



HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2021

Imagine

Believe

Persevere

Achieve

As Term 1 comes to an end, I thought it would be really nice to share what each year group has been up to lately. Thank you to Year Leaders for the update!

FOUNDATION STAGE – YEAR LEAD, MRS BAKER

We have had such an exciting first few weeks in school. The children have adapted so well and have been working so incredibly hard. Our Topic "All about Me" has given us lots of opportunities to make new friends and learn lots about each other. We also welcomed some new furry friends, Bert and Ernie the Guinea Pigs and Chip, the Budgie into our classrooms. Next week we will be focussing on healthy eating and will be planting seeds in an attempt to grow our own fruit and veg ready for spring.



YEAR 1 – YEAR LEAD, MR DAVIS

In year 1 we have been exploring the school and local area. This has included an exciting trip to the woods where we looked at the different types of trees and discussed the animals that we might see. We unfortunately did not see many animals but not surprising with a class of five and six-year olds trying to be quiet. We also closed our eyes to listen to the woods around us, identifying the sounds and how they made us feel.



During our exploration we have also looked at how maps work and created some of our own, challenging our class mates to follow them.

YEAR 2 – YEAR LEAD, MRS RANDALL

In Year Two we are continuing to learn about Brazil, as part of our topic work, we have recently taken part in a sweet tasting, made by the lovely Mrs Burford, the sweets are called Brigadeiro and are a traditional sweet made with condensed milk, cocoa powder and butter. The children thoroughly enjoyed eating them (as did the adults). We have also been learning about the weather, and the symbols weather forecasters use when giving the weather reports on television.

Next term the children will have a go at being weather forecasters in front of large maps. For English we have also been continuing our Read, Write Inc. sessions to support both our reading and writing. In maths we have been learning how to add and subtract using tens and ones as well as beginning to learn our 3 times tables.



YEAR 3 – YEAR LEAD, MRS PIGOTT

Year 3 have loved working on their Explore project this term. We have read *The Tin Forest* by Helen Ward and discussed the concepts of belonging, dreams and resilience. The children have just completed their first published piece of writing and their teachers were very impressed with the results. We are enjoying reading *The Boy who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd in our daily reading sessions. In Science, Year 3 have been investigating plants, what they need to grow and their life cycle. Our Design Technology cushion making has been a highlight and the children have learnt various sewing stitches and techniques. If you greet us in French we will be able to reply and tell you how we are feeling too. What a great start to Year 3!



YEAR 4 – YEAR LEAD, MRS KIRK AND MRS MCCORMACK

This term, Year 4 have been exploring the concepts of change, sustainability and responsibility, thinking about the question 'should we live for today or worry about the future?' At the start of term, to inspire our descriptions of a woodland setting, we visited Foxburrow Woods and enjoyed listening to the sounds and watching the delights of nature around us. In Geography, we have looked closely at how land is used around rivers and the environmental impact this has. A particular highlight was making model river beds! To help us to engage with our current text, 'The Wild Robot' by Peter Brown, and think about the main character's experience on a new island, we made collages of the island setting. We'd like to take this opportunity to say well done to each and every child in Year 4 for their hard work and commitment to their learning – they are incredible!



YEAR 5 – YEAR LEAD, MRS JUDD



Year 5 have had a very successful start to their time in Upper Key Stage Two. They have been jetted off to North America, where they have been studying a variety of its geographical features. Through the story 'There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom', the children have met a very unusual school boy called Bradley Chalkers. They have written a detailed diary entry from Bradley using some amusing anecdotes from the text. The children have also become graffiti artists covering the classroom with a variety of examples of street art. We look forward to continuing our North American theme into Term 2.

YEAR 6 – YEAR LEAD, MRS EDGLEY-PEARCE

Year six have had an eventful start to their learning.

A 'real' earthquake caused chaos in the classrooms and the children subsequently undertook earthquake drills to protect them from future tremors. They also learnt about volcanoes and tsunamis!

Towards the end of the term, each group was given a plot of land, close to a fault line and with a volcano on site. They needed to use all their knowledge to make this habitable and safe so they could create a purpose-built village with early warning systems, infrastructure and escape routes for any type of natural disaster.



