



## Fortnightly Newsletter



2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Finally we have made it into February – January seems to have been a very long month but at least now, there are signs of the evenings getting a bit lighter and Spring is just around the corner.! We are getting closer to our Beaumanor residential now and the children seem very excited about it all! I think the 'question and answer' session worked well and this does seem to have addressed most of the worries. Information, including a kit list is ready to be emailed to you shortly (hopefully today)

Your children are continuing to enjoy all of the different areas of learning.

On Monday morning we were lucky enough to work alongside Ellie from the Perform Drama Company. She delivered a fantastic session about searching for a horse with a golden mane in the Wild West! The session was very enjoyable and every child participated brilliantly – she was very impressed with our listening skills and behaviour too! The children brought home a leaflet earlier this week with information about the weekly drama classes held in both Bingham and West Bridgford after school.

Yesterday afternoon we were treated to a visit from Jenny who works for the charity 'Life Skills' She delivered a wonderful session all about the different feelings and emotions that we might experience (helped by Harold the giraffe and his friends) The children really enjoyed the workshop and participated brilliantly.

In R.E. over the last weeks, we have continued to enjoy discussing the story of the 'Creation' We have looked closely at an illustrated 'big frieze' picture of the main parts of the story and from this the children have done a great job of creating their own versions.

In Science, we have enjoyed watching our cress seeds grow and change in different conditions. As predicted in our initial investigation experiment, the cress seeds that were kept in the dark were very slow to germinate and those in the light grew at a much faster, healthier rate. Our observations have been recorded every few days in our cress diaries. We have also talked about how and where grass grows best.

For our work in Geography, we have continued to look at a range of maps that use symbols and a key. We have now looked at both human and physical features of a coastal town and the children should be able to recognise and explain the differences between the two.

In art, our topic 'Flower Head' is progressing well. We have looked at a variety of close up and real life plants and flowers, noting the shape, pattern, texture and form. The children enjoyed creating flower collages using different textures of paper along with creating their own 3D flowers using modelling clay.

The children are continuing to enjoy their work on the school laptops in IT sessions. Using Purple Mash they have created their own avatars and are now working on some coding activities.

In music, we have listened to a variety of songs and classical pieces of music to compare tempo. The children have also enjoyed moving to the music in different ways to find the pulse and rhythm.

The children are continuing to enjoy their outdoor P.E. sessions with Josh on Friday mornings, although bad weather has caused the occasional cancellation. I would strongly recommend that you send long jogging bottoms and a warm top for these sessions if you have not already done so as it can be very cold. Also, children who are wearing tights as part of their uniform, need a spare pair of socks to change into for P.E. sessions – thank you!

#### Maths:

In maths, we are now coming to the end of our unit of work on money. As well as coin and note recognition, the children have made amounts of money, finding as many different ways as possible. We have also been solving one and two step problems, working out how much change would be given. This area of learning will be revisited each year as the children move up the school. We are also enjoying a variety of daily challenges in our arithmetic sessions – usually against a timer!

#### English:

I have been really pleased with the children's efforts in our current 'Talk for Writing' unit which has been based around the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We have written short pieces of descriptive writing based around a picture of the woods, along with a revised version of the story using different characters, settings and outcomes. Our next unit (after half term) will be non-fiction writing based around writing different sets of instructions. We have also been focusing on handwriting just lately and the children are working hard to maintain a good pencil grip and posture.

#### Reading:

Please aim to read with your child at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner. 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.

#### Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and an outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- RNLI visiting speaker – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March (pm)
- Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>/Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Further information will be sent out later this term.
- Parents' evenings – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Have a great half term and I look forward to welcoming your children back on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Mrs Gilbey