



## Fortnightly Newsletter



6th October 2023

I can't believe that we are now into October already! The time is certainly passing quickly and your children have continued to work hard over the last two weeks. They are now really settled and have adapted so well to the many routines that we have in place. I am so proud of every child in my class!

The children were treated to a very enjoyable performance of 'Wind in the Willows' on Tuesday afternoon when the Partake Theatre Company visited school. Lots of songs and audience participation meant that the audience were engaged throughout. A truly wonderful and memorable experience!

Our topics are now well underway and the children are really enjoying all of the different areas of learning.

In R.E. we have discussed how Jesus was an effective leader and from this, the children created their own ideas about the qualities needed to become a great leader in different contexts. We have also read and enjoyed the story of Sarah and Abraham which links to the concept of great leadership.

In History the children have enjoyed developing their knowledge of significant people from the past and over the last week, they have spent time categorising them into different groups. Your child should be able to give an example of an artist, an activist, a scientist, an explorer and a monarch from the past! Yesterday, we learnt a little more about Christopher Columbus and the children were given the opportunity to try some of the foods that he discovered.

In Science, the children were introduced to the terms 'omnivore', 'carnivore' and 'herbivore' – they were then able to discuss and organise a range of living things into the correct category.

For our work in Geography, the children enjoyed looking at atlases for basic information and from this, we then focused on the seaside town of Whitby to develop our knowledge of basic maps and direction. The children used compass directions and a key to answer questions about the different landmarks and tourist attractions in Whitby.

We have also been very busy learning words to our Harvest songs in readiness for the service in St Peter's church (on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October) You may have heard your child singing or humming the tunes at home!

Moonbeam has now enjoyed a few weekend sleepovers – so far, he has been thoroughly spoilt and my class have loved hearing about his adventures when he returned on Monday morning! We wonder who will be lucky today...

Show and tell is also now well underway – your child will receive their invitation to take part in due course. The children are continuing to enjoy their outdoor P.E. sessions with Josh on Friday mornings – he has been really impressed with their listening skills and how much they have grown up since occasionally working with them in Year 1.

We have noticed that the weather is changing and there is a chill in the air. 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 we move into the cooler months. 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!

Thank you also for sending in old shirts for artwork – these will be very useful over the year and more importantly, will protect school uniform! We have quite a few art activities in the next couple of weeks that will involve paint!

### Maths:

In Maths, the children have been working on place value with numbers to 100 and beyond in a variety of different ways. We have been partitioning tens and ones using base ten, counters, ten frames and part-whole models to show our understanding of what each digit of a number represents. This builds on Year 1 learning and I have been really impressed how well the children are taking the new information on board. We are also beginning most lessons with a quick starter activity to check understanding from the previous lesson.

### English:

The children have been really enjoying our text 'The Story of Pirate Tom'. We are now coming to the end of this particular unit of writing and the children have applied many of their skills to produce their own version of the story based on the style of the original text. I have been really pleased with the children's efforts. We now move onto our second unit of this half term where the focus will be on non-fiction persuasive writing based on a theme park.

Thank you for supporting your child with weekly spellings. The children were very excited to have their first proper spelling test last Thursday and were equally as enthusiastic yesterday! (I am sure the excitement will calm down soon!) As mentioned previously, extra spellings can be practiced at home using the common exception words that were provided alongside the spelling lists. All information is also available on my class page of the school website.

### 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 now 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.
- Harvest Service in St. Peter's Church – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October.
- Forest School dates: 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> November (see separate letter that was sent home with your child for full information).
- Partake Theatre Company 'Robin Hood' Workshop – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October.
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information and photos (once all permission slips are updated)

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey