



Fortnightly Newsletter



25th November 2023

The time really is flying by and we have now moved into the most exciting time of the year for your children! It was so lovely to see most of you this week at our parents' evenings – a lovely opportunity to meet many of you for the first time (although it was rather dark for some of you!) Thank you so much for your kind comments. The children certainly should feel proud of themselves and they really enjoyed reading the lovely feedback that you wrote for them.

We have been as busy as ever just lately. The children really enjoyed the Children in Need non-uniform day last Friday – lots of Pudsey outfits, spots, stripes and sports kits were on show and all for a good cause. Photos from this day are now available to view on my class page (most of you have a printed copy from parent's evening) All future photos will now be under the photos icon.

Our final visit to Forest School for this calendar year was both dry and enjoyable! The children worked really well in mixed Year 1 and 2 pairs to find and identify a wide range of different leaves from a visual checklist. We were amazed by how many of the leaves could be found!

Our Christmas cards to raise money for the PTFA are now complete and I think you will be pleased with your child's efforts – they all worked very hard to produce a wonderful, festive design. These will be available to view online.

On Monday, we were treated to an exciting assembly all about water. Chloe, from Severn Trent Water brought all kinds of inflatable resources (including a toilet!) to spread the very important message about being very careful about what we pour down our sinks and flush in our toilets. I am pretty sure your child would be able to share some information about the assembly with you.

We have been really busy preparing for our forthcoming Nativity 'I'm Gonna Shine' This week, we have managed to put the children on the stage so that they can get a sense of performing. Once costumes have been organised, there will be a dress rehearsal for Key Stage 2 so that our children can experience a live audience. School will be providing most of the costumes for Year 2. We will contact you by letter if anything may be needed from home.

By now, you will have received initial information about our forthcoming overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall next March. We hope to be able to take all of our Year 2 children as the visit always proves to be a very valuable learning experience in so many ways.

Maths:

We are continuing to work on a range of activities involving addition and subtraction problems in maths along with regular practice of counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and mental recall activities. The children have also now completed a number of formal assessments over a number of days.

English:

In English, the children have spent time looking at a range of poems about the weather. From this, we looked at examples of metaphors in the poems e.g. 'clapping thunder' and 'crying rain'. This week, every child has produced an excellent poem of their own based on an example created by Langston Hughes. I was pleased with the results and many children managed to include a metaphor in their work!

We now move on to our next unit in English – a lovely non-fiction story called 'The Papaya That Spoke'. We began our unit by looking in detail at photos of a papaya (Sainsbury's didn't have any!). From this, the children drew their own papaya and created a bank of adjectives to describe the appearance and texture. We will continue this unit until the end of the term.

Reading at home:

Please aim to read with your child (at this time of year, reading lines from the nativity script is a very valuable reading activity) 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:

Thank you for any homework that your child has completed – we have loved looking at this on Friday mornings and I am very impressed with the quality! As always, homework is optional as I appreciate that your children have busy lives outside of school.

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 although we may be rehearsing on Tuesday afternoons over the next couple of weeks.

Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will continue to require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and a WARM outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- Reception and Key Stage I Nativity: Thursday 7th December (morning and afternoon performances)
- Pantomime at Newark Theatre: Friday 8th December
- Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day – Tuesday 12th December.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey