



# ★ Newsletter ★

16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The time is really flying by now – I can't believe we're approaching half term already! At least we're starting to enjoy some warmer weather, and it's beginning to feel a bit more like summer. We strongly recommend that your child brings a sunhat to school and has suncream applied before arriving, as playtimes and lunchtimes are often spent outdoors.

The VE Day celebrations were lots of fun! The children were very lucky to have John join us in assembly to share his first-hand account of being a child during the war and what it was like when the celebrations began at the end of it. I was so impressed with how carefully the children listened and the thoughtful questions they asked. Although it can be difficult for children to understand the huge changes between then and now, it was a fascinating and memorable experience for everyone.

Although Key Stage 1 SATs have been officially phased out, all schools in the Aspire Trust have been asked to complete these assessments in maths and reading for all Year 2 pupils. This will give us a formal measure of your child's progress before they move into Key Stage 2. These will be administered in a very low-key and supportive manner, beginning sometime after half term. If your child is absent for any reason, we will ensure they have the opportunity to catch up on another day.

In History, our new topic is all about the Victorian era. The children have been learning about how different life was back then, especially in schools! They were both shocked and amused by some of the strict rules—and they all agreed they're glad things have changed. The dunce hat was definitely not a favourite!

In RE, we have been learning about the Parable of the Lost Son. The children enjoyed taking part in hot-seating activities, stepping into the roles of the characters to explore their thoughts and feelings. Through this, we discussed the importance of forgiveness and learning from our mistakes. The children showed great insight, recognising that the father in the story is like God—welcoming us with open arms, no matter what.

In Science, the children are continuing to build on their previous knowledge as we explore animal classification. They have been learning how to group animals into categories such as mammals, reptiles,

birds, amphibians, and fish. They've enjoyed identifying features of each group and classifying animals based on what they eat, where they live, and how they move. The children also practised labelling diagrams with key body parts and used scientific vocabulary to describe each group.

In Art, we have launched our exciting new topic: Street Views. This week, we've been looking at the work of American artist James Rizzi, who paints New York in a bold, cartoon-like style. The children have been inspired to recreate some of his wild and colourful buildings—many of which look like robots, cats, frogs, and even unicorns!

### Maths

We have continued their work on fractions, learning to recognise and find halves, quarters, and thirds. We've also been exploring time, including telling the time to the hour, half past, and quarter past. Across both year groups, we've been revisiting a range of mathematical concepts covered earlier in the year to help consolidate learning and build confidence.

### English

As well as working on spelling, handwriting, and extra reading comprehension tasks, the children have recently completed their unit on sorry letters. We learned that a good apology letter should include an opening, an explanation of what happened, how the writer feels, and how they plan to make it better. For their independent 'hot write', the children wrote amazing letters in the first person, choosing who to write to and from. I was extremely impressed with their creativity—they drew inspiration from class texts such as *Fantastic Mr Fox* and the Parable of the Lost Son.

### Additional Information

- P.E. – Children will need an indoor kit for Wednesday and an outdoor kit for Friday sessions.
- Please ensure your child has a sunhat and suncream as we move into the summer months.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Fisher