



Fortnightly Newsletter



10th November 2023

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term break – your children returned to school on Tuesday full of enthusiasm and news to share – it sounds like there were some very scary costumes on show for trick or treating and lots of excitement that it was also bonfire night over the holiday.

It feels like Christmas has crept up on us all of a sudden – mainly because half term has been a week later than usual this academic year. We are now busy learning our songs for the Key Stage 1 and Reception Nativity 'I'm Gonna Shine' which will take place in early December (not so far away!!) Your child will very soon be provided with the lines they need to learn and your support with this at home would be very much appreciated!

We finished last half term with our harvest service (after a very damp walk to the church!) For those of you who were able to attend, I am sure you will agree that the children were fantastic and performed their French vegetable song with real confidence – they have grown up so much and I was really proud of them all!

Forest School has been rather damp to say the least over the last two sessions! Despite the dreadful, wet weather, the children have still managed to enjoy the visits as it is very sheltered under the trees and we have still been able to cover our intended learning objectives for science each week. The final two sessions are currently on hold due to mud and waterlogged areas – the land needs a chance to recover. We will let you know when we are able to return.

We will be continuing to enjoy our main driver topic – 'Movers and Shakers' until the end of this term. Our science focus will now be 'Human Survival' and in Design and Technology the children will learn about sources of food and tools used for food preparation in our 'Remarkable Recipe' topic. This could also involve some cooking!

We have such a busy and exciting half term ahead – Children in Need day, lots of creative artwork, possibly some cooking as part of our Design and Technology topic, the Key Stage 1 Nativity performance, a

visit to the pantomime, Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day to name a few things off the top of my head!! Your children will be ready for a lie down by the time we break up for Christmas!

You will soon be able to view your child's Christmas card design online – you may remember them creating one in previous years. This is a fantastic money raiser for our school whilst also providing you with the opportunity to purchase cards, wrapping paper, tags and other wonderful gifts with your child's design on.

Maths:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our work in maths focuses on addition and subtraction for the next few weeks. Over the last few days, we have spent time looking at the relationship between number bonds to ten and to one hundred. From this, the children have been able to write related addition statements in fact families eg. $1 + 9 = 10$ and $10 + 90 = 100$. The children will also be completing a number of formal assessments next week to check on their understanding of all the concepts covered so far in Year 2.

English:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our focus in English has been persuasive writing. Just before we broke up for half term, the children completed the unit with some wonderful persuasive writing about Forest School. The aim was to encourage visitors to spend a day at their imaginary venue by outlining key features, attractions and prices. I was really pleased with the outcome of their written work! We have now moved onto a shorter unit of writing focusing on poetry.

As with maths, the children will complete a number of formal reading assessments over this last week and next. These focus on comprehension and inference skills. We work on similar skills in daily reading sessions so the children should be familiar with the layout of the assessments.

Reading at home:

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 check 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.

Homework:

Each child was given a homework book on the last day of term. Inside, there is a selection of activities linked to our main driver topic 'Movers and Shakers'. I have spoken to the class about homework and they understand that it is a choice – there is no pressure to complete all or any of the tasks between now and Christmas but I would be delighted to look at any work on a Friday morning either in the designated homework book or on a poster/photo where appropriate.

Each piece of homework will be celebrated with the rest of the class and take care tokens will be awarded for the children's efforts.

Spelling:

Spelling tests will continue to take place on Thursday mornings and it is important that your child has their school diary for test day so that the next list can be stuck into the spelling page. A master list is available on my class page under the spelling icon if you mislay any words. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage your child with their spellings.

Outdoor P.E. sessions will continue to take place on Friday mornings for the remainder of this term. You will be well aware that the weather has changed and it can be quite chilly out there on the playground. 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 winter. 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! Children also need their indoor PE kit in school for Tuesday afternoon sessions.

Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will continue to require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and a WARM outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- Remaining Forest School dates: To be confirmed.
- Children in Need Day – Friday 17th November.
- Parents' Meetings: Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd November – thank you for returning your preferred time slots.
- Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity: Thursday 7th December
- Pantomime at Newark Theatre: Friday 8th December

I will aim to meet with you at parents' evening at your chosen time/s, however, as I am sure you can appreciate, some time slots are very popular on both evenings – I will do my best! Your appointment slip will be sent out shortly.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you soon at the forthcoming parent meetings.

Mrs Gilbey