



★ Newsletter ★

5th November 2021

It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week – the children were full of excitement and news about their half term experiences. I really enjoyed hearing and reading about the various activities they got up to. As always, we have a very busy and exciting half term ahead – so much to look forward to! I always think that this is the most enjoyable half term in the school calendar for young children. There is the excitement of Diwali and Bonfire Night closely followed by our Children in Need charity day and then of course all that comes with the countdown to Christmas! If that's not enough, we have our wonderful new topic 'Moon Zoom'. Amongst a variety of activities, the children will learn all about the Solar System, create their own hanging mobiles of the planets and find out why July 20th 1969 was a significant event in history. Our R.E. focus this half term will be around the celebration of Diwali and the meaning of Christmas.

Over the final week of last half term, we worked with paint, clay and an ex Strictly celebrity!! The children used cotton bud sticks to create some super Autumn tree paintings which are displayed around our classroom and in the corridor. I was so impressed with the gargoyles and grotesques that were modelled out of clay, they looked as realistic as the ones we saw at St. John's Church during our visit to Perlethorpe recently. There are photos of all this amazing creativity on the class page of the school website under the icon 'photos'. I am sure that your children told you all about the enjoyable session with Robin Windsor – he was full of energy and enthusiasm and managed to get everyone dancing and following his routines.

I was so pleased that every child participated in our informal concert. It was lovely to see each child take part with confidence and enjoyment in front of their peers. We were treated to jokes, poems, songs, dances and friendship 'handshakes' There were even props involved! I intend to make this a half termly regular event this year.

This week, the children have enjoyed learning about Diwali. They have made some lovely diva lamps along with creating rangoli and mehndi patterns.

Maths:

In maths, we are continuing with addition and subtraction over the coming weeks. The focus has been spotting patterns between number bonds of ten and then twenty to increase speed and fluency in addition. We have also spent time noticing the link between doubling and halving numbers and looking at what happens to the ones digit if we add or subtract ten from any given number on a 100 square grid.

English:

This week we have focused on writing a recount of our half term break. The challenge was to produce a chronological account and to include as many different sentence openers within the recount as well as checking for correct punctuation. The children also listened to the well-known Diwali story of Rama and Sita before re-telling the main events in their own words. They have also written some poems related to Bonfire Night – a very busy few days!

Homework:

We now have a new homework grid for our topic 'Moon Zoom' This will work in exactly the same way as last half term. Children can complete as much or as little as they are able to from the grid. Please only send the homework book into school on a Friday so that we can make sufficient time to look at it properly. As mentioned during our parents meeting conversations, we will also be sending maths activities to complete at home from time to time as and when it is appropriate.

Reading:

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. We are really trying to promote the importance of reading and develop a love for books at this early age. 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.
- Patchings Art Centre Visit – Wednesday 17th November. The children will have their usual lunch at school before we leave. Please remember to send an old shirt or apron which can then remain at school for additional art work for the remainder of this year.
- Phonics - All Year two children will take their phonic screening test this half term. They would normally take this in the Summer term of Year one. Please follow this link for information about phonics and the screening. If you would like any further information, please let me know. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbKGLJPp6ww>

I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend,

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbey ☺

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