



Thursday 21st October 2021

Weekly Parent Bulletin.
Believing and Achieving Together to be the Best We Can Be!

Diary Dates

Monday 25th – Friday 29th October – Half Term Break
Monday 1st November – Return to School.
Friday 19th November - Children in Need Dressing Up Day

December

WB 13th - Christmas Activity Week
Wednesday 15th – Christmas Lunch
Friday 17th Christmas Jumper Day and last day of term.

January 2022

Wednesday 5th — Return to school – first day of Spring Term.

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10:10

What have we been up to this half term?

In Little Explorers...

To celebrate European Day of Languages, Little Explorers coloured in French flags to decorate their classroom and learnt some French vocabulary: "Bonjour" for hello and "Au Revoir" for goodbye. Then at snack time as a special treat they all enjoyed a croissant with some jam on. Little Explorers have also been on a nature walk around the school to collect leaves and twigs which they have used to make owls and hedgehogs to add to their autumn classroom display.



In Reception Rangers...

The Reception children have all made a fantastic start to school! We have been using books as a basis for our learning, including reading the story of Elmer. The children did a fantastic job of painting 'patchwork' elephants and making their own Elmer using collage on a milk carton, as well as learning how to use a story map to orally retell the story.



We learnt how to cross the road safely when we went to see Mr Wright – our School Crossing Patrol Officer.



Year 1....

The children had a great day learning about Spain for European day of Languages. They learned how to count to 10 in Spanish and practised saying different colour names in Spanish too. In the afternoon, they watched a video of some flamenco dancing and had a go themselves using castanets before tasting some Spanish food.



In Year 1 Science, the children have been learning about their bodies and their senses. Last week we looked at the sense of smell. The children had fun trying to guess what was in each of the pots!

Year 2 ...

Wow! What an amazing start to Year 2 we have had. The children had all adapted well to their new challenges and have been working hard. Both classes have received their first class reward and are well on the way to achieving their second.

In English, we have been learning about non-fiction writing by looking at a book about penguins. We used this to help us understand features such as paragraphs, headings and fact boxes. Our science work on habitats and geography work on finding out why penguins can't fly, helped us to write our own non-fiction book using an animal from a woodland habitat closer to home. We are also working on writing a fictional story based on 'A mouse named Julian'.

The children have taken this animal theme into our artwork and looked at different animals on different continents. Their observational drawings of English wildlife animals were fantastic and even impressed our art leader in the school! They got very dotty doing their aboriginal art and the results were fantastic again.

We all enjoyed our visit to Switzerland for International Language Day and the classroom looked really bright with all our red costumes. The children had a great day learning some words in both French and German and finding out about the Swiss artist Paul Klee to inspire our artwork. The highlight of our day was hearing the story of the Gruffalo read in French and using Swiss chocolate to make Gruffalo cakes.



Year 3.....

Year 3 visited Lyme Regis as part of their Science topic on Rocks and their English sequence to write a biography. We had a very interesting talk from Chris the Education Officer for Lyme Regis Museum. During our visit to the museum, we learnt about Mary Anning and saw her collections of fossils, including the first ichthyosaur ever found. Then we walked to the beach, and we hunted for fossils. We were very lucky to find enough fossils for everybody to take one home! Chris also took us to see Mary Anning's grave and we learnt that she is buried with her brother Joseph.

"Chris talked about how the creatures died and how the fossils got to the shore." Jacob



"We went to Mary Anning's grave. She is buried with her brother Joseph." Seb

"We went to the beach and found lots of fossils. I found three!" Eliana

"We went to the museum and saw lots of fossils in there. It was just so cool! I loved the fossils." Jodie

Year 4...

Year 4 had an amazing time at a Multi-skills event held at The Kings School. A variety of sporting skills were needed to complete 10 different stations. Each group of 6 children were also awarded with stickers by the Year 10 sports leaders, when they showed determination, passion, teamwork, respect and self-belief.



In addition to the sports event this week, the children have been working on their drawing skills using crocodiles from the Everglades in Florida as inspiration (part of our geography topic). They have really worked hard on looking at images carefully to be able to recreate them more accurately.



Year 5...

This half term, the class are designing their own animations inspired by Aardman. Here they are designing their storyboards so that they can plot their storyline in preparation for filming their characters. They will eventually move onto the editing suite to complete their production.

Sophie W "I think it is a lot of fun and I'm excited to do the filming and move the character every little step."

Mason "It's fun to use different characters in our story that we wouldn't put together in everyday life."



Year 6...

Written By Ella and Oliver

This term we have completed a Mini police course. We began by filling in an application form (which luckily we all passed) and were awarded our mini police caps and tabards by the head teacher. One area where we wanted to help in the community, was providing 'pooper scoopers' and we designed one out of a plastic milk bottle named 'Sir Woofington'! We looked at parking outside school and had stern words with two people, one who had parked too close to a drop kerb

and the other with a faulty tyre. Other exciting events have included racing a speed gun (the fastest was 14mph) and checking weapons to see if they were real or fake. We found out the best breed for a police dog was a German Shepherd and were very excited when Fozzy visited us. This incredible dog searched for hidden objects on the playground, barking or lying next to each object when he found it. He also caught PC Morris, who was pretending to be a criminal, using a biting sleeve, which was amazing to watch. We have all really enjoyed Mini Police and will be sad when it ends.



