

Wednesday 16th. July 2025

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. The trip to Smithills farm was a brilliant start to the topic and gave the children so many 'hands-on' experiences, which hopefully they will remember for many years to come.



The children 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.

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 they have finished their pirate topic and had great fun working out what their pirate names would be! They have also done some more work on Information Texts and have been working hard on using adjectives and asking questions, to make their writing more exciting. They then wrote postcards to Fudge from Antarctica, which were amazing!!!



The children have also been working extremely hard on their phonics. They should be very proud of the progress they have made with their phonics work this year and as we have said before, they absolutely blew us away in phonics screening check week ☺.

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, multiplication and fractions (halves and quarters).

Topic-wise they have covered 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 more about some of the other continents too ☺. They especially enjoyed our visit from Freshwater Theatre Company, where they had fun exploring the continents and oceans with an 'Earth Explorer'.

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, collage and brusho dyes. Some of the artwork they have produced has been truly beautiful!

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

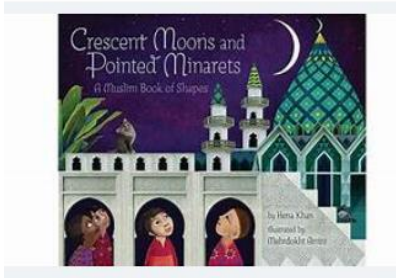
In RE we have looked at what it means to be part of a community. We looked at belonging to a family, school, church and discussed why naming ceremonies are so important in many different religions, in particular Islam and Christianity. We also had a very enjoyable afternoon visiting St. James' church in Shaw. Finally, we have looked at books that are special to us 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 taking part in sports day, summer fair, our end-of-year disco, as well as our Friends of Buckstones Treat Day; what a fun end to the year!

Year 2: Year 2 have had a very busy summer term. In our English lessons, we 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 children also enjoyed our poetry topic, sharing and reciting funny poems and doing a fabulous job of writing their own poem.



In RE, the children have been learning about sacred places and really enjoyed reading the book 'Crescent Moons and Minarets'. Sadly, our visit to the Mosque couldn't go ahead this year but the children have enjoyed learning about the features of a sacred place and why Hajj is so significant to Muslim people.



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, the children have been telling the time to the nearest five minutes and working out what time it would be ten minutes later. The children have also been learning to find a fraction of an amount. Year 2 have also been learning their 3 times tables, and are very competitive! Well done Year 2 for all your hard work in maths this year, keep practising your 2s, 3s, 5s and 10 times tables ready for heading into the Juniors in September.

In Science, the children carried out an investigation to find out what conditions are needed for seeds to grow into a healthy plant. They also (patiently) observed beans germinate and studied the life cycle of a bean.



All of the children have worked incredibly hard this year and it has been a joy to watch them grow and mature! They completed reading, maths and spag assessments this half term too and we are very proud of all the children for all that they have achieved! Thank you for the continued support

with home reading and spelling homework, it really does make such a positive difference. I hope everyone has a relaxing Summer break and I wish the children all the best as they move into the Juniors!

Year 3:



On Friday 20th 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 will be on display in the Junior Craft Bay. Well done, Year 3!



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. Their work has been completed with care and accuracy, and their understanding has been reflected in their excellent use of vocabulary when explaining their findings. Great work Year 3!

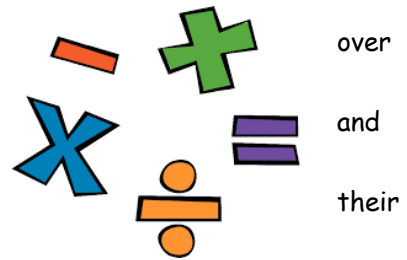
In Computing, Year 3 have been using a program to match recorded sounds to corresponding instruments. They have looked at symbol cards and discussed which symbol would represent the sound made by the instrument. Next, they experimented with various percussion instruments, different sounds and beats, different tempo and volume, and created their own music. Once finalised, each group recorded their performances using i-Pads. Year 3 worked cooperatively and were able to complete the task with success. Well done!

In English, the children have been studying favourite authors. They have written some lovely letters to their own personal favourite author. These have all now been posted, so fingers crossed for replies! The children have also 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.

Our Maths work this term has focused on statistics, mass, fractions including tenths, identifying the correct operations to use in solving word problems and revision. They have been learning about am and pm in their time lessons and have started to learn about the 24-hour clock. They have been counting forwards and backwards to calculate duration of events. 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 the year. We have also been exploring co-ordinates and statistics, learning how to draw and interpret line and bar graphs 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 change something about school life. We have asked for all sorts, including class pets and no school uniform. Their letters were well written and convincing, although we will be keeping school uniform! We have also been exploring the Anglo Saxon 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. The children have researched significant religious buildings created by Anglo Saxon Christians, such as Lindisfarne Priory and Canterbury Cathedral, 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 focused on developing the children's cricketing skills. We have lots of chances to practice fielding, batting and bowling and have even had the opportunity to play some quick matches with the Year 5's. On Mondays, our PE lessons moved outside where we practiced a range of different athletics activities including running, throwing and jumping. This has been perfect preparation for our Sports Day!

We have been treated to some fantastic workshops this half term, including a session hosted by a published illustrator and author in association with Oldham Library, and an amazing circus experience! The class have had the chance to show a huge range of skills, from drawing to plate spinning.

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

Year 5: Year 5 have been learning about coasts as part of their geography this half term. They focused on human and physical features of a coastal 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 starry 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.

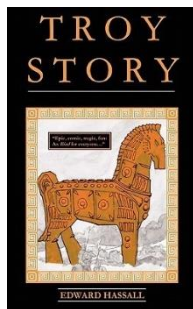


In Science, Year 6 children have learned about evolution and inheritance: how fossil evidence has been used to shape evolution theory; inherited and adaptive traits; and advantages and disadvantages of adaptation.

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 an electrical vehicle using their knowledge of circuits from the first term.

Preparations for the Year 6 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.

MEMBERS OF STAFF:

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to some of our staff members this term. Mrs McGowan and Mrs Dunkerley are leaving. They have been Middays at the school for a number of years and we will be sorry to see them leave.

Also Mrs. Christine Buckley is leaving us at the end of the term to take up a new role in another school. Although Mrs Buckley hasn't been with us for many years, she has made a big contribution to the pupils she has worked with.

We wish them all well in their new adventures.

SCHOOL BAND: The School Brass Band performed at the Oldham Music Festival on Tuesday 1st 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.

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:

Once again, the Friends of Buckstones have done an amazing job this term. They have organised the Summer Fair, our Treat Day, refreshments for the Sports Afternoon and the end of year disco.

Over the Summer holidays we are going to have the markings on the playgrounds repainted and all classes have received money to buy things for their classrooms and we received a donation for books to be bought for class libraries. I know all the teachers were extremely grateful for the donations they have received.

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!

I would also like to say a personal thank you to Mrs Kim Barry and Mrs Andrea Heslop for all their hard work and support over the years, they will both be missed.

GOVERNORS:

Governor meeting	Agenda
Full Governors - 11.6.2025	<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 Received reports from Governors who had visited the school Reported on the fire drill and lockdown drill
Curriculum Committee Meeting - 29.4.2025	<p>During the meeting the Governors agreed and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Preparing Reception to be Year 1 ready Plan Oldham Agreed Syllabus for R.E Careers Afternoon
Pay/Finance - 20.5.2025	<p>During the meeting the Governors discussed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New budget - overview Staffing update Lettings

Premises/Health and Safety/Wellbeing/Health and Safety/Safeguarding - 24.6.2025	<p>During the meeting the Governors reviewed and/or agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Dog in School Policy • Health and Safety Walk around school
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LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY:

Parents from each Year 6 family have been invited to come and watch the Leavers' Assembly on Friday 18th. 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 with a small bobble - no large bows or bobbles please.

School will be closing on Friday 18th. July until Tuesday 2nd. September.

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

S.E.Healey