



HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – JAN/FEB 2022

Imagine Believe Persevere Achieve

COVID UPDATE

As we feared would happen, we currently have an increasing number of children and staff testing positive for Covid. We continue to follow the remaining guidelines for schools and are giving the correct advice to anyone adversely affected, based on the current government expectations around testing and self isolation. We will continue to work around a reduced staff and hopefully half term will provide a much needed respite for all as we head towards the Spring. All we would ask of parents is to remain vigilant over symptoms and follow the advice over testing.

WEBSITE

It's great that the school new school website is up and running and we feel, looks great and is much easier to use. Along with the school Facebook page and information from individual year groups, we hope that there are rich lines of communication and celebration.



ZIG ZAG

I feel it is worth reminding our parents who drive their children to school, to not park on the zig zag lines outside the school site. This has started to happen recently and puts pedestrians and other drivers at increased risk. The council regularly monitors parking in and around the school, but I feel it is far better that people make the choice to do the right thing and park legally.

Also, we would greatly appreciate it if at the start and end of the day, parents kept their children close to them and off the equipment in the area around the infant school playground. The start and end of the day need to be calm and we don't want any accidents. Thank you for your help with this.

PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Next week information will be coming out regarding the parent consultation meetings with teachers which will be taking place after half term. As before these will be pre booked and the timings of the evenings will be the same, with one evening until 7pm and the other until 6pm. Parents who are unable to or reluctant to meet teachers in person as result of Covid, will be given alternative choices which are mutually agreeable with the teacher.

NUMBER DAY

Numbers, numbers, everywhere. Well done to all the children and staff who dressed up today and spent time looking at aspects of Maths and Number problems and games. Best of all we have raised around £500 for the NSPCC, which is a brilliant cause and we are proud to support it.



CURRICULUM ACROSS THE SCHOOL

It's been a busy term and we wanted to share some of the learning experiences the children have been enjoying at Parkwood.

FOUNDATION STAGE

What an enjoyable term we have had so far in FS! It has been very busy to say the least!



Our topic theme "Amazing animals" has led the way to some fantastic learning during the past few weeks. We have learnt about nocturnal animals and their habitats. We have explored the different seasons and weather patterns. We became photographers and captured images of the winter on our IPADS, we really enjoyed this! We then headed off to the jungle and explored some of the animals we might find there. Most recently, we became detectives and helped Year 5 try and relocate their missing tiger who had wandered off to find more food; definitely one of our highlights so far and a big hit with the children!

YEAR 1

It was great to see how quickly the children settled back into school after the Christmas break and it is amazing to think that the term is almost over already. We continue to see the children working very hard with their reading and writing during Read Write Inc. sessions and hope you are also seeing the improvements at home. Again, a big thank you for all your hard work listening to the children reading. Maths has seen the children recapping their knowledge of addition and subtraction using slightly larger numbers, before we start to tackle measurement using masses, lengths and even water for capacity.



Our topic for the terms 3 and 4 is based around history and discovery. This term we have found out about a true Victorian heroine, Grace Darling. Even though she might not be the first name that would skip of the tongue when thinking of a famous person the children have enjoyed finding out about her life and what she did to become famous. While exploring her life the children have used drama and role play, joined materials to make lighthouses and learnt about colour mixing to help in producing their



pictures.

The children have also continued to learn about programming and algorithms computing while using the Bee Bots. Explaining how they are controlled and writing programming instruction to move them to different places.

So as another term draws to an end we look forward to both the short break and the new learning the new term will bring.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have been keen historians learning about the Great Fire Of London, they are able to say when the fire started and what happened throughout the four days of the blaze. They have begun to write their newspaper reports which will be published next term for all to enjoy. Each week they have put on their newspaper reporter badges and investigated different aspects of the fire and researched eye witness accounts. In maths the children have been learning their times tables and how to divide by sharing. In computing the children have been learning how to search the internet safely. They have also been learning how to use Microsoft PowerPoint to present ideas and information. In art they have been learning various techniques of using chalk and oil pastels as well as paints to create some wonderful Great Fire of London art work.



YEAR 3

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed our Stone Age Day in Foxburrow Woods and had fun creating a pre-historic art palette back in school. The charcoal art project has produced some wonderful original cave drawings from the children. Making fossils, as part of our Science work has also been a highlight, along with investigating different types of rocks. In PSHE, we are really beginning to understand what a community is and what it feels like to belong to one. In music, we have been using the glockenspiels and the notes from the pentatonic scale to create our own compositions to celebrate Chinese New Year. What a great term!



YEAR 4

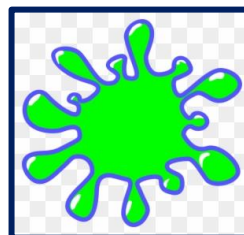
Year 4 have delved in to the world of Ancient Greece this term through the concepts of democracy, duty and rights alongside the enquiry question 'Should we accept our place in society?'. They have experienced what life may have been like in Athens and Sparta and have enjoyed reading a variety of Greek myths. We were incredibly impressed with the resilience they demonstrated when having a go at crafting their own Greek-inspired pots from clay.



Well done, Year 4!

YEAR 5

In Year 5, we have been exploring equality, poverty and happiness through the life of a Victorian child. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about how unfairly the Victorian children were treated. By making connections between the lack of money and the jobs a child had to do, the children developed their empathy for those living in the Victorian times. The children have enhanced their appreciation for their own lifestyle and are thankful for the toys, food and opportunities of a modern child. The focus of our Science lessons has been to investigate materials and their properties. One of Year 5 best memories will be manipulating the Ooblek substance watching it transform from a solid into a liquid. Luckily, most of the Ooblek came out of the carpet! We are looking forward to continuing our Victorian adventures into Term 4.



YEAR 6

Year 6 took a step back in time on 25th January. They were evacuees, completing role play and freeze frames as inspiration for their writing. They also played parlour games, wartime outdoor games and sang World War II songs. They have been reading 'Letters from the Lighthouse'; crating blitz art using a range of pastel skills in art and developed their DT skills when they created gas mask boxes from a flat piece of card – even drawing their own nets.

They still have the trip to look forward to on the 10th February



Thank you to all our families for their ongoing support. Parkwood is a really exciting place to be at the moment.

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

4 th February	NSPCC Number Day
8 th February	Fantastic Fred
	Dockyard Trip – Year 1
9 th February	Dockyard Trip – Year 1
10 th February	Dockyard Trip – Year 1
	Kent Life Museum – Year 6
11 th February	Last day of Term
21 st February	Term 4 – Children back to School
3 rd March	World Book Day (Sponsored Read)
7 th March	Book Fair Monday – Wednesday
16 th March	Bronze Age Workshop Year 3
	Football Match Year 5/6 Parkwood Primary hosting