



End of Half Term Round Up!

27th May 2022

Well - here we are at the end of the first half of the summer term with only seven weeks left until your children become juniors! It has certainly been an eventful few weeks with a visit from Ofsted right at the start followed by preparing the children for their SATs!

All I can say is that I am really proud of how well every child conducted themselves through all of this. As I have said before, they were an absolute credit to our school during the Ofsted inspection – fantastic behaviour and those children who were randomly selected to speak with the inspectors were polite, articulate and confident – you can't ask for any more than that!

By the time you receive this newsletter, SATs will be over. The children have completed two reading assessments and two maths assessments over the last couple of weeks. Each paper has been fairly lengthy and has required a huge amount of concentration from your children. Furthermore, the seating arrangements have been very different to what they are used to. You will not be surprised to learn that they have taken all this in their stride and have simply got on with it! Every child performed to the very best of their ability and you will be informed of their outcomes on the end of year school report.

When we have not been preparing for or completing SATs assessments, we have tried to make the afternoon sessions as much fun as possible through our topic work. As with all the topics this year have thoroughly enjoyed 'Wriggle and Crawl'. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we have a class wormery and it has been fascinating to watch the worms at work, shifting the soil around and dragging down the leaves and fruit peelings that are placed at the top of the wormery every few days. In addition to this, we have a couple of hatched stick insects which are very tricky to spot as their camouflage works so well!! The children always seem to be able to find them wherever they are hiding!

Finally, to add to the excitement, there were thirty snails in our classroom last week! The children spent time in small groups to observe the snails through magnifying glasses and as you can imagine, there was much hilarity that their poo was green from the lettuce they had been munching on (the snails, not your children!)

We also spent a lovely afternoon on the front lawn, tasting and evaluating six very different types of honey. The children worked in mixed Year 1 and 2 groups and spent time dipping plain cream crackers into different honey samples. They were then asked to write down adjectives to describe taste, texture and the colour of the honey. Finally, a score out of ten was awarded for each one.

We also had the opportunity to accompany Mr Murphy (a regular visitor to our school) outside on the playground to do some country dancing. He brought his famous accordion along and the children really enjoyed skipping along to the music in the fresh air.



Today has been a sea of red, white and blue! The children looked amazing and have made a super effort to join in with the Jubilee celebrations and Queen related activities over the last couple of days. Every year group across the school has focused on different decades of the Queen's long reign and in Year 2, we have enjoyed finding out about toys, games, fashion and music that were popular in the 1990s. The children also enjoyed some time outside riding on scooters that were provided by Year 1 children to acknowledge this being 'Toy of the Year' in 2000!

We have also created a collage style portrait of the Queen for a school based competition organised by Reverend Ruth Colby.

I have taken some photographs of the children dressed in red, white and blue and will place these on the school website for you to enjoy as soon as possible.

Homework:

The children have worked so hard over the last few weeks, therefore other than regular reading, there will be no homework activities to complete over the half term holiday – they deserve a break. I am attaching the spelling lists for the final weeks if your child is feeling particularly enthusiastic!!

I am always really pleased to look at completed activities on a Friday when the children bring their homework book into school. The children are very proud of the work they complete and enjoy sharing it with their peers. I will send the new homework grid for next term's topic after the half term break.

Thank you for continuing to support your child with their weekly spelling lists (as mentioned above, I have attached the list for the second half of the Summer term. House points will continue to be awarded to children if they manage to achieve full marks for every three weeks in a row.

It is really important that children have their diaries in school on Fridays so that this process can run smoothly – thank you for your support with this.

Additional Information:

- P.E. days will continue to be Tuesdays (indoor – dance) and Fridays (outdoor multi-sport activities).
- Your child will bring their P.E. kit home today for a wash. Please be aware that they will need it for P.E. on the first day back (Tuesday 7th June)
- Tuesday 7th June – Return to school!
- Friday 8th July - Theatre trip to see 'Billionaire Boy'

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have a relaxing half term break whatever you are doing. Hopefully some lovely weather so that we can all enjoy the various Jubilee celebrations! I look forward to hearing all about your children's experiences when they return to school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbey ☺

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