

Wednesday 22nd. May 2024

Dear Parents,

Bonjour !

Summer Half Term Newsletter

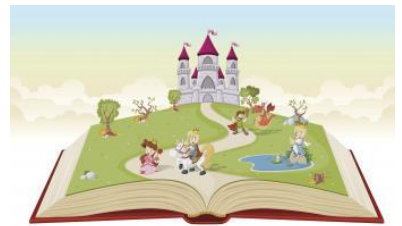
CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES:

This half term the children from all the classes have been involved in a variety of enrichment activities.



Reception: Reception have had a super half term, immersed in their 'Once Upon a Time' topic. They have loved 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 outdoor P.E. lessons the children have been developing their gross motor skills through using the large outdoor equipment, bikes and scooters. 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 school 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 hence organising their special end of term trip to a 'real' forest school!

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! They started the half-term by taking a pretend day trip to London ☺ They completed their **Design-Technology** project (A Moving London Postcard) and made some beautiful postcards of London. Not only did they design their backgrounds on the computer, all of the postcards had moving parts such as a spinning London Eye and boats going up and down the River Thames.

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 Granny, The Wolf and 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 story writing.



This week's 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 computer using Purple Mash, just like the one below. 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 **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. They have been learning all about trees and have impressed us with their ability to name and explain terms such as evergreen and deciduous! This work has also fitted in nicely with their work on Seasons.



In **computing** the children have continued with their work on coding and have enjoyed using Bee Bot 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. To finish the children created their own Pic Collage of all the images they had found. 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.



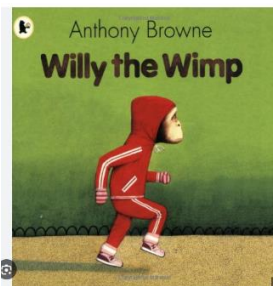
We have introduced a new **history** topic this term - 'Important Women in History', focusing upon Rosa Parks and local activist Annie Kenney. As we said on Tapestry, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and have blown us away with how well they have tackled tricky topics such as segregation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



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 10th 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. The children really enjoyed reading his stories and they discovered that although they are very picture-based books, they can take lots of deep and complicated meanings from them. They have written some fantastic character descriptions about the famous 'Willy the Wimp'. This was followed up by the children writing their own stories based on an animal description who after a few problems overcome their fears and emerge as a hero!



In maths the children have been focusing on doubling and halving as inverse operations, and relate 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 hops between the 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 grounds. The children found slugs, snails, earthworms, woodlice and beetles and

recorded their findings using a pictogram. They have also been learning about some of the different habitats from around the world and why living things are suited to their habitat and how they depend on each other.

In computing, the children have been directing the 'Probot' around a 'swamp' map. They worked out how to instruct the 'Probot' to move around the map, being careful to avoid the dangers in and around the swamp!

In RE, children have been learning how we should care about the world by following 'The Golden Rules,' and how Christians and Muslims care about their community.

In history, children have been thinking about what qualities make a good monarch. They have read about the life of Queen Victoria and the important changes that occurred during her reign.



A huge well done to Year 2 for all of their hard work and dedication this term!

Year 3: In Science this term, the children have been learning about Rocks and Fossils. They 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. I was impressed with the careful and thoughtful way the children worked, carrying out fair tests and recording and explaining results.



In English this term, Year 3 have been reading and writing performance poems and finding out more about their favourite authors. They have worked thoughtfully to produce some very funny versions of Ten Little Children. After watching the opening scene of *The BFG*, they have looked at how Roald Dahl created effective story openings and memorable characters. They have produced an author study after researching the life of Roald Dahl and they have written some interesting book reviews to share with their classmates.

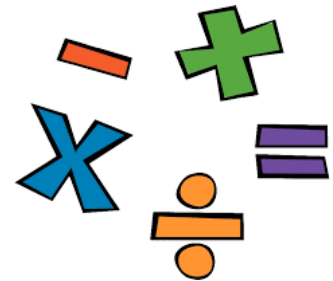
Maths topics the children have been working hard on this term have included standard written methods of multiplication and division, multiplication and division problem solving and reasoning, parallel and perpendicular lines, pictograms and bar charts. Well done to those children who have worked hard to learn their times tables so thoroughly!

Our 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, 7th June, 2024.

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 design. Well done Year 3. They look great!

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

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



Our English 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. We then moved on to studying different forms of poetry, including kennings, haikus and limericks. We have written our own version of each of these different forms and had great success.

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.



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, which we will be finding out more about on our trip to Murton Park.

Our French lessons this half term have been based on exploring our favourite fruits in French. The pupils did a fantastic job in their pronunciation and identifying patterns in the words that will support their learning.

Our Wednesday outdoor P.E has been taken by Oldham Sports Development, who have been teaching the children how to play basketball. As a special event, Lancashire Cricket Club ran an amazing session for the children. We have also had outdoor P.E on a Monday, where we have been developing our mindfulness and flexibility through yoga.

We also had a wonderful experience pond dipping and surveying local wildlife at George Street Park as part of a community project with Groundwork Greater Manchester. We are looking forward to two more upcoming sessions with the group after half term.

Have a lovely half term everyone!



Year 5: The highlight of last 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, canoeing and paddle-boarding. The whole class were very well-behaved and represented Buckstones fantastically.



In RE, we have looked at how Christian Aid, Islamic Relief and other non-religious charities attempt to change the world.



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. It was fantastic to see some amazing research projects done for homework.



We have continued to read our class book, *Wonder*. It has been a pleasure to read to and with the children, ending with a film afternoon in the last days of half-term.

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 created a balanced argument about a topic in our *Wonder* class text and then wrote a story starter focusing on tension and suspense.

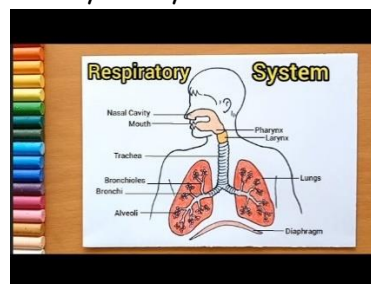
In PE, we have learnt different poses and balances in yoga on a Monday afternoon and took part in a range of activities in our outdoor sessions on Wednesday. We completed different team building activities and developed our communication skills.

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 Dragons Den afternoon. 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 for their chosen charities.

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.

Year 6 children have designed and made an electrical vehicle in D&T. They identified the features of a fast car and its different parts. They followed instructions (written and pictorial) to create a model to which they added an electrical circuit using their knowledge from a previous science topic.

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 P.S.H.E., the children have learned about different ways to keep their minds and bodies healthy e.g. importance of good sleep pattern/healthy diet/good oral hygiene/immunisation etc. They were asked to form checklists and give 'agony aunt' advice that demonstrated that they were able to make the correct choices.

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

STAFFING NEWS:

I am pleased to announce that both Mrs. Phythian and Miss Ewbank will be returning to school in September.

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:

The Friends of Buckstones Quiz Night was a great success, thank you to everyone who came on the night and to everyone who helped organise and run the event.

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:

With the warmer weather hopefully arriving soon, 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 24th. May and return to school on Thursday 6th. June.

Thank you for your continued support,

S.E. Healey