



Fortnightly Newsletter



16th June 2023

I hope you all had a lovely half term break – as ever, your children returned to school full of news and enthusiasm. It sounds like lots of you were really busy over the holiday and at least the weather was decent for a change – long may it last!

I am pleased that the children are bringing a sun hat and have either applied suncream at home or have some in their bag. It has been very hot on the playground lately and we are encouraging children to spend time in the shady parts at lunchtime and afternoon breaks.

We had such an enjoyable session last Thursday when the 'Lion Learners' animal museum came to visit – as ever, the children were impeccably behaved and created a calm environment which was just what was needed! Everyone had the opportunity to hold or touch all of the different animals and creatures – there were rabbits, guinea pigs, an Australian bearded lizard, toads, Phoebe the cockatiel, African house snakes and giant snails, giant hissing cockroaches and Tia the tarantula!!

This was a fantastic start to our new science topic for this half term – 'Animal Parts' Since the visit, we have enjoyed looking at and researching different creatures and from this, have been able to use our knowledge to label the specific parts of each one.

As you can imagine, there were plenty of photo opportunities which are available to view on my class page of the school website – (All 96 of them!!)



We have also enjoyed looking at a variety of leaves and trees in detail (carried over from our 'Plant Parts' topic) The children have learnt some new vocabulary and may be able to tell which part of a leaf is the stalk, the vein, the blade, the margin and where to find the crown of a tree!

Now that we have completed our artwork in the style of our focus artist James Rizzi, we now move on to Design and Technology once again. This will involve having a go at chopping some vegetables as well as designing a healthy sandwich and packaging for a new flavour of crisps! I am pretty sure that the children are going to enjoy this particular topic!

We are still enjoying our outdoor P.E. sessions with Nick every Friday and have been lucky enough to use the field this half term. So far, Nick has been working on speed, coordination and agility in preparation for our forthcoming sports day! Yesterday, we took advantage of the good weather and added an extra sports day practice session into our already busy week

Maths:

Now that SATs are out of the way, normal service has been resumed with our maths activities. We have spent the last two weeks working on telling the time on an analogue clock – o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to the hour. We have also used our knowledge of counting in fives to read times in five-minute intervals as well as being introduced to the 24-hour clock. The children are enjoying this unit of work and I think they are pleased that things are back to our normal routine!

English:

As well as spelling, handwriting and reading comprehensions, the children are really enjoying our new writing focus. We are working on story structures and our starting point was to re tell the well-known tale – Little Red Riding Hood. From this, our targets have been to improve ways of beginning our sentences, dialogue, description and varying the use of the word 'said' in our own version of another well-known tale – 'Goldilocks and the Three bears' I have been really impressed with the quality of the children's written work – they are definitely ready to be juniors!!

Spelling:

I also 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! Please note that our spelling test in week 4 will take place on Thursday 29th June, as I have realised that Friday 30th June is Inset Day!

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.

Extra Treat

This afternoon, all key stage 1 children will enjoy an ice cream as a reward for all of their hard work preparing for SATs and Year 1 phonic screening. Very well deserved and well done to all of our children.

Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Tuesday and an outdoor kit for Friday sessions.
- Wednesday 28th June – Key Stage 1 sports day (from 1.15pm)
- Friday 30th June – School closed for children – Inset Day.

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

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey