworms, woodlice and beetles. They then had to record their findings by creating a pictogram. The children have also been researching some of the different habitats from around the world and understanding why living things are suited to their habitat.



The children have been programming the 'Probot' around a 'swampy' map in computing. They had to work out how to program the 'Probot' to move around the map, being careful to avoid the dangers in and around the swamp!

In RE, the children have been considering how we should care about the world by following 'The Golden Rules,' and finding out how Christians and Muslims care about their communities. The children have been thinking about ways they too could show care for their local communities.



The children have been thinking about what qualities are needed to be a good monarch in our history lessons and they were shocked to discover that not all monarchs made fair or wise decisions. They have learned about the life of Queen Victoria and the important changes and inventions that occurred during her reign.

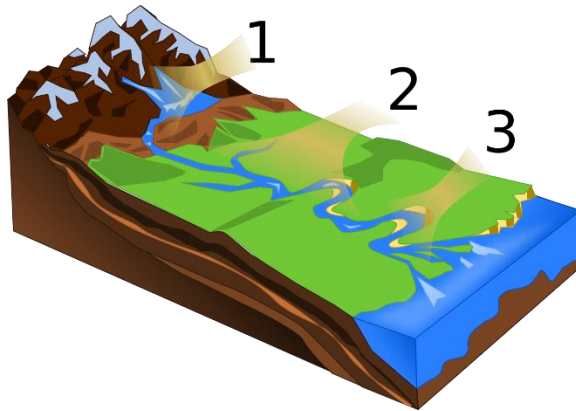


Well done Year 2 for all your hard work this half term!

Maximus' achievement: In January Maximus was inspired to raise money for the charity MND (Motor Neurone Disease) after seeing ex-rugby player Kevin Sinfield run 7 marathons in 7 days to raise money for MND. Maximus ran a mile a day for the 31 days of January, sometimes running in the snow. Maximus has raised an amazing amount of money for the charity and this great achievement has been recognized by the Shaw and Crompton Town Council. Councillor Lee Navesey, Mayor of Shaw and Crompton Town Council, Councillor Lisa Navesey, the Mayor's Consort and Tony Hilton, Chief Officer of Shaw and Crompton Town Council joined us in our Assembly to present Maximus with an award.



Year 3: The Geography topic this term has been Rivers. The children have been learning all about features of rivers and how they are shown on a map. They have learnt how to use a key and grid references to locate specific features on maps. They have independently researched important rivers of the world, producing a fact-file of their findings. We are looking forward to the field trip to Crompton Moor on Friday, 20th June, 2025.



In Science this term, the children have been learning about Rocks. They have completed a survey of the school grounds to record where rocks can be found in the environment, and they worked in pairs to complete a range of experiments, testing the properties of different rocks. The children were very careful and thoughtful in the way they worked, carrying out fair tests and recording and explaining results. Well done!

English work this half this term has focused on Myths and Legends. After reading examples of this genre, the children wrote vivid descriptions of their own mythical creatures, which they included in their own exciting mythical stories. The children have also been working hard to develop their answers to written comprehension tasks, and extend their knowledge of strategies to learn new spellings.

Maths topics the children have been working hard on this term have included calculation strategies for mental addition and subtraction, standard written methods of multiplication and division, fractions, division with remainders and scaling. They have solved one and two-step multiplication and division problems and solved a range of reasoning tasks. Well done in particular to those children who have worked hard to become fluent with their times tables.

In Art, following on from the Ancient Egypt history topic, the children have worked very carefully with clay and mod-roc to make a mummy and a sarcophagus, which they have painted with their own Egyptian inspired design. Well done Year 3!

In Music, the children have been learning about pentatonic scales. They have used glockenspiels to copy and play melodies and have started to compose simple pentatonic melodies of their own, understanding how different arrangements of notes create different moods in the music.

PE lessons have focused on the skills required for Outdoor and Adventurous team games and activities. The children have worked extremely well together, showing they understand that teamwork requires co-operation, trust, listening, sharing ideas and support. Well done!

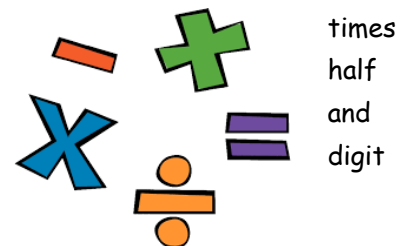
In French, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of musical instruments. They have enjoyed completing a variety of games and activities, such as listening to the sounds of the instruments and matching them to the correct instrument.

Year 3 have been busy Coding this half term. Some of the skills they have learnt in Coding are: to sequence and order events using codes, to write codes that use a timer to create a sequence of events and to input codes to trigger on/off responses.

Money Matters has been a very interesting topic and great conversation starter for the children during their PSHE lessons. They have been learning how to make sensible spending choices and have dealt with various scenarios where people have to make a choice between "wants" and "needs". They have demonstrated a mature attitude throughout this topic and have really enjoyed it. Well done Year 3.

Year 4: Well done Year 4 for another brilliant half term!

In Maths, we have been knuckling down and practicing our tables in preparation for our Multiplication Tables Check after term! We have also been looking at fractions, decimals, shape written methods for multiplying three-digit numbers by one-numbers.



This half term's English began with poetry, studying a range of different forms of poetry including kennings, haikus and limericks. We have written our own version of each of these forms and had great success. Our second piece of writing has been centred around stories with a dilemma or issue. We looked at a range of stories whereby the main character had a choice to make, and wrote our own stories based on a character called Jack and his difficult dilemma.

