

Thursday 23rd. October 2025

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !



Autumn Half Term Newsletter



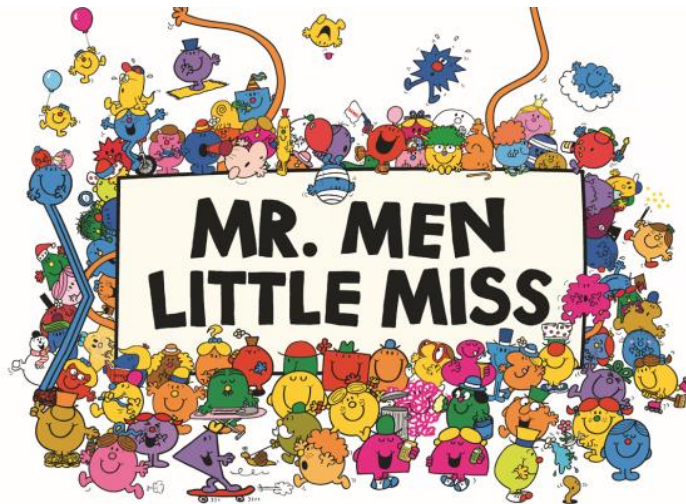
CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

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



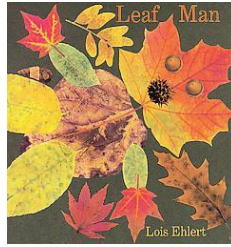
explore, climb trees and collect lots of natural treasures to bring back to our classroom to investigate and create with too.

What a busy and wonderful first half term in Reception! 😊



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

Much of their **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 their 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. ☺

In **phonics** they are busy recapping the Level 3 phonemes and key words, and some of them are due to start Level 4 after the half-term break. It is lovely to see the children's hard work beginning to pay off in their reading and spelling. There continues to be a big 'push' on **handwriting** and correct letter formation - many thanks to everyone for supporting us with this at home.



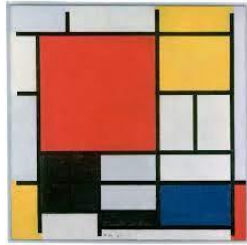
In **maths**, the big 'push' for the children has been making sure their numbers are formed correctly, as well as securing their understanding of the language of place value. They have been working on calculations within 10 and are doing well learning their number bonds to 10.

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.



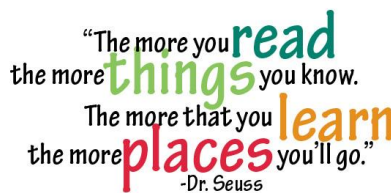
In **RE** they have been learning about Christianity - finding out who is a Christian and what Christians believe. It is a lovely starting point for next half-term, when they will be learning all about Christmas and why it is important to Christians.

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 Local Area **Geography** work, 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 enjoyed going up to the bus terminus to take photos of the area around our school.

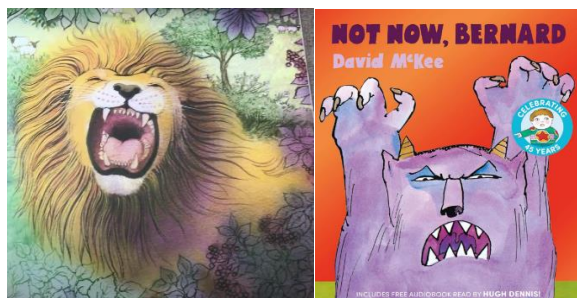


Many thanks to those of you who have supported your child when completing our homework tasks, including hearing your children read. Our Year 1 Team cannot express how much of a difference home reading makes to your child's confidence and fluency. Your support is very much appreciated and it really does make a huge difference 😊

Everyone is incredibly proud of how hard the children have worked this half term; enjoy your well-deserved rest over the half-term break, Year 1! 😊

Year 2: All the children have settled really well into Year and they have had a very busy first half term.

In English the children have been writing animal stories in a familiar setting, based upon the books 'A Lion in the Meadow', 'Not Now Bernard' and 'There's No Such Thing as a Dragon'.



They 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. Well done Year 2!

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 too. They have also been drawing lines of symmetry in 2D shapes and identifying which shapes have right angles as well. The children are becoming more confident in explaining their answers too!

Our Geography topic focused on the geographical features in our local area and children completed the 'Shaw Trail' as their fieldwork. The children followed a set of questions to guide them from school into the centre of Shaw. The children were so well behaved and we were super proud of their observations and questions.

