



Fortnightly Newsletter



14th October 2022

We have enjoyed another couple of very busy weeks since the last newsletter. We were treated to a fantastic performance of 'The Stone in the Sword' last Tuesday when the Image Theatre Company visited us in school. The story was performed in the hall and there were lots of colourful props and catchy songs for the children to enjoy. It was certainly a very loud and exciting afternoon!

Last week, we combined our science and design and technology skills to work cooperatively in groups. The challenge was to design any kind of shelter (previously discussed) using a variety of materials such as moulding clay, straws, cocktail and lollipop sticks amongst other materials. There were certainly some very interesting and pleasing results and the children were very proud of their work! They were then able to build on this experience at Forest School yesterday where we began to construct some mini shelters in the great outdoors – we were so lucky with the weather and the autumn sunshine actually made it feel quite warm! Next week, we intend to work in groups to build larger shelters using anything we can find!

In Art, we have looked closely at a range of different paintings by some well-known artists. Every child wrote down their initial observations about each painting, noticing primary and secondary colours and describing how each piece made them feel. In geography, the children have enjoyed working with simple maps with a key. From this, they were able to describe the position of different landmarks and buildings using the language 'next to', 'below', 'opposite' and 'above'.

Moonbeam is having the time of his life at the moment. When he was lucky enough to spend the weekend with Adriana recently, he returned to school with a whole new set of winter clothes that had been knitted by Adriana's grandma! Thank you for letting us borrow the clothes until the end of the year!



Just lately, Moonbeam has been shopping, to the park, enjoyed a swimming lesson, watched some cross country and he even attended a birthday party! He is one lucky bear!

Now that I have received all consent forms from the school office, I am able to start displaying photos of your children from time to time so that you can see them in action at school. Keep an eye out for these – they are under the 'photos' icon on my class page of the school website. I will keep adding photos over the year.

Maths:

We have now finished our unit of work on place value. All children recently completed an assessment to check their understanding of the work covered this half term. I was really pleased with the outcome and all children have made a good level of progress over the last weeks. We are now about to move onto addition and subtraction within 50. So far, we have started to look at fact families and patterns within number bonds to help with mental calculations. We will continue with addition and subtraction after half term and will also revisit any tricky areas.

English:

All my children are absolutely loving 'Where the Wild Things Are' by Maurice Sendak. Over the last two weeks, we have built on our knowledge of using adjectives and from this we have been able to develop some really creative descriptions of the different characters and settings in the text. The children have also enjoyed spotting deliberate mistakes with punctuation from passages in the story – they did a great job of correcting the sentences! We have also worked cooperatively in groups to act out the 'wild rumpus' scene to music – very enjoyable and amusing! The children will retell the story once again after half term, this time applying all of their new knowledge from the work completed over the last weeks.

Reading:

Please encourage your child to read at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner. As always, I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I will continue to be checking diaries every Friday and will award stickers as a reward for regular reading. If books need changing in between your child's nominated book change day, they will need to let me know and I can organise an extra book.

Spelling:

The children are coping well with their weekly spelling tests. I have told the children that it does not matter if they make mistakes as long as they try their best. There is no pressure on the children to achieve full marks every week at this stage. The important thing to remember is that they can see why they may have made a mistake.

I will send the new spelling lists for the second half of the Autumn term next Friday. This list will also be available on my class page of the school website. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage your child with their spellings.

Additional Information:

- Forest School (2 sessions) Thursday 13th and Thursday 20th October (afternoons)
- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and a warm outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.
- Harvest Service in St. Peter's Church – Thursday 20th October at 10am – all welcome
- Monday 31st October – Inset Day
- Tuesday 22nd November – KSI Trip to Sudbury Hall. (Information has been sent out separately about this)

The next newsletter will be found **ONLY** on my class page of the school website. This will be ready for you on Friday 4th November.

I look forward to seeing you at our Harvest Festival next Thursday if you are able to attend.

Have a great weekend and a lovely half term next week. Fingers crossed for some decent weather!

Mrs Gilbey