



## Fortnightly Newsletter



20th October 2023

I can't believe that it is nearly half term already! Your children have worked extremely hard and will definitely be ready for a well-deserved break.

We enjoyed a wonderful session with Tom from the Partake Drama Company yesterday morning. The theme was Robin Hood who is a well-known significant figure from the past. The children were excited to dress up and joined in all of the different activities with confidence and enjoyment whilst learning lots of new facts about Robin Hood and his Merry Men!

The children have been putting their art shirts to good use recently – we have been discussing habitats and camouflage as part of our work in science and this has provided an opportunity to create camouflage pictures for our largest classroom display wall. Each child has painted a chameleon using colour shades of their choice and from this, they have used similar colours for the background to create some very camouflaged creatures – they look wonderful!

In History we have developed our knowledge of significant people by placing each of them on a timeline to gain a better understanding of the past. The children were also able to name and talk about some significant people who are still living (Lionel Messi was a popular one!)

In Science, as well as learning about camouflage, the children have looked at different habitats and we have been able to develop this at our forest school sessions as well as spotting signs of Autumn. Last Thursday, the children collected leaves, sweet and horse chestnuts, acorns and pinecones to create Autumn collages. We are so lucky to be able to use the vast grounds owned by Mrs Pinnegar and she was delighted to witness all three classes of children enjoying the great outdoors.

We have been continuing to learn our Harvest songs in readiness for the service in St Peter's church (on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October) Hopefully you will be able to attend next week.

Moonbeam is continuing to enjoy his weekend sleepovers – I have been really impressed with how confidently the children who have been lucky enough to take him home, have reported back to the class by sharing their writing, photos and pictures. Just lately, Moonbeam has been shopping, to the park, enjoyed a dancing lesson, watched some football and he even attended a birthday party! He is one lucky bear!

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 (although we have had some soggy Fridays recently!) – 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!

#### Maths:

We have now finished our unit of work on place value and they recently completed an assessment to check their understanding of the work covered this half term. I was really pleased with the outcome and all children have made a good level of progress over the last weeks. We are now about to move onto addition and subtraction within 50. So far, we have started to look at fact families and patterns within number bonds to help with mental calculations. We will continue with addition and subtraction after half term and will also revisit any tricky areas.

#### English:

We have now moved on to a non-fiction unit for writing. The focus is presenting information to persuade people to visit a place of interest. So far, we have looked at the key language used in a leaflet advertising a theme park. From this, the children created a theme park ride out of modelling clay to 'hook' them in. Every child was able to talk about and describe their design to others. Over the next couple of weeks, we will look more closely at the layout and key language used for persuasive writing. The children will then apply their new skills to create a leaflet of their own choice.

#### 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.

#### Spelling:

The children are coping well with their weekly spelling tests. I have told the children that it does not matter if they make mistakes as long as they try their best. There is no pressure on the children to achieve full marks every week at this stage. The important thing to remember is that they can see why they may have made a mistake. I will send the new spelling lists for the second half of the Autumn term next week. This list will also be available on my class page of the school website. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage your child with their spellings.

Reading comprehensions also take place during spelling sessions and the children are given opportunities to develop their skills by reading aloud, focusing on fluency and expression as well as answering questions about the text using full sentences.

Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and an outdoor kit for Friday mornings. This will continue after half term.
- Harvest Service in St. Peter's Church – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 10am
- Remaining Forest School dates: 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.
- 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 and we look forward to seeing many of you at our Harvest service next Thursday.

Mrs Gilbey