In science, we have been exploring sound. We have investigated how sound travels through different mediums, how to change the pitch of a sound, and carried out an experiment into the effectiveness of different materials to create soundproofing. We even made our own very successful (cup) phones!



Our history topic this term has been the Anglo Saxons. We have explored why the Angles, Saxons and Jutes decided to settle in Britain after the Romans left and the long-term impact they have had on Britain, particularly on place names! The children have also been researching Anglo Saxon religious beliefs and turning their research into brilliant powerpoint presentations

In outdoor P.E, we have been learning how to play basketball. The children have really developed their passing, shooting and defending skills. As a special event, Lancashire Cricket Club also ran an amazing session for the children. During indoor P.E on a Mondays, we have been developing our mindfulness and flexibility through yoga.



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We also had the opportunity to visit a local Mandir, a Hindu temple. The children were fantastically well behaved and incredibly engaged with the experience. We all came away with a much deeper understanding and appreciation of the Hindu faith, which we will continue to study next half term.



Have a lovely half term everyone!

Year 5: The highlight of this half-term was the 2-night residential trip to the Anderton Centre. All children displayed high levels of responsibility and maturity during the stay. They had an amazing time and participated enthusiastically in a range of activities such as: archery, tree climbing and paddle-boarding. The whole class were very well-behaved and represented Buckstones fantastically. It was lovely to see how supportive and encouraging the children were to each other.

The five pillars of Islam are the five basic rules that Muslims must live by to live a good life according to Islam.



In RE, we have learnt about the 5 Pillars of Islam. We focused on each one and learnt about the importance of following them for Muslims.

In science, we have been learning all about animals and their habitats including the important work of Jane Goodall and David Attenborough. We learnt about plant and animal reproduction, and researched mammal life cycles.



In DT, we have learnt about how cams work to create different movements and actions. We planned our own moving toy using a cam and then worked hard to create our idea using a handle, axle, cam, follower and slider.



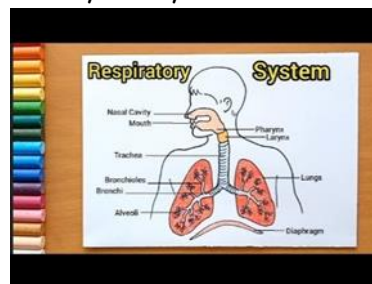
In English, we worked as a class and then in smaller groups to learn the poem 'Gran Can You Rap?' and then wrote our own versions. We then used our imaginations and creativity well when writing a tension-filled story starter including fantastic description and dialogue.

In PE on Mondays, we have completed different team building activities and developed our communication skills. We have focused on improving our cricket skills during our sessions on Wednesdays, including learning how to overarm bowl.

We have started our Geography topic about Coasts and will continue this learning next half-term, including a trip to Southport Eco Centre to learn about coastal features and methods of managing the impact of the sea on the coastline.

Year 6: Year 6 have worked hard this half term in preparation for the SATs and have tried really hard during that intense week. Well done.

Their Science topic is based on the human body, specifically the importance of the circulatory system and how it connects with other systems in the body. They have made a simple model of the



heart and how it relates to the respiratory system.

In P.E., they have been working on two different dance styles: contemporary and disco. The contemporary dance involved the use of personal expression based on the theme of 'Waiting for..' to develop a dance phrase using actions, dynamics, space and relationships. Disco dance required the children to copy and repeat a phrase of movement and choreograph a freeze frame montage in the 1970s style.

In History, the children have been learning about ancient Greece. They have learned that Greece did not exist as one country in ancient times but as a series of city states, what life was like in ancient Greece and have completed a timeline involving key events.

The Music topic, this term, has involved the use of the GarageBand app to create a piece of music which could include guitar chord sequences, drum loop, bass guitar and keyboard chord sequence.

STAFFING NEWS:

Teachers for next year are:

Class	Teacher
Reception	Mrs. Amy Pearson
Year 1	Miss Melanie Platt Monday-Wednesday Mrs. Linda Tetlow Thursday - Friday
Year 2	Mrs. Katie Littlewood
Year 3	Mrs. Rachel Phythian Monday - Tuesday Mrs. Joanne Charnley Wednesday - Friday
Year 4	Mrs. Monica Hughes
Year 5	Mr. Mark Hazlehurst
Year 6	Mrs. Karen Adamson

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:

Next half term the Friends of Buckstones will be planning for the Summer Fair and Treat Day and the Summer Disco. Anyone who would like to help out or organise these events please contact school.

DOGS IN THE PLAYGROUND:

I am sure you all know how much I love dogs but can I please ask for the safety of all our visitors, that if you have a dog it is carried when coming onto the school grounds. If you are unable to carry your dog please could you leave it tied at the gates.

SUN SAFE POLICY:

I would like to remind you of our Sun Safe Policy. The children can be outside at lunchtime for a long time and although we do have some shaded areas, for much of this time the children enjoy playing on our fields.

Children must bring in with them a sun hat to wear but these do not always protect them fully. We recommend that you put a high factor sun cream on your child before they come to school in the

morning. Also, children can bring in their own NAMED sun cream, for them to apply to themselves before they play out. Companies now do make long lasting sun creams.

For this to work and cause the least amount of fuss, it is important that you teach the children at home how much to apply and where to apply it. It must also be stressed that they are not to share sun creams. If the children do not have sun creams on them we will encourage them to cover up or stay in the shade.

This warm weather also causes hay fever to start. If your child has hay fever please inform school and if they need any medication during the school day please send in written permission and name the medication.

We break up for half term today on Friday 23rd. May and return to school on Wednesday 4th. June.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E. Healey