



# ★ Newsletter ★

19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Once again your children have been working extremely hard! We have had such a busy couple of weeks in what can only be described as a challenging fortnight! You will be well aware that we are currently managing some outbreaks of Covid and we have had to remind the children daily about hand washing, not putting fingers in mouths and trying to keep our distance as much as possible. I have been so impressed with how sensible and resilient the children are. They were so sensible on Monday when dinner arrangements changed at the last minute and lunch was eaten in the classroom. Today, it was lovely to see so many children supporting 'Children in Need' My classroom was a sea of yellow!

We are now busy learning songs and lines for our forthcoming nativity 'Don't be Afraid' You may have heard your child humming along to some of the tunes at home! It is our hope that we can perform on stage on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to an audience but we do also have to consider an alternative if this is not going to be possible in light of the current situation. We will keep you posted.

Last Thursday, we enjoyed a whole school day of history linked to Remembrance Day. The children worked on some fantastic sketches of 'The Tower of London.' They added a floor of poppies to recreate the scene from 2014 which marked 100 years since the start of World War I. In the afternoon, we visited the 'Maddison Museum' where there were lots of war related artefacts to look at and handle.

We were lucky enough to enjoy a session of country dancing last week with Mr Murphy. He brought his accordion into school to provide a fantastic musical accompaniment. The children picked the dance up very quickly – he was very impressed with our dancing skills!

We had a super art session at Patchings Art Centre on Wednesday afternoon. The children listened so well and produced some amazing space related artwork using specialist paint and materials. I will put photos of the children in action onto our class page shortly for you to enjoy. The work will initially be on display in the classroom. I will send this home with your child later in the year. I am sure that your children have mentioned the wonderful display of the Solar System in our classroom. We now have a huge wall decorated with all of the planets in the correct order (I would imagine that they have told you the rhyme that we have learnt to help remember the order!!) The work from Patchings has finished this off nicely! Thank you for sending in an old art shirt – this will be very useful for future artwork so we will keep these in school until the end of the academic year.

### Maths:

In maths, we are continuing with addition within 100 and the children have been using a number of methods to calculate their answers – we have used practical base ten apparatus to understand that ones can be exchanged for a ten so that once we look at formal addition next week, they will be able to understand the 'carrying' method. We have also focused on adding 2 digit numbers together by counting up a number line or by putting the larger number in our heads and counting on. I have been very pleased with how hard the children have worked and they seem to be really enjoying the new concepts.

### English:

We have been enjoying our new text 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon over the last couple of weeks. It is about an alien creature who finds herself on Earth by accident. So far, we have created role play scenarios, sequenced the main events of the story and written a detailed character description of Beegu. The children were also asked to write predictions before hearing the story using varied sentence starters. The text fits in really well with our 'Moon Zoom' topic work.

### Homework:

Thank you for encouraging your child to complete the homework activities off the new grid linked to our topic. We always enjoy looking at and celebrating the children's efforts on a Friday morning and I am always so impressed by the enthusiasm and quality of the work that is sent in. As always, children can complete as much or as little as they are able to from the grid.

I have also attached some Year 2 common exception words that you may wish to work on at home with your child. The idea is that the children colour the word on the fish once they are able to spell it independently on three separate occasions. Many of these words will appear as part of weekly spellings after Christmas along with other spelling rules.

Your child will also have some lines to learn for our nativity and we have now sent these home – thank you for your support with this.

### Reading:

Once again the children are continuing to impress me with their organisation and are remembering to bring their diaries into the classroom on Friday mornings to have their reading checked without me having to remind them! As always, all children with three or more pieces of reading evidence in their diary, will receive a sticker and a house point for their efforts. Thank you so much for your continued support with this.

### Additional Information:

- P.E. days will continue to be Tuesday (indoor) and Friday (outdoor) next half term and the children will need appropriate outdoor kit as the weather turns colder. Please note that P.E. may not always take place at this time of the year as we are busy with our forthcoming nativity rehearsals.

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Space themed drama workshop organised and delivered by Vinnie and Billy Quinn's mum. (There is no charge for this)
- December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity.
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – Key Stage 1 and 2 visit to the pantomime in Newark.
- December 15<sup>th</sup> – Christmas dinner day!

I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend,

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbey ☺

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