



Fortnightly Newsletter



17th March 2023

It's been another two weeks of busy and exciting times in Year 2! We are moving swiftly towards the end of the spring term and the children are now getting very excited about their forthcoming visit to Beaumanor Hall! Here is a brief summary of what we have been up to since the last newsletter:

In design and technology, the children have now completed their black London taxi cabs and the results are amazing! (Look out for photos of these in the usual place on my class page) Every child managed to create a taxi with two moving axles and four wheels. They added their own extra details using the ideas on their original design plan. The taxis were on display in achievement assembly last Friday and I was proud that every child could name the parts to their taxi and describe how the axle moves the wheels. I will display the taxis in the classroom for a little while and then they will be sent home for you to enjoy!

In history over the last couple of weeks, we have been focussing on the main events of the Great Fire of London as it happened. From this, the children were able to sequence each event chronologically to show their knowledge and understanding. We were also able to refer back to the drama session given by Partake Theatre Company which allowed us to add extra detail to our work.

In science, we have been discussing seasonal changes in the weather and the recent snow was a perfect example of how the weather can be so unpredictable and changeable! We also looked at how the hours of light and dark in a day can change depending on the season.

We also enjoyed a whole science day on Tuesday. A STEM challenge (science, technology, engineering and maths) was arranged across all of the schools in our Aspire trust to complete on the same day. We were required to work in pairs to see who could build the tallest tower out of pieces of A6 size card and nothing else! The children could experiment with folding the card to create stronger structures and at 2pm, we joined with Key Stage 1 children from Gunthorpe School (via Zoom) to discuss and compare our results. We were really pleased with

our towers and everyone learnt valuable skills along the way – resilience, working as a team and most importantly communication. Every group managed to find a structure that worked well and one tower reached the amazing height of 135cm before it collapsed! Photographs of the children in action can be viewed in the usual place on the website.

We have also enjoyed making cards for Mother's Day this week – there should be a card coming your way today but you may not receive it until Sunday as most children plan to hide it until the actual day – I hope you like it and have an enjoyable day on Sunday. The children are under strict instructions to be on their best and most helpful behaviour all day!!

Thank you for continuing to support your child with homework from the topic grid! We enjoy looking at each other's work on a Friday. 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.

I have now sent the wonderful 'old toys' homework (that was completed last term) home with your child. This is to create some space to display our wonderful taxis.

Maths:

We have now come to the end of our unit of work on multiplication and division. The children completed the usual end of unit assessment to check understanding earlier this week. We have moved on to measuring height and length and this will run to the end of term. In addition, we have been working on lots of different mental maths questions and challenges in preparation for the forthcoming SATs in May.

English:

As well as spelling, handwriting and reading comprehensions, the children have continued to enjoy our text "Vlad and the Great Fire of London" by Kate Cunningham. We have spent time looking at various examples of diary entries and noticing the features within each one. From this, the children were then able to apply their knowledge of the main events of the Great Fire of London as each day unfolded to create a diary entry for each day. Their entry had to be through the eyes of Boxton the rat who is the main character from the text. I was really pleased with the results. The children then chose one of their entries to copy onto 'burnt' paper to make it look old and authentic!

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.

Beaumanor Hall Reminders:

- The children DO NOT require a packed lunch from home on the Wednesday. All food is included in the cost of the visit. The children have already chosen their sandwich choices for both days.
- Children should arrive at school at the usual time on departure day and can bring their luggage and sleeping bag into the classroom.
- If you have mentioned on the EV4 form that your child requires medication of any kind, please label this clearly and it should be handed to a member of staff. Please note that we will take asthma inhalers from our class medical bag for those children who have them in school.
- If you have stated that your child has a tendency to wet the bed at night, please pack appropriate pull ups/pyjama pants in your child's bag and we will deal with this discreetly at bedtime and the following morning.

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)
- Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March – Parents evenings.
- Wednesday 29th March – Thursday 30th March – Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – Thank you for completing and returning the EV4 medical forms so swiftly!
- Friday 31st March – Whole school Easter Egg competition (there are links to ideas on the school weekly newsletter)

Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.

Have a great weekend and a wonderful Mothering Sunday!

Mrs Gilbey