When following the trail, children learned a bit more about what life might have been like in the past by looking at the different types of houses and the shapes and sizes of other buildings. They had to find the dates on houses and buildings around Shaw and discuss why some streets have cobbled roads and the reason why some terrace houses have outdoor buildings. The children have also 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 cotton mills.



In PE the children have been developing their 'Team Building' skills. The children had to work co-operatively and communicate clearly to solve a range of challenges. They had to discuss, plan and reflect on their strategies to solve the challenges. The children showed great determination and perseverance skills to complete all of the challenges as a team.

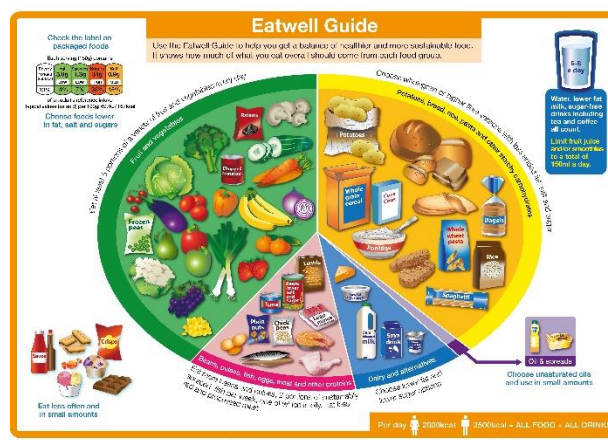
The children have been learning about the importance of 'safe searching and sharing' in our computing lessons. Using Purple Mash, the children learned that what they share online is there for all to see so they need to be happy and confident that what they are sharing online is appropriate. The children were happy to share the work they did on 'emotions' to the 'Buckstones Dashboard'.

In Design and Technology, the children have designed and created their own animal puppet! They researched different types of puppets and then planned what they would like their own puppet to look like. They have done a wonderful job!

It is wonderful 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 very 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 description of a familiar setting, i.e. 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 clear, detailed recipe instructions for their special sandwiches as part of their DT topic

work. For the Performance Poetry unit of work, the children have enjoyed writing their own entertaining verses for a humorous poem entitled 'Seven Little Children'. In Reading, the children have developed the quality of their written answers to comprehension questions by beginning to infer meaning and by 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, 3D shapes and using number lines to find the difference between two numbers. The children have worked hard to develop their mental calculation strategies, and to develop their problem-solving and reasoning skills. 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 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.

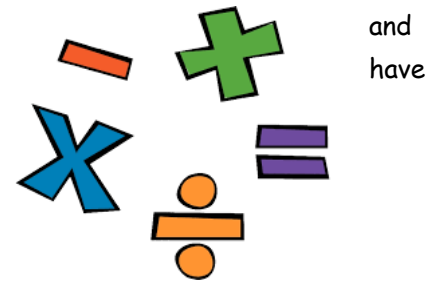
In the DT unit of work, linked to the Science topic, the children investigated, designed and made some eye-catching healthy sandwiches for special occasions. They each worked with a great deal of thought and care to produce an original sandwich that was a balanced meal. They worked very carefully during 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!

Year 3 have been learning about safe emailing during their Computing lessons. They have been learning how to recognize the signs of what a safe and trusted email might look like as opposed to what an unsafe and untrustworthy email might look like. They have used 'Purple Mash 2email' to compose and respond to emails from their friends and teacher. They have enjoyed their computing lessons and have participated enthusiastically.

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 written methods for addition, subtraction and multiplication. We also begun to revisit time and measure. Everyone has worked incredibly hard on their times tables and we have been really impressed by everyone's hard work on TT Rockstars!

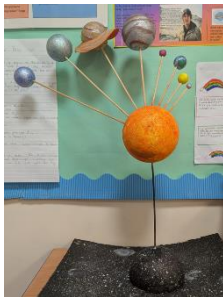


In English, we began the year by writing a set of instructions for how to wash a woolly mammoth - we thought of some really creative methods! We then wrote beautiful descriptive poems about a gentle wolf from the myth of Romulus and Remus, using figurative devices such as similes, metaphors, personification and hyperbole. We have finished the half term with a diary entry based on the stories from a book called 'Who Pushed Humpty Dumpty?' Through these diary entries we have been investigating a range of mysteries and crimes linked to nursery rhymes.



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. They have also been thinking very deeply about the way in which the environment is affected by human behaviour and how this impacts wildlife.

In Geography, we have been learning more about Manchester - its history, human and physical features and its importance in the country and the world. As part of this, the children created amazing research projects all about significant individuals from the Manchester area. Brian Cox, Emmeline Pankhurst and L.S Lowry were popular choices, alongside Danny Boyle, Suranne Jones and Mark Heffron. We will be continuing this theme next half term as we explore the industrial revolution in more detail.



