

NEWSLETTER

April 23rd 2021

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A message from the Head teacher

Welcome to the 2021 summer term.

It was super to see our children return to school on the 12th April after the Spring break- full of smiles and excitement. I hope that during the break, you have had the chance to relax and spend some time outdoors with family and friends. After the Easter sunshine and then snow, we have been fortunate to have sunny days which has meant that the children can make the most of our outdoor space.

It is lovely to hear the buzz of laughter and learning as I walk around school and I know that this is echoed by the teachers who are excited to be back in school with full classes of children who are eager to learn.

Our curriculum will continue what we started last term in that as the children settle back into learning, we will focus on progressing their knowledge and understanding from their specific starting points. We are referring to this as our rediscover phase as it gives children and teachers the opportunity to recap and remind themselves of what they already know and ensure that the learning continues to builds on this prior knowledge.

As lockdown continues to ease, there are plans to introduce broader and additional whole school initiatives where children can work and socialise together. The PTA have been working hard throughout the year in preparation for the re-introduction of events in the future. It is my hope that we may be able to welcome parents in to school before the end of the summer term.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support.

Jackie Normanton

3/5/2021

May Day - school closed

19/5/2021

Class photos

21/5/2021

PTA Mutfi Day - Donation buckets on gates

31/5/2021

Children leave school for half term

7/6/2021

Children return to school after half term

5/7/2021

Healthy Lifestyles Week Nursery morning children & Tadpoles Sports Day Nursery afternoon children & Newts Sports Day 6/7/2021

KS1 Sports Day

8/7/2021

KS2 Sports Day

16/7/2021

PTA Mutfi Day - Donation buckets on gates Year 6 Leavers' Disco

20/7/2021

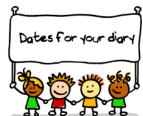
Proms in the Playground

21/7/2021

Leavers' Assembly

22/7/2021

Last day of term



IN FOCUS...YEAR I AND YEAR 6 NURSERY AND RECEPTION

Nursery

In Nursery, we are enjoying getting to know the new children and families that have joined us, we have been really proud of how the existing Cygnets have been exceptional role models.

This term we will be helping the children to become more independent, make relationships and explore the different areas of the learning environment.

For the children who will be going to school in September, we will be helping them to prepare for this exciting next step in their learning for when they start Reception.

We will continue to follow the children's' interests and support them to develop in all areas of the curriculum.

In addition to this, we will be learning about seasons and the natural environment; exploring the great outdoors and what it has to offer.



NURSERY AND RECEPTION CONTINUED

Reception

In Reception this term, we will be going crazy about critters and become adventurous about animals!

We will be on a non-fiction fact finding mission where the children will learn lots of new information about mini-beasts and animals as well as asking their own questions about the world around them.

You might want to encourage your child's blue-sky thinking and research the answers to their questions at home.

The children will be buzzing about their learning (no pun intended!) as we go on hunts and carry out science experiments.

The children will continue to use and apply their knowledge of phonics and get creative when writing their own stories too.



YEAR I



It's carnival time in year one!

The children have already kicked the term off revisiting their map skills during their Geography lessons by locating the Earth's equator.

They have then used this information to locate Earth's hot and cold areas on a map and then the children started to wonder what animals live in these two very different climates and explored their habitats.

In a few weeks time the children will be immersed in the Carnival of the Animals music composed by Camille Saint-Saëns.

They will discuss whether they can identify different instruments that represent the animals and express their own opinion on what their favourite is and why.

Our Science lessons will be focused around animals including humans. The children have begun to identify common animals and talk about their features. Moving forward the children will be able to name an animal and classify them as mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds or fish.

At the end of the term as a fantastic finish, the children will learn about carnivals, decorate their own carnival head piece and learn a carnival dance then perform this to another class.

YEAR 2

This term in Year 2 we will be focusing on the theme of Nocturnal Animals. This will allow us to explore fact files on different animals in the UK that are nocturnal and how they live.

This will link with Science as we explore what makes a habitat and how the habitats of nocturnal animals allow them to thrive and how this compares to diurnal animals (those awake in the day).

In English, we will continue the focus of nocturnal animals through the book of Fantastic Mr Fox and will consider the characters within the book and the rich language used by Roald Dahl.

Measures and the four operations will be the work in maths and phonics, spellings and grammar will continue to deepen our understanding of spelling and grammar rules.

Below are some photos from our Stunning Start WOW day which included painting nocturnal animals, fact finding with torches in the dark and finding out about the jobs that people do at night.









YEAR 3

This term, Year 3 children will explore our 'Temples, Tombs and Treasures' topic and learn about the Ancient Egyptians.

Through Geography, they will locate Egypt on a map and be able to compare features of physical and human geography between London and Cairo.

In History, they will learn about how the Egyptians lived, the ritual of mummification and who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun.



The children will also learn about how Egyptian people used hieroglyphs to communicate and compare the powers of different Gods.

They will understand what was important to people during Ancient Egyptian times, be able to compare the powers of different Egyptian Gods.

The children will be encouraged to raise questions when confronted with an artefact in order to understand more about this ancient civilisation and select information that is useful.

We have chosen to use the text, 'Egyptian Cinderella' to focus on developing the children's inference skills as well as looking at character and setting descriptions.

Linking with our history curriculum, the children will be writing an explanation text about the mummification process and they will even attempt to mummify a tomato!

Our two science topics for the summer are 'Animals, including Humans' and 'Light', where the children will be working scientifically, using classification, sorting and grouping, as well as researching and presenting data.

We will be considering the importance of a balanced diet, the function of the skeleton and muscles and answering questions such as 'What is an invertebrate?'.

In the 'Light' topic, we will explore mirrors, light and shadow. In maths, the children will consolidate their understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as developing the children's reasoning and problem solving skills.

It is a real pleasure having all of the Year 3 children back in school - they have been working extremely hard!

YEAR 4

In Year 4, we have started our Rainforest topic 'Life Amongst The Leaves'.

The children have started to use atlases to identify countries which have rainforests and have researched animals of their choice to create an information text.

The children are really engaged in finding out about life in the rainforests and were excited to share facts that they had found.

Erin was intrigued that Jaguars travel up to 80km per hour and kill animals by biting their necks.

In the weeks to come, we will be looking at the layers of the rainforest, the different climates and the effect which deforestation is having on wildlife and our planet.

In Science, our focus is on 'Teeth and Digestion', the children will be exploring the process of digestion and what each part of the system does.

We will also look at different functions of our teeth and compare these with animals.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have made a brilliant start to the Summer term with great enthusiasm and excitement for their learning.

This term we turn back time to the ancient world where we discover the great, the bold and the brave Ancient Greeks. We will be exploring what everyday life was like, discovering who Alexander the Great was, learning how historians use artefacts to learn about the past and using what we learn about Ancient Greek pottery to create our own scratch art vases.

The focus of our English work will be linked to the Ancient Greeks.

We will be writing our own myths based on Theseus and the Minotaur, creating a factual non-chronological report about the Ancient Greek Olympics and exploring persuasive techniques through the study of Odysseus.

At the end of the summer term, we will be making Greek food to inspire our instructional writing.

Within our Science unit, we will conducting investigative work to explore how materials change through reversible and irreversible changes and how to separate mixtures. In computing, we will be using Purple Mash to create our very own 3D computer games beginning with the research and design leading to the development and testing of the game.

We are excited about the wonderful opportunities for creative learning the summer term brings and look forward to continuing the children's learning journey.



YEAR 6

The children in Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the summer term where they will be learning about holidays and how they have changed over time; from Victorian seaside getaways to modern eco-tourism, the children will understand more about the trends and changes that have occurred over the last couple of centuries.

During their Design and Technology lessons, the children will also have the chance to create their own tourist attraction when designing and making a prototype for a fairground ride.

This task will afford them the opportunity to design, make, test and improve a model that they have made before explaining their design and convincing their peers that their model is the best.

One of the highlights so far this term has been the opportunity to share our class text 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd with the children.

The book focuses on a mystery which occurs on the famous tourist attraction and the children have produced some fantastic examples of diary writing from the perspective of the unconventional heroes in the story.





A message from the PTA

We hope everybody is as delighted as we are that our children are back into the full swing of school and for some of us it is a relief to have hung up our home-schooling hats!

Since the start of the year, in the background, the PTA have been working with the school team to look at our 2021 events planner. Covid provides its challenges and this has had to be revised, but it is by no means depleted - watch this space for upcoming events and plans.

To kick start the year, we were very excited to have been able to support the school to purchase almost 500 books using monies raised through previous events such as the 2019 Xmas fayre, mufti days, school uniform sales and all the other events.

This is what your contributions and support enables and so we would like to say a huge thank you to you, and to the school for supporting our team and facilitating the practical elements of raising money and awareness.

We will be sending out a PTA parents survey during the summer term to get ideas and feedback from you and your children on what you would like to see the PTA organise.

If anybody wants to express their interest to support the team there will be an opportunity to do that too.

Many thanks, Helen, Leanne and Louise



Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner For England, has launched the largest ever survey for children in the country's history, with the results to be given directly to the government.

Dame de Souza said: "My job is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want."

The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete and can be found by visiting: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/