



## Autumn Newsletter Term 1a

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020



### Message from the Headteacher



We are at the end of a very different and at times quite challenging half term. Despite this, there are a lot of positives to share with you and I hope that this comes across from the year group messages in this newsletter.

I have said a few times in my letters that the children have settled back in to school remarkably well, with a good focus on their learning – now you can see this directly from the year groups themselves! I hope you can see that everyone is doing their best to help the children catch up on some of the learning that they have missed over the last few months.

As always we focus on English and Maths but without forgetting the importance of other areas that are part of our wider curriculum. Of course for the moment we have had to stop external visits and swimming but we will review this when national guidelines allow, which will probably be well into 2021. We may look at visitors coming into school to support the wider curriculum after Christmas – this will include things like music teaching.

One thing that is helping a lot is that children's behaviour has been very good this half term. We have had far fewer incidents than in previous years. We think this is because of some of the measures we have put in place at playtimes and lunchtimes. We also think that the children are coming in much calmer in the morning. Even Tuesday afternoons are working well because it is less disruptive to children's learning to be taught by their own teacher for the whole week. Thank you for your co-operation in helping Tuesdays run smoothly.

The measures we have put in place will likely be here for some time to come and we will continue to do our best to keep the school as safe as possible. Just as important is to make sure the children are safe in the morning and afternoons when they arrive and leave. Please remember to take care when crossing the roads around school and if you need to use a car please park only in the designated areas.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a good break and here's to next half term! Mr Lambert

### Nursery

We have had a fantastic start to Nursery. The children have settled in well and come into school with big smiles, eager to play with their new friends. Our main focus has been on getting to know the new environment and learning how to use the resources safely. The children can now choose what they want to do and they are able to tidy up and organise their space independently.

In our Talk for Writing sessions, we have learned the Nursery Rhymes 'Pat a Cake', 'Miss Polly had a Dolly', 'Twinkle Twinkle' and 'Polly put the Kettle on'. We practised singing the songs and learned the Makaton actions that went with them. We also acted out the nursery rhymes by having tea parties in the house and making cakes.

We also read the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?' The children learned the names of all of the animals that appeared in the story and the colours. We mixed our own colours in the painting area and went on a colour hunt around the Nursery, finding objects that were all the same colour. In Maths, we have worked on counting every day and the children are starting to recognise some numerals. We also worked on sorting objects by colour and size and we are beginning to work on comparing two groups of objects and say which one has more, fewer or the same.



The children have noticed the changing of the season and we have been talking lots about Autumn. We have been looking for signs of Autumn in the Nursery garden and we have brought in some pumpkins to look at. The children have drawn pictures of the pumpkins and were very excited when we cut one open to look inside!

## Reception



The new Reception children have settled very well into their new classes. They have made lots of new friends and they are having a great time exploring the environment and learning new ideas. In English, we have been learning lots of nursery rhymes. Our favourite rhymes are 'Incy Wincy Spider' and 'Row, Row, Row your Boat'. We are continuing to learn new nursery rhymes weekly. We had a hungry, wiggly visitor creep into our classroom who ate some of our fruit. It was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' which inspired us to read the story book.

All the children have tried very hard in our Phonics lessons to learn Phase 2 sounds. So far, they have learnt the sounds /s/, /a/, /t/, /p/, /i/, /n/, /m/, /d/, /o/, /c/, /k/ and they have had a go at forming them. This has helped us to hear initial sounds in words and blend short words. Together we have also been reading the tricky words 'I', 'no', 'to' and 'go'.

The children have also been practising forming the letters in their name. We are encouraging the children to hold their pencil using a pencil grip and form each letter correctly. Please continue to use the laminated name cards that we sent home at the beginning of term.

In Maths, we have been matching and sorting objects by colour, size and shape and making our own patterns. We have explored height, length, capacity and weight and encouraged the children to use the correct vocabulary. For example, 'longest' and 'shortest' for length and 'tallest' and 'shortest' for height. In our topic 'All About Me' the children have enjoyed talking about their families and creating their own houses. We have also named and explored technology we have in our homes and at school. This school term we have explored colour mixing by holding experiments and observing the effects and we have been on an Autumn walk, collecting leaves and acorns to make autumnal pictures. We have also loved being outdoors, exploring and developing physically.

