

Wednesday 20th. May 2026

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

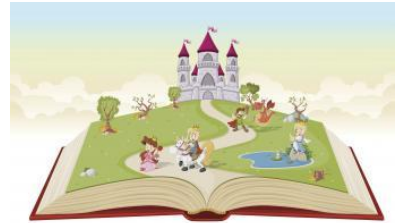
Summer Half Term Newsletter

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 the time!



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 his 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 The Wolf and Red Riding Hood. They also made a story map to help them to retell the story in their own words. They were all very proud of their lovely work.



This week's English topic is 'Fantasy Stories'. The children have enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Night Pirates' by Peter Harris and they have done a lovely job coming up with amazing adjectives to describe both the characters and the setting. Their next task is to write a pirate description, and to come up with some interesting questions to ask a pirate, should they ever get to meet one!



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.



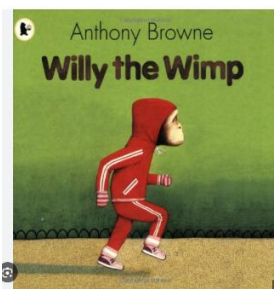
We have introduced a new **history** topic this term - 'Important Women in History', focusing upon Rosa Parks and local activist Annie Kenney. The topic has provoked some really interesting questions and discussions with the class.



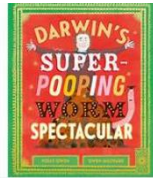
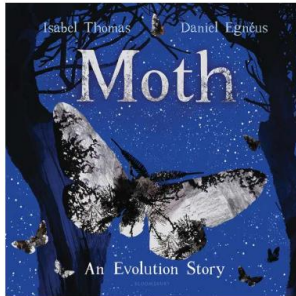
Finally, the children have also been working very hard on their **phonics, reading and spellings** and they should be proud of the progress they have made so far this year. Many thanks for keeping up the good work at home - practising weekly spellings and reading regularly, as well as completing homework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

Please note that the official phonics screening check for Year 1 children will take place the week beginning 8th June. The children now have a little pack in their books bags to help practise their phonics. 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 discovering 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!' This was followed with the children writing their own stories, about their favourite animal that has a few problems, but they overcome their fears and emerge as a hero!

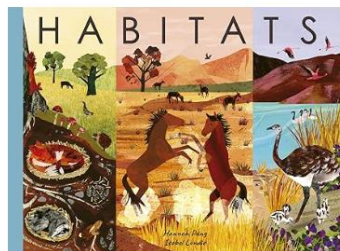


The children have also been researching minibeasts as part of their non-fiction writing! They have thoroughly enjoyed finding out the most weird and wonderful facts and have used these to inspire their writing.



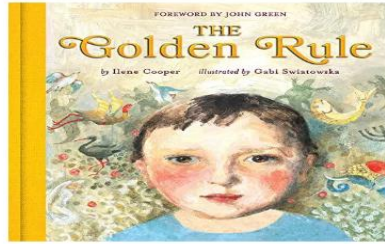
In maths, the children have been focusing on doubling and halving and relating division to fractions, including finding halves, quarters and thirds of amounts. The children have been finding the difference between numbers, by finding the nearest multiple of ten and counting the number of hops between 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 lovely nature area. The children found slugs, snails, earthworms, woodlice and beetles. They recorded 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.



In computing the children have been programming the 'Probot' to move around a 'swampy' map. 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.



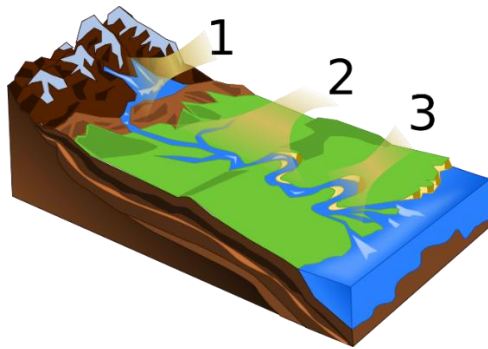
The children have been thinking about what qualities are needed to be a good monarch in our history lessons and they were shocked to discover that not all monarchs made fair or wise decisions. They have carried out research on the life of Queen Victoria, and discovered the important changes and inventions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



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

Year 3: The children have been very busy in their English lessons this half term. They have used the independent research they did in the Ancient Egypt topic to complete informative historical reports on papyrus, which they decorated with hieroglyphs. Some of these are now on display in the Junior Craft Bay. The main Writing topic for this half term has been Adventure and Mystery stories. The children have 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. 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.

The Geography topic this term has been Rivers. The children have been learning how important rivers are, what the main features of a river system are and how these are shown on a map. They have also learnt how to use a key and grid references to locate specific features on maps. They have independently researched important rivers of the world, in order to write a fact-file of their findings.



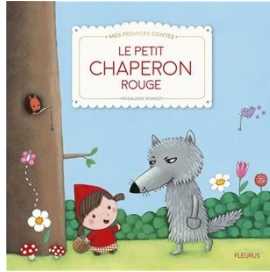
In Science this term, the children have been learning about Rocks. They have completed a survey of the school grounds to record where rocks can be found in the environment. They have worked in small groups to test the properties of different rocks and they carefully recorded their findings. The children were very careful and thoughtful in the way they worked together to study the rocks. They carried out fair tests and recorded and explained their results clearly. They have also been learning about how fossils are formed and have even created some very impressive sketches of the fossils they have studied in class.

