

Newsletter

Whitsun Edition



A few words from Mrs Thompson ...

What a busy and industrious half term we have had. Easter feels as if it was just yesterday and yet here we are heading into the final half term of the school year!

This half term may have felt short, but we have seemingly had classes and groups out on trips, sporting events and visits constantly - and thankfully all in the lovely spring sunshine (hooray).

This half term is always a busy one academically as our Year 6 children rise to the challenge of their end of primary school statutory testing (lovingly known as SATS), and as ever we have been blown away by the children's maturity, resilience and determination shown throughout the week. During their Breakfast Club it was particularly heartening to hear the children chatting away and putting each other at ease. It was also very evident that our fabulous Mrs Ruston had worked her magic, as the children were very calmly and confidently telling each other that "**Mrs Ruston says we can nail this!**". Well done Mrs Ruston & Year 6 :o).

It was also an honour this week to be able to award so many Thankfulness certificates in our Celebration Assembly on Tuesday. My own thanks go to the parents who were able to support us and be there when their child was surprised with a certificate - it really is lovely when the children don't realise they have been nominated.

I do hope the sun makes a reappearance for the half term break and that you have a blessed and restful week.

With my very best wishes on behalf of all of us here,

Mrs T



Sprites Early Years Class . . .

This half term Sprites have been enjoying the better weather and access to their new play (continuous provision) environment. Baby and Toddler group have also enjoyed being able to be outside on the grass. Do remember that you don't need to book, just come along with your child to one of our Term Time Tuesday groups from 1.30pm :o).



Unicorns Class . . .

Unicorn Class have been very busy learning all about healthy eating this half term, and have very bravely tried some new fruits and vegetables. They have also been adding lots of work to their new display boards, and enjoyed exploring their continuous provision area outside the classroom.



Phoenix Class . . .

This half term Phoenix Class have been learning about the Rain Forest. A particular highlight has to be the greenhouses that the children made at the beginning of the term. It was lovely to watch the



children work together to discuss, create and evaluate their structures

before covering them in plastic. We soon discovered that our greenhouses were going to need an extension as the plants were growing very quickly! After plenty of watering and measuring, the time came to compare the two plants. The children displayed their results in a line graph and we talked about how this made the results really clear to see. This then led us onto exploring the Eden project and we learnt about the man who designed the giant greenhouses, Tim Smit. The children particularly enjoyed learning about some rainforest animals and how they are well suited to their surroundings. We finished the half term with some rainforest animal art which looked very effective.

Dragons Class . . .

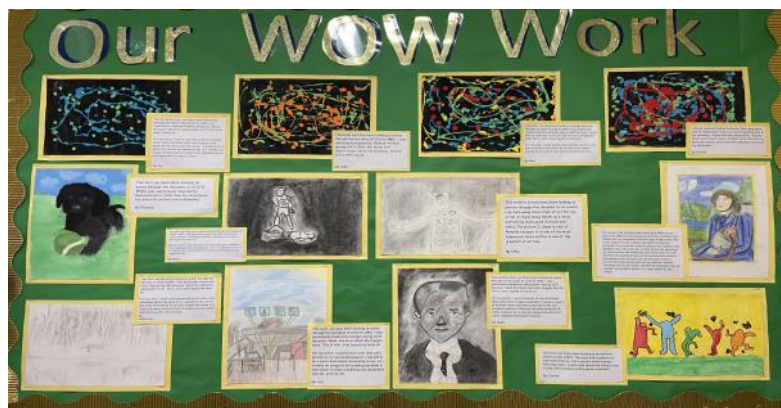
Dragons Class have been superstars this half term and have excelled as role models for the younger children despite also working hard on their assessments. To recognise this we allowed them to choose an activity to share with the younger children, and perhaps unsurprisingly they all wanted to have an extended play on the field. Even then, the older children shared their game, and ensured that the younger children could play safely - well done Dragons, we're really proud of you.

Year 6 have also been learning about bike and road safety this week with the fabulous Lara from Bikeability, and we are delighted that we now have much safer and more road savvy cyclists travelling back and fore to school.



Art Club . . .

Mrs Wildgoose has performed miracles this half term. A small group of children who wanted to learn some advanced art techniques, have become an artistic entourage with a range of work worthy of display in a gallery! Look out for our display after half term when we will be able to showcase much more of the children's burgeoning talent.



Dragons Class have also produced some fantastic art work this half term.

Well done Dragons.



Safeguarding . . .

As you know we are having a real push on improving attendance this term, and are being supported by our local Attendance Liaison Officer, Mr Griffin. If you do have any concerns or questions about how your child's attendance is recorded, or queries about why it matters so much, please do make an appointment through the school office.

Descriptor	Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100% - 99%	0 - 2	0 - 10
Good	98% - 96%	4 - 7.5	20 - 37.5
Requires improvement	95% - 91%	9.5 - 17	47.5 - 85
Persistent Absentee	90% - 86%	19 - 27	95 - 135
Critical	85% - 80%	28.5 - 38	142.5 - 190

PTAFA Updates . . .

Over the last term the PTAFA have been busy fundraising with events such as: Leapfrog Fun Run, Mothers Day Hamper Raffle and our Krispy Kreme Sale.



They have also financed a fabulous two day pottery workshop, wooden spoons for World Book Day crafts, Y6 leavers hoodies, Reception school ties and our upcoming Olympic Sports Day.

Please do continue to support the PTAFA at these events - our fantastic Summer Fair, Rags2Riches clothing donations and ice lolly sales on Friday afternoons.

As ever a huge thank you to everyone who runs and supports the PTAFA and their events :o).

Teams Update . . .



Light, Land, Water & Fire are all felt to be essential components for life. Thanks to Daisy & Keira for the designs.

Recently our lovely Team Captains helped lead the way with the rebranding of our school house teams. For many years the team names were largely unknown by anyone unless they checked the website, so when the Team Captains asked if they could change them to something more meaningful we readily agreed.

Ollie said "Percival was boring and no-one remembered it". Whilst Elliott felt that the new names were much more exciting and easier to remember.

Aspiring Team Captains Zac and Alfie (Yr 5) said that our new team names will help us focus on what is important in our world.

& Finally . . .

♥ Congratulations to Mrs Hillier who has given birth to a beautiful baby boy - Jasper James . Both mum and baby are doing well, as can be seen from the beautiful photographs Mrs Hillier has kindly shared.



Christian Distinctiveness



Over this last half term the older children have been looking at what makes our school unique and distinctive, and as a collective the children unanimously agreed that . . .

“Our church school has a kind, open and caring feel. In our school everyone can have their own opinion and the adults make us feel safe and respected. We are all encouraged to be the best we can be and believe that faith can move mountains.”

As a natural follow on from this work the children have reassessed our school bible quote (Colossians 3:17), and agreed that whilst it does explain that we want to do everything in the best way we can to honour God - it isn't easily memorable for day to day reflection.

Therefore after much research (and healthy debate) the children have decided that we should add an additional bible verse that encapsulates our FAITH and reflects our Christian values for school.



Matthew 17:20