## Yr 1

Year One have had a very busy and enjoyable half term. They have settled into their new classrooms with their new teachers very well. In English, the children have been learning all about 'The Three Little Pigs.' They investigated which material would make the best house by making their own houses from straws, sticks and blocks. The children agreed that the blocks made the best house. Yusuf told everyone "the Big Bad Wolf can't blow the block house down. It's strong!" The children have used a story map to re-tell the story and have worked on describing the story characters and their feelings.

In Maths, the children have been learning to count, add and subtract numbers to 10. They have learned to use a part, part whole model to help them solve maths problems and write their own equations!

This half term the children have learned about clothes from around the world. They have investigated a variety of materials and have talked about their properties and uses. Last week, the children designed and made scarves for their teddy bear! They looked at different scarves to help them with their designs. Take a look at some of their fabulous creations.



Well done Year One. Your teachers are very proud of you

## Yr 2

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school and see the children return to year 2, with smiles



on their faces and determined to learn. We had an exciting start to year 2, the children studied Michael Rosen's 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children enjoyed thinking about different ways this poem could be performed. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow. We then moved onto studying the story of Cinderella in both English and Whole Class Reading sessions. The children very much enjoyed attending the Royal Ball, they all looked very smart! The children are gaining confidence when using capital letters and full stops in their writing. Year 2 children have been learning all about suffixes and how they can change the meaning of a word. So far, they have learnt to add -er, -ing and -est onto the ends of words and understand how they change the meaning.

In Maths we have been ensuring the children are confident with their year 1 objectives as well as introducing the year 2 objectives. So far the children have shown that they understand the place value of a two-digit number and are able to use the symbols  $\leq$ ,  $\geq$  and  $=$  when comparing two numbers. They have counted forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s, and are gaining confidence in counting in 3s.

During our wider curriculum sessions, the children have been learning all about how to stay healthy. They are able to explain why it is important they exercise and stay clean. They have also learnt about the different food groups and what consists of a healthy diet.

### Yr 3



This half term we have really enjoyed having the pupils back in school and being able to learn in their class bubbles. There has been a lot of new routines to get used to, as well as coping very well with moving over to the Ocean building. All four classes have done very well and as teachers we are so proud of them!

In English we have been studying the story of 'The Princess and the White Bear King'. We kicked off by creating our own golden crowns, just like in the Princess's dream and then we wore them as we hot seated the different characters that she met along her journey. Pupils have worked really hard to create their own journey tales and have made up some fantastic stories.

In Maths, we have been recapping areas that were missed during lockdown and had a big focus on really understanding place value of 2-digit and 3-digit numbers. We have been comparing, ordering and sorting different numbers. Pupils continue to use different hands on strategies and games to help understand it better.

In the wider curriculum we have become art critics and learnt lots about Georges Seurat, Anthony Gormley and Jean Shin. We had a go at creating new pieces of artwork in their styles, which was lots of fun. In science we have been busy gardeners learning all about plants, pollination and how water travels to keep them alive.

We have also spent lots of time making sure that everyone is happy and then discussing what we can do when we have a worry. We have read some great books to help with this.

### Yr 4

We are really pleased and proud of the excellent start the Year 4 pupils have made this half term. They have settled into the new school routines and are showing a positive attitude to learning.

In English, we started off the term with some exciting performance poetry which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The children explored a range of poems and their features. They learned a poem off by heart and used expression, intonation and body language to perform their poem. We have also been studying and diving into the wonderful vocabulary in the stories of Carol Ann Duffy, 'The Lost Happy Endings' and 'The Tear Thief'. The children have been learning to write a narrative using fronted adverbials, speech sentences and expanded noun phrases.