The children have also been working very hard in Maths. They have learnt calculation strategies for mental addition and subtraction, standard written methods of multiplication and division, division with remainders and scaling. They have completed a range of activities related to mass & capacity, including solving one and two-step problems and tackling a range of reasoning tasks. Well done!

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 paint a sarcophagus for it with their own Egyptian inspired design. Well done Year 3!

PE lessons have focused on the skills required for Outdoor and Adventurous team games and activities. They have also been introduced to the basic skills of map reading for orienteering. The children have been learning how important it is to work well together, showing they understand that teamwork requires co-operation, trust, listening, sharing ideas and support. Well done!

In French, the children have been listening to the story of Little Red Riding Hood in French - le petit chaperon rouge. They have been familiarising themselves with words and phrases in the story such as character names and body parts.

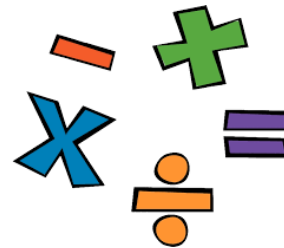


Year 3 have been busy Coding as part of computing this half term. Some of the skills they have learnt in Coding are: to sequence and order events using codes, to write codes that use a timer to create a sequence of events and to input codes to trigger on/off responses.

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. They have also been learning about Friendships as part of their Relationships work in PSHE. There have been lots of great contributions to class discussions about what makes a healthy friendship and which strategies to use when dealing with various tricky situations. 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 times tables in preparation for our Multiplication Tables Check after half term! We have also been looking at fractions, decimals, shape and written methods for multiplying three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers.



This half term's English began with a diary entry based on the story of Kasper, Prince of Cats by Michael Morpurgo. We retold the events of a memorable day from the story where the main character, Johnny, rescues a young girl from the roof of the Savoy Hotel. The children loved this work and produced some fantastic diary entries. We then moved on to writing an adventure story, inspired by one of the illustrations in a book called The Mystery of Harris Burdick. The children's imaginations shone brilliantly in this topic - well done!

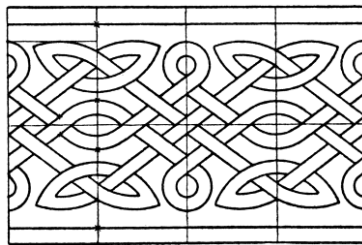


In science, we have been exploring sound. We have investigated how sound travels through different mediums, how to change the pitch of a sound, and carried out an experiment into the effectiveness of different materials to create soundproofing. As a homework, the children even had the opportunity to make their own (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! They have also learned about the pagan beliefs the Anglo Saxons held before they converted to Christianity.



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.



In computing, the children have been creating their own animations using Purple Mash. They began with simple flip books and have progressed on to using onion skinning to tell wonderfully creative narratives through their animations. For art, Year 4 have been learning about different printing techniques and have made their own printing blocks based on Anglo Saxon artwork.

The countdown to summer begins!

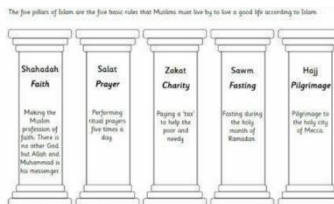
Have a lovely half term everyone.

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 of each other.



Anderton Centre
Outdoor Learning & Activities

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 animal 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 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.

Our topic in French has been 'Les vêtements'. We have learnt the name of different items of clothing and how to say what we are wearing at different times.

In PSHE, we have focused on how to stay safe when online. We have looked at our digital lives including online relationships, our use of social media, online bullying and identifying the accuracy of information online.

In our computing lessons, we have focused on using 2DIY3D to plan and create own own game on Purple Mash. The children have enjoyed adding characters and baddies to create challenging games they have played with their friends.

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 contemporary dance involving the use of personal expression based on the theme of 'Waiting for..' to develop a dance phrase using actions, dynamics, space and relationships.

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 and Teaching assistant
Reception	Mrs. Amy Pearson and Mrs Cathy Hall
Year 1	Mrs. Katie Littlewood and Mrs Amy Crossley
Year 2	Mrs. Monica Hughes and Mrs Claire Harding

Year 3	Mrs. Linda Tetlow Monday - Tuesday Mrs. Joanne Charnley Wednesday - Friday and Mrs Nazira Begum
Year 4	Miss. Eve West and Mrs Gill Leavy
Year 5	Mrs. Rachel Phythian Monday - Wednesday am Miss Melanie Platt Wednesday pm - Friday and Mrs. Alston Nelson
Year 6	Mr. Mark Hazlehurst and Miss Beth Ewbank

The children will all get the opportunity to meet their new teacher on Thursday 16th. July.

Mr. Lynch will be visiting school on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th. June.

FRIENDS OF BUCKSTONES:

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

On Friday 10th July there will be a Treat Day/ Celebration Day for all the school. More details will follow after half term.

We break up for half term today on Friday 22nd. May and return to school on Thursday 4th. June.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E. Healey