In Art, the children have been learning about L.S Lowry. They have practiced drawing industrial scenes using perspective and are getting to grips with his famous 'matchstick men' style.

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. Our topic ended with a Viking visitor coming into school to give us a hands-on experience of some of the things we have been learning about.



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.



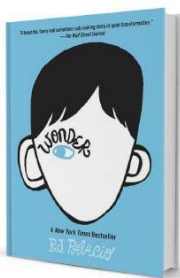
In RE, Year 5 have focused on the values of Humanists and compared these to those of Christians. They learnt about the code of conduct that Humanists follow and thought about their own values and what matters most to them.

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.

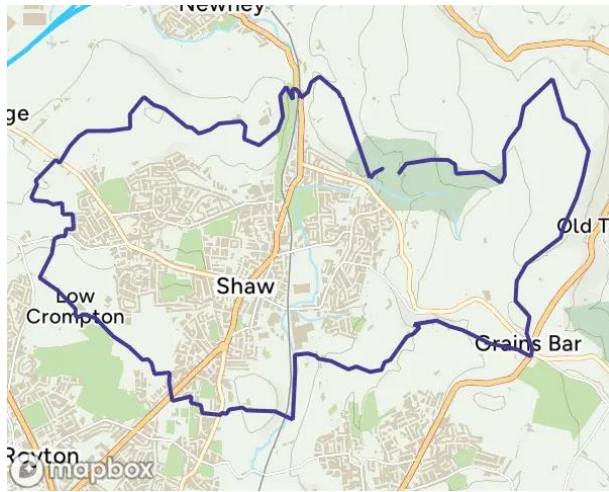
In DT, they have learnt about seasonality, and where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed. They learnt how to prepare and cook a Spanish Omelette in their food sessions and most enjoyed their finished products. All children took part in their cooking session sensibly.

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 tennis skills. They have improved their serving skills as well as learning the how to use forehand, backhand and volley shots to return.



We have started reading 'Wonder' as a class text and have enjoyed learning about August (Auggie) and how he has started school. The children have shown fantastic maturity during our class discussions about the topics in the book, and we look forward to continuing this next half-term.

Year 6: Year 6 children have been focusing on geography this half term. They have identified the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle and the Prime/Greenwich Meridian. They have also read a variety of different maps including OS maps.



In Science, Year 6 children have investigated light and how we see. They have constructed a light tunnel to investigate how materials reflect light and how light travels in rays.

PE has focused on developing football skills and developing teamwork in outdoor and adventurous activities including orienteering which is linked to geography and map reading etc. They had two very successful trips to Castleshaw and Dove Stones to orienteer in an unfamiliar setting.



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.

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.

CHARITY

The School Council have arranged a non-uniform day on Friday 24th. October, the money raised will be donated to MIND so please all remember to wear a funny hat and bring your £1 donation.

GOVERNORS

Sadly, after more than 25 years as a Governor and Chair of Governors Mr. Stephen Beckley has decided to step down from his role. Mr Beckley has given advice. Support and challenge during his time as Chair and his leadership, knowledge and patience will be greatly missed.

Mr James Woodward has been elected as the new Chair of Governors and Mrs Janet Moorish has been elected as the Vice Chair.

I am also pleased to announce that Mr. Guest has been elected as a Parent Governor. Thank you to Mrs Jenny Allen for her years as a Parent Governor her support and interest have been greatly appreciated.

The full Governors meet on Wednesday 5th. November.

The Curriculum/ Standards Committee met on 30th. September.

The items discussed and/or agreed were:

1. School Development Plan
2. Standards Report
3. School Evaluation Form
4. New Agreed Syllabus for R.E.

PARENTS' EVENINGS:

Parents' Evenings have been arranged for Tuesday and Thursday this week. It is 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 25th. September in school. We are pleased to announce the elected members:

- Rachael Starkey appointed as Chair.
- Sonya McCabe appointed as Vice Chair.
- Leanne Bonser appointed as Treasurer.
- Sarah Carr appointed as Secretary.

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

The winning pumpkin design will be announced in assembly on Friday 24th. October.

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 6th. November.

Reception is 3pm until 4pm. ENTRANCE and sweets is £2.00

Year 1 and 2 is 6 until 7.15pm and Juniors is 7.30 until 8.45pm.

ENTRANCE £3.50 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.

HALF TERM:

School will be closing on Friday 24th. October for 1 week, re-opening on Monday 3rd. November.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E.Healey