In Maths, we have been identifying the place value of 4-digit numbers and representing numbers to 10,000. Children have been developing their skills in comparing, ordering and rounding numbers. Year 4 are now working towards learning strategies to add and subtract 3-digit and 4-digit numbers.

Our IPC topic this half term is 'Saving the World'. We began the year by using our art skills to create our own rainforest in the classroom, which was unfortunately destroyed! As a result of this devastating incident, we have been learning about rainforests and the impact of deforestation. Children have also discovered the layers and animals of the forest and made comparisons across the world.



Science lessons have been full of investigations in our 'State of Matter' topic. We have been learning about the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We have explored evaporation, condensation and the water-cycle. Our PE focus this half term is gymnastics and Year 4 have done a tremendous job with developing their positions and movements. Children also practised their press-ups ready for our Virtual Gymnastics Competition.

The children have worked incredibly hard and the Year 4 teachers are looking forward to next half term!

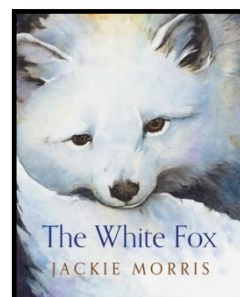


## Yr 5

In all the Year 5 classes, children have settled in well and have made a productive start. They have been working hard to catch up on their learning and have thoroughly enjoyed the curriculum so far. In maths, we have been learning about number and place value. Children have become increasingly confident when working with 6 digit numbers. They have learned to:

- Round numbers to the nearest 10,100,1000,10,000 and 100,000
- Compare and order numbers to 1 Million
- Count in 10s – 100,00s
- Read and write Roman Numerals.

We have also been problem solving and developing strategies for addition and subtraction using numbers up to 4 digits.



In English, this term we have been reading the story of 'The White Fox' by Jackie Morris. We have been working around this text to retrieve and infer information in WCR along with studying the text for key vocabulary. We have had some fantastic discussions about the text and character feelings as well as rewrote the story from the Foxes perspective. It was also very interesting to see children taking part in a planned debate to ensure children are developing their speaking skills in class.

Our IPC topic this term has been The Time Tunnel. We started off with a Victorian day in school which allowed children to experience what life would have been like for children during that time. In this topic, we have learnt historical terms and vocabulary, organised personal history, used a timeline to find information, understood how peoples' lives and experiences differ from generation to generation, categorised and compared changes over the years.

In Science, the children have been identifying, comparing and investigating materials and their properties. They have observed many experiments to test the viscosity of materials and found out the materials that are the best insulators. In PE Year 5 have been doing athletics which involved understanding the different events that take place in the Olympics and having a go at each one.

## Yr 6

We are really pleased with the excellent start the year 6 pupils have made this half term. They are showing a positive work ethic and rising to the challenging year 6 curriculum. All pupils look very smart in their new school uniforms. Thank you for your support. English so far...

We have been reading a range of texts including: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, Shackleton's Journey by William Grill, You Wouldn't Want to be on Shackleton's Polar Expedition by Jen Green, Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo and The Mousehole Cat by Nicola Bayley & Antonia Barber. We have enjoyed reading and analysing the texts together. The children have developed a range of comprehension skills linked to these texts. They have also produced two excellent pieces of writing; a biography and a setting description.

Maths so far...

The children have visited these areas:

- Place value, including reading, writing, ordering, comparing and rounding numbers
- Formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Mental maths strategies for addition and subtraction
- Multiples, factors, prime numbers, square numbers, cube numbers, common factors and lowest common multiple
- Weekly arithmetic tests
- Daily reasoning/SATs questions.



Wider Curriculum so far...

IPC – this term we have been studying Myths and Legends. We have focused on the legend of Robin Hood exploring medieval society and the feudal system. The children have developed their knowledge through creating Motte and Bailey castles and other exciting activities.

Science – 'Light up your World'. The key learning focus in science has been light, shadows, refraction and dispersion. They have immersed into the 'world' of working scientifically.

## Attendance

Despite the current situation our attendance so far this academic year is **93.91%.**

As you know attendance at school is really important. Thank you for working with us.

**We wish you a well-deserved break and we look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**

