

Year 5

In Year 5, children have settled in well and have made a productive start to the year. 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 Whole Class Reading along with studying the text for key vocabulary. We have had some fantastic discussions about the text and the character feelings. We also wrote a non-chronological about Alaska.

Our History 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, with a

focus on the Victorian Era. Children in year 5 have really enjoyed this topic and were able to reflect on their experiences.

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. They understand many new terms and can record a fair test.

In PE year 5 have been learning how to play basketball. They have had the opportunity to learn all the vital skills such as dribbling, passing, defending and shooting.



Year 6

In English, Year 6 started the year off with performance poetry, we explored a range of poems with lots of different themes. We have identified the features and developed our performances and oracy skills. We have also created an anthology of poems - all written by our enthusiastic Year 6 poets! During this half term we have analysed formal and informal letters and then wrote our own. Our letters included coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions and relative clauses all learned in our grammar sessions.



In maths, we have been busy learning about place value and working with numbers up to 10 million. We have been representing, comparing and ordering numbers in a variety of ways. Year 6 have also been using formal methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide 4 digit numbers.

In history we have travelled in time to discover how societies from the past lived. We explored Medieval Britain, Native American, Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece. We researched each civilisation and found out where they lived, how they dressed, what they ate and how they entertained themselves. We made 3D models of Motte and Bailey castles, created a 'Horrible History' sketch comparing the societies and wrote an informative non-chronological report! We have also had the pleasure of working with a professional artist to develop our artistic skills.

In Science, we have been learning about Light. We now know how to draw a ray diagram, carry out experiments to understand refraction and explore the colours of the rainbow through dispersion. Year 6 have also made periscopes and created a puppet show.



In PE, children have thoroughly enjoyed learning and improving their skills in basketball. We can all work as a team and dribble effectively.

In Computing, Year 6 have been researching the history of computers and game consoles. They have created the most amazing, animated PowerPoint presentations to share the researched information.



We wish you a well-deserved break and we look forward to seeing you all again on

Monday 1st November 2021



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1A 22/10/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made a very positive start to the new academic year.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support at the beginning and end of the day. Our new arrangements are working very well.

Children have settled very quickly to their learning. Of course, we are still focusing on making sure everyone catches up with any learning from last year's disruption. Key learning in maths and English also remains a priority. This term we have also worked hard to make sure that all pupils have the opportunity to work on a broad range of subjects as part of our wider curriculum. I think you can see this reflected in what teachers have written about the work in their year groups so far this term.

I am pleased to say that children are responding very well to the work they are being given. It helps that they are coming to school with a good attitude and looking smart, ready for learning. Another thank you – for making sure your children have the right school uniform! This is also true for PE kit, with children looking really smart, coming in ready on the days they have PE.

May I take this opportunity for one or two reminders. Firstly, we do understand that parking can be difficult but please do not park on the double zig zags at the beginning and end of the day. Secondly, we have a number of pupils with nut allergies, so please do not give your child anything with nuts, or traces of nuts in as part of their lunch or snacks. Finally, we have found a number of long pins used for headscarves on the floor across the school. These can be dangerous for your own daughters as well as others. I have spoken to one or two members of staff who wear scarves themselves so may I suggest that you either use an enclosed pin, or use a scarf that does not need a pin to keep it in place. These are available locally.

Many thanks for your co-operation on all of the above.

Thank you for your continued support, and enjoy the half term break.

Children return as usual on Monday 1st November.

Nursery

The Nursery children have been learning all about Autumn. We have carved pumpkins and talked about what's inside. The children used lots of language to describe how the seeds felt when we put our hands inside. They said it felt "wet and sticky!" When we cut out the eyes and mouth, the children had a go at using cutting tools and learned about how to use tools safely and carefully.

We continued our Autumn theme by going for a walk around the school. We wanted the children to remember what they had seen and where they had been so we created journey sticks. Historically, both Native Americans and Aboriginal Australians made journey sticks as a storytelling device - attaching items chronologically to their stick so they were able to recall

their journeys and even create navigational maps from their memories. We left pipe cleaners around school that matched the places that we found them. The children were able to match the colours on the stick to the places they were found.

In our small groups, we have been teaching the children Makaton signs so they can use words and signs together when retelling stories. This term, we learned the signs for colours, animals and parts of a house.



Reception

Reception 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. In English we have had a huge focus on speaking and understanding and have encouraged the children to speak in full sentences. We have read and retold the story 'The Three Little Pigs' and innovated the story by changing the character. We have been strengthening our hand muscles by doing lots of fine motor activities. Now you have received your fine motor pack, please encourage your child to use it everyday. This will help them with their pencil control and writing.

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 and they have had a go at forming them. This has helped us to hear initial sounds in words and we are beginning to blend short words. We have also been reading the tricky word 'I'.

