

# Year 1 Newsletter

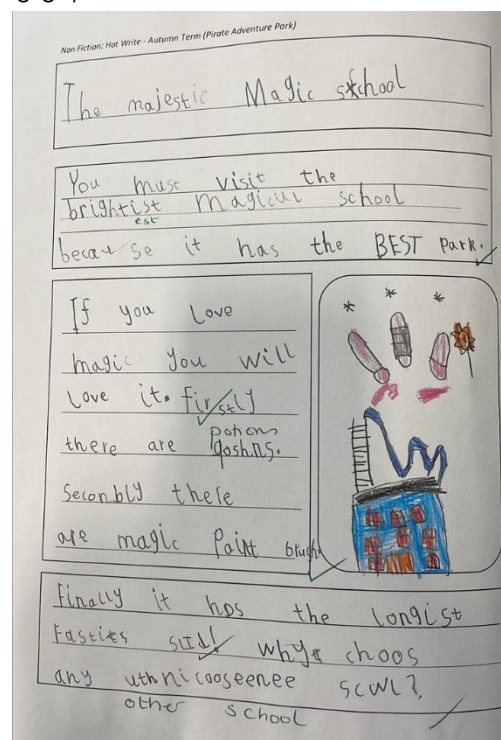
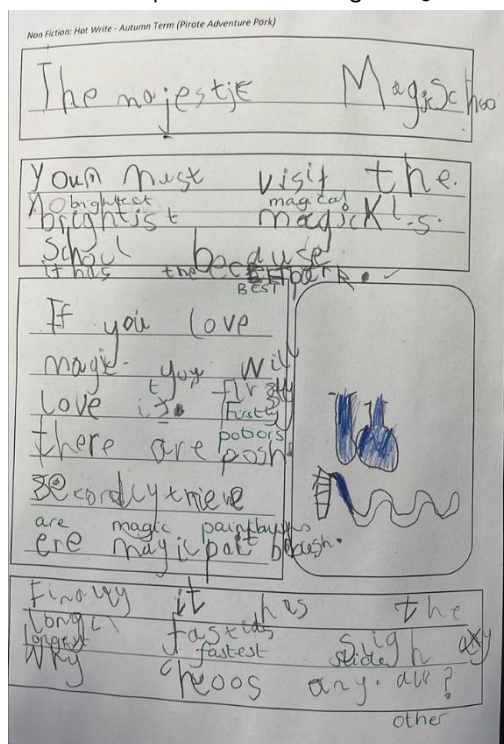
20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

WOW. How fast have these past weeks flown? Countdown is on until the half term break where we will all enjoy some much needed rest as well as having the opportunity to make some magical memories with our families and friends. I read something recently about how the little moments in life can make big memories and it is something that has stuck with me since having children of my own. So make the most of it!

## What is going on in the classroom?

### English

In the past two weeks the children have worked so hard at creating persuasive pieces of writing. We have looked at superlatives (fastest, tallest, scariest), catchy names using alliteration and using If... then sentences. They have really impressed us with some of the vocabulary they have used in their Hot Write. We wanted to convince the reader to join our magical school. Here are two examples of some of their final pieces. We worked as a whole class to understand the structure of the sentences and had some help with key words. We used our phonics knowledge to fill in the missing gaps!



## Maths

The children carried out an end of unit assessment in place value. They showed an excellent understanding of numbers to 10. The questions they found a little bit tricky were the missing number questions e.g

$$6 - ? = 5$$

$$? - 1 = 7$$

We have also been looking at;

## Finding Fact Families

In this small step, children build on their learning about writing number sentences by looking at addition fact families. Children recognise that the order of an addition sentence can be varied, and they begin to discover that addition is commutative. For example,

$$3 + 2 = 5$$

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$5 = 3 + 2$$

$$5 = 2 + 3$$

## Addition - Add Together

In this small step, children begin to formalise the idea of addition as bringing two or more parts together to create a whole. This is a more formal way of looking at the learning they have covered earlier in this block. At this stage, the focus should be on bringing two parts together, rather than adding more, which will be covered explicitly in the next step. When representing their additions, encourage children to use correct mathematical language to explain, for example "3 cubes plus 5 cubes is equal to 8 cubes." The use of "is equal to" rather than "makes" will support children in later learning.

## Topic

On Thursday afternoon, we all got to enjoy a wonderful session with Tom from the Partake Drama Company. 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! Their favourite activity was hiding in the huge Oak Tree.

In Art this week we created an Autumn Picture to link in with our work on Seasons and Still Life. We have found out that there are different themes to Still Life, one of which is 'Nature'. We had a go at drawing an outline of a leaf and practised our scissor skills to cut round the template. Some of us found cutting very tricky. We then used a sponge to dab yellows, oranges and browns around the leaf template and lifted it up to see the outline of the leaf. We can't wait for you to see them when you come for Parents Evening!

Forest School has been a huge success the past two weeks (if not a little wet on Friday). The children collected leaves, sweet and horse chestnuts, acorns and pinecones to create Autumn collages. They also looked at symmetry and collected a range of leaves from deciduous and evergreen trees. 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.

### Family Box

Maple shared a beautiful family picture of her Mummy, Daddy, her brother Bramley and her sister Autumn. She brought in her bedtime snuggle elephant called Dumbo. She's had it since she was a baby! Maple goes for swimming lessons but also enjoys fun swimming sessions with her family. She showed us 'Stinky Pig' which the class found hilarious! It started singing a song and ended with a very funny trump noise. Her favourite time of year is Halloween so she brought a pumpkin to show. For trick or treat this year Maple is going to wear her skeleton pyjamas. Watch out! Maple goes to Rainbows and is super proud to wear her uniform. She loves to sing the Rainbow song. Maple brought in her pretend phone which has lots of her favourite songs on. Her favourite is 'Gummy Bear'.

### Top Tip

Some parents have asked how they can help with the pronunciation of sounds. Follow this link and you'll see the sounds we have covered so far and the phrases we use to help them remember them:

<file:///C:/Users/Evans/Downloads/How-to-say-the-Phase-5-sounds-September-2022.pdf>

Well done to everyone who is managing to read at least 3 times a week with the children. We are beginning to notice a huge improvement with their reading, especially their ability to blend the sounds once they have segmented them. We are now in the process of purchasing the books which go alongside the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme so we will soon be sending out the information to help aid a successful rest of year with reading!

### Dates for your diary

- 26<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Festival in Church (10am - everyone welcome to watch)
- 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> October: Parents Evening
- 6<sup>th</sup> November: INSET Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> November: Mr T Super Quiz Night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust (organised by Mrs Marston)
- Remaining Forest School dates: **26th October and 9th, 16th November** (see separate letter that was sent home with your child for full information)

Thank you for reading,  
Mrs Lewis and Miss Evans