Zig Zags

The Mini Police would like to politely request that parents refrain from parking on the zig-zags outside of school at any time of the day – Thank you!

Congratulations Year 6!

All classes took part in this year's Sidmouth Science Festival, creating pieces of artwork inspired by astronomy. Year 6 were prize winners for their collective piece on the theme of constellations. The judge commented *"A really creative and interesting piece. As well as being beautiful to look at it is informative too. I really enjoyed seeing all the different shapes of the constellations. It is often hard to see the exact shapes in the night sky."* (top left of photo)



Forest School

Year 3 have been the first class to attend Forest School this term. They have learned to use the bow saw and saw horse safely and have created woodland creatures using clay and natural materials from the Forest School area and then designed and built dens for their creatures. Next half term will be the turn of Year 5!



Parent / Teacher Meetings

It has been lovely to see so many of you back in the school building these last couple of weeks! We hope you have taken the opportunity to meet with the class teacher in the last couple of weeks to discuss your child's progress. If this has not been possible, please do contact the school to arrange an appointment for after half term. Teachers will aim to have spoken to all parents and may give you a ring, if they don't hear from you. We have been keen to reintroduce face to face meetings in school, in order for you to meet your child's teacher. Please do keep in communication with them.

The next formal meeting will be in January/February when you will also receive an interim report of your child's progress. This is not a statutory requirement of schools, but we find it supports the conversation about progress.

Please remember that the school is open as usual. Parents are welcome on site to visit the office and can arrange to meet with class teachers at any time during the term.

Money Heroes

Parents may wish to sign up to the Money Heroes Website. This website is run by Young Money as part of Young Enterprise, a national charity, and it is sponsored by HSBC Bank. There is a parents' section which may be of interest.

<https://moneyheroes.org.uk/>

Sign up and click on the parent hub.

We are hoping a local bank may be able to help a class set up a school bank? If you have contacts that could help with this, please let us know!

Ofsted Update for Parents

As you may be aware, as an outstanding school, we have been exempt from inspection visits from Ofsted since 2008. We wanted to let all parents know that the school inspection framework has now been revised and all outstanding schools will now be subject to inspection visits again. As our last inspection was in 2008 this will mean the school will be inspected under the Section 5 framework, which is a very deep and detailed two day visit to the school by Ofsted inspectors. We do not know when the visit will be, and we will be informed the day before the inspection team arrive, but we do know that outstanding schools inspected before 2015 will be a high priority for visits. When the school was inspected in 2008 there was a very different framework for inspection and the judgements for schools made then reflected the measures in place at the time.

Since then, there has been a new national curriculum implemented in 2014, new EYFS frameworks from this September and new expectations for the framework of inspections of schools since 2019, which have been revised further from September 2021. These increased expectations go far beyond what was expected of schools in 2008. To this end, this has seen a significant shift in the number of outstanding schools nationally and locally who have retained an outstanding judgement by Ofsted. As a school, we still continue our drive to provide an outstanding quality of education for each and every one of our pupils. We would hope that at the point of inspection this is recognised but we wanted to reassure you that a judgement less than outstanding at the next point of inspection does not represent a decline in the quality of our provision or effectiveness as a school, but reflects a national picture of increased expectations, with benchmarks far exceeding those set in 2008. I hope this provides clarification and reassurance to all families so you feel informed of how the school will be held to account going forward.

School Attendance

All families will receive an attendance 'warning' letter in the next couple of weeks. This letter is sent out every autumn to all families. Please do not be alarmed. This is a general letter to all parents, so that you have the appropriate information related to attendance and requesting days off school for your child and the possible consequences of unauthorised absence.

We track attendance very closely and the Education Welfare Officer visits our school once a term to discuss particular cases of low attendance. If your child has low attendance you can expect to be contacted by school and further written correspondence may be sent home. It may also be necessary to meet with Mrs Parsons or the EWO to discuss the matter further.

In response to the pandemic, it is essential that children are maximising their attendance, so they have the best chance of catching up on missed learning.

Children In Need – Friday 19th November

Children are welcome to donate £1 (via Parentpay link below) and dress up for the day as Pudsey Bear or in yellow, red or spots or anything they choose.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=3969>

Baby Bank Christmas Toy Appeal

Next half term we will have a collection box outside the main office for children to donate a new toy for a 0-11 year old boys and girls: soft toys, wooden jigsaws, push chair and pram toys, building bricks etc for the youngest children.

This collection will take place through November and we will send our donations to the Baby Bank Network who will deliver the donations to local families in need.

Baby Bank Network Exeter is a registered charity no.1180848, based in Exeter that supports families throughout Devon. In the last year it has helped many families in the Honiton and East Devon area.

Mrs Parsons became a trustee of the charity 2 years ago. With the help of local businesses and schools, the charity has been able to provide presents to over 220 local children in 2020 and it hopes to do the same in 2021. Families in need are referred to the charity by health, social and education professionals.

<https://www.facebook.com/Places/Exeter,Devon/Baby>