In Maths, we have been matching and sorting objects by colour, size and shape and making our own patterns. We have explored height, length and capacity and encouraged the children to use the correct vocabulary. For example, 'longest' and 'shortest' for length and 'tallest' and 'shortest' for height. We have also been comparing amounts by using the words 'greatest' and 'fewest'.

In our topic 'All About Me' the children have enjoyed talking about their families and creating their own houses. We have been learning the names of our body parts, how to wash our hands and brush our teeth and the importance of healthy eating. 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 autumn-



Year 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. The children have used a story map to re-tell the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and have also written some fantastic descriptions about the story characters and how they felt at different points in the story. In maths, the children have been learning to count, order and compare numbers to 10. They have worked extremely hard to learn to use inequality signs when comparing two numbers. Year One have used 'Charlie Crocodile' to help them remember that Charlie always eats the greatest number.

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. In Design Technology, the children have been busy designing and making a scarf for their teddy bears. The children have researched and evaluate a variety of scarves and fabrics and have used this knowledge to help them with their own designs. Take a look at some of their fabulous creations.

Year 2



The children have really impressed us with the way they have moved into year 2. The children have been very settled and ready to learn.

In English we have had a heavy focus on what makes a good sentence, stressing the importance of capital letters for the start of sentences and proper nouns and full stops. We have studied the stories of Cinderella, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Hansel and Gretel. As a result, the children have sequenced stories and used adjectives to describe a character and setting. In reading the children have read 'Cinderella' and 'The Pea and the Princess'. Children have been able to answer retrieval questions based on the text and answered by ticking or circling the answer.

In maths the children have identified the place value of numbers up to 100. They succeeded in this by representing numbers using objects and ordering objects and numbers. Children have started counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s and are becoming more confident at counting forwards and backwards in these multiples.

For our wider curriculum topics, we have been doing 'Super Human'. Children have learnt about the five senses, the importance of exercise and healthy eating. The children sensibly walked around Balsall Heath and used their senses to identify what they could see, hear, smell and touch. In Science, children have successfully classified the different food groups and identify what is healthy and unhealthy food as well as creating a healthy lunch box. As part of our 'Super Human' topic the children have tasted different foods and designed, planned and made a healthy sandwich.

Year 3

It has been lovely getting to know our year 3 pupils this half term. We are incredibly proud of how well they have adapted to being in a new building. There has been lots of new routines to learn, but they continue to impress us with their understanding.

In English this half term we have been looking at a book called 'The Princess and the White Bear King'. We have enjoyed rewriting this and also creating our own spells to help turn the prince into a bear! We have just completed a non-fiction unit all about polar bears and have created some amazing posters and non-chronological reports about them.



In maths, we have had a big push on learning and revising our 2, 5 and 10-times tables and their associated division facts. We have also spent the last few weeks looking at place value and understanding the worth of 2 and 3-digit numbers when adding 10's or 100's.

Our wider curriculum lessons have been based upon the theme of 'paintings, pictures and photographs.' Our year 3 pupils have shown us what amazing artistic talents they have in sculpture making, collage and print making. We put on a fantastic gallery to showcase all their amazing creations in the ocean hall.

In P.E we have been learning different gymnastic balances and rolls. In computing we have been making two characters talk to each other and in R.E we have explored the idea of sharing and being generous with others. Our Science topic has been discovering the wonderful and inspiring world of plants. We have looked at leaves and seeds in detail and now know how new plants germinate.

Next half term we will be exploring the theme of how the world is connected.

Year 4

Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the year. It has been lovely for all of the Year 4 teachers to get to know their classes, see them settle into routines and get ready for the year. All the Year 4 classes this year have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and so 4ME are learning the keyboard, 4R are learning the ukulele and 4S and 4RS are learning how to play various types of drum. Below, is a little more about what the children have been learning in their various lessons.



English

In English, the children started the year studying performance poetry and learning various poems about grandmas. They learnt them off by heart and performed them at the end of the week to their classmates. For the rest of this term, we have been studying 'The Lost Happy Endings' and writing our own versions of the story. The children have enjoyed being transported to a world full of magic, witches and fairytales.

Maths

The children have been working hard consolidating what they learnt in Year 3. We have spent a lot of time on place value, times tables and addition and subtraction. We have also begun counting in 25s, looking at Roman Numerals and negative numbers!

Geography

The children in Year 4 have been working hard on understanding how to use atlases. They have used the indexes to find other countries and discover if they are in the Northern or Southern Hemispheres. This has led us onto learning about rainforests and deforestation. Linking to rainforest animals, we will also be having a debate about whether we think zoos have a positive or negative impact on animals. They have also made a poster in computing about their favourite rainforest animal.

PE

In PE, the children have been practicing their gymnastics and working towards performing a routine on the apparatus. This week, they have been practicing their vaulting skills!

Science

In science, the children have been learning about solids, liquids and gasses. They have performed experiments to see how liquids evaporate and they have looked at how the particles interact with each other.

