



## Fortnightly Newsletter



10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Well, here we are at the end of yet another busy half term and we have certainly been busy once again! Your children have worked so hard and are certainly ready for a well-deserved half term break!

In art, the children have experimented with line and mark making using sketching pencils. We have also created some wonderful London silhouette skylines which will shortly be on display in the classroom.

In R.E. we have continued to discuss how we can care for each other. After learning some facts about Mother Teresa, the children then wrote information about how she made a difference to so many people's lives. They have also written a class prayer of thanks to show their gratitude to all the many people who care for them.

In geography work over the last couple of weeks, we have further developed our understanding of physical and human features in the United Kingdom. I would hope that your child would be able to tell you the difference between the two and describe some features that they have learnt about.

In science, we have looked at the four seasons in more detail, resulting in some wonderful 'tree cycle' work where the children were required to draw the same tree, showing how it would change in appearance over the year. We have also discussed the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees.

Thank you so much for all the empty boxes that have been appearing at school - we now have enough!

I continue to be blown away by the quality of the homework that many children have completed from their topic grid! We enjoy looking at each other's work on a Friday morning and lots of I have never had such an enthusiastic class – thank you so much for your support with this. As always, homework is optional – I completely understand that your children lead busy lives out of school. Therefore, there is no pressure on any child to complete tasks.

#### Beaumanor Hall Residential:

By now, you should have had an email outlining key information about our forthcoming residential in March. We have talked quite a bit about this at school and the children are very excited! I have encouraged them to ask questions about the visit so that they know what to expect and to put any anxious minds at rest. You will be asked to complete a medical form nearer the time. Please include any information that you think is relevant especially anything of a sensitive nature – we have dealt with anything and everything over the years and the more we know, the smoother the visit will be for your child – and peace of mind for you.

#### Maths:

We are now well into the swing of our unit of work on the relationship between multiplication and division and this particular unit will stretch well into next half term. The children have completed a variety of tasks and challenges involving their knowledge and application of the two, five and ten times tables and their recall with this is improving greatly. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, lots of practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s will only benefit your child moving forward and it is clear that many children have been improving their times table skills at home. This week, we have looked at different ways of writing number sentences to show arrays e.g. 3 rows of 2 can be written as  $3 \times 2$ ,  $2 \times 3$  and  $2+2+2$  or  $3+3$  as repeated addition – the outcome is the same.

#### English:

As well as spelling, handwriting and reading comprehensions, the children have been busy working on a range of skills such as using alternative words for 'said', varying their sentence starters and applying more complex punctuation to their writing. This week, all these skills were 'boxed up', resulting in the most amazing adventure stories about an adventure in London. The children are very proud of their work and rightly so!

#### Spelling:

I continue to be very impressed with how well the children have performed in their weekly spelling tests as the word lists are getting trickier. Although we do work on spelling rules during the week, I appreciate the support and encouragement from home which is clearly helping – thank you! Your child now has a paper copy of the new lists for the second half of this spring term and it is also on my class page of the school website under the orange 'spelling list' icon.

#### Reading:

Please continue to encourage your child to read at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner – I really appreciate your support with this. As always, I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I am also happy for children to read their own books from home or the library if they wish to, but it is important that any reading is still recorded in their diary so that the children are able to earn their gold and platinum reading certificates later in the year – thank you! I will 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 and Friday sessions (we now have P.E. with Gordon on a Friday)
- Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> – Partake Theatre Workshop – Great Fire of London.
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – you have been emailed information about this visit.
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.

Have a fantastic half term break and thank you, as always for your support and kind comments, both of which are very much appreciated.

Mrs Gilbey