Throughout the term they have discussed why people choose to live where they do? and used the words adversity, consequences and fairness. The teachers have been really impressed by the enthusiasm of the children and thrilled that some have chosen to complete extra research, write reports and make models etc., at home unprompted.

SCHOOL COUNCIL AND HOUSE CAPTAINS



Congratulations to our new school councillors. It's been great to give them their badges in assembly and to see them ready to take on their new positions.

At the start of next term we will be able to celebrate our new House Captains who will be voted in at the end of this term and have worked really hard on their campaigns!

Both sets of children may well be our leaders of tomorrow!

FACEBOOK

Following on from my email earlier in the week, the school now has an active Facebook page, which we will use to update on our learning in school, inform parents about big school news and promote and announce events. Feel free to follow and like. We will be encouraging positive comments once the page is established and our online community is up and running.



CROSS COUNTRY

The cross-country team were great ambassadors for our school, showing super team spirit, brilliant behaviour and fantastic effort. The boys were placed second and the girls were first. There are two more league races later in the school year, so the runners are already training hard for those.

All the results can be found at:

[HTTPS://JUSTIMING.CO.UK/LIVERESULTS/2021/MEDWAYXC13.10.21/G-LIVE.HTML?F=MEDWAYXC13.10.21.CLAX](https://justiming.co.uk/liveresults/2021/MEDWAYXC13.10.21/G-LIVE.HTML?F=MEDWAYXC13.10.21.CLAX)

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the kind donations around several events in the school this term. We have a mountain of tins for caring hands, we've raised lots of money for Dandelion Time, we have shoe boxes which will be winging their way to be Christmas Presents for children in countries facing crisis and our glorious pumpkins will be scaring us into getting some lovely resources for the school. Your support for the charities which need it as well as for the school, is greatly appreciated.

As a school we will be supporting charities in Medway and Kent during the year, but as ever, these are donations and entirely up to parents. We will also be supporting major event days such as Comic Relief and Children in Need. Again, donations are optional but encouraged however, participation is for everyone.

TRIPS, SPORTS AND CLUBS



Over the coming weeks and months, we will be sending out information about Clubs, Sporting Events and School Trips. Provided we aren't facing difficulties related to Covid, which would apply to us all or be directed to schools, we will be running clubs for all ages, throughout the year, we will be entering as many sporting events as we can and we will be staging school trips to interesting places. Including, the Isle of Wight.

START AND END OF THE DAY

We are looking to find a little more room for us all at the start and end of the day. Any changes will come into effect from the second week in (Week Starting November 9th) and would be tweaks rather than an overhaul. Should there be any negative changes to the situation around Covid, we would, of course, take that into account and make any changes cautiously.

YEAR 5

It was great to see the feedback from our Year 5 parents who came into their children's classes this term. It was really positive and the children were so excited. Looking forward to the next term's visits.

A LAST WORD

I have loved this term. The school feels vibrant and positive and the behaviour and attitude of the children is excellent. There is a real buzz around the learning and the place in general. I can't thank staff enough for helping with this, leading parts of it and buying into the school vision. I can't thank parents enough for their support but most of all the young people in the school, who are a constant joy to be around. They make us all very proud.

Here are a few photographs of our children's pumpkins for you.



My best wishes for a relaxing, happy and safe half term break.

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

1 st November	Term 2 – All children back to school Basketball Club – Year 3
3 rd November	Year 3 – Visit from the Dogs Trust
4 th November	Parent Consultations
9 th November	D.T. Workshop in Class – Year 5
10 th November	Parent Tours for prospective pupils in 2022 9.30am and 1.45pm
11 th November	Flu Immunisation – Whole School Parent Consultations
15 th November	Individual Photos
16 th November	Individual Photos
16 th November	D.T. Workshop in Class – Year 5
17 th November	Parent Tours for prospective pupils in 2022 9.30am and 1.45pm
23 rd November	'No Electricity' Day
25 th November	Year 6 Curriculum Presentation to Parents 2.45pm