

## Newsletter – Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a term it has been! Thank you to all of you for your support in us getting the children back into school again. I'm incredibly proud of how the children have returned and got back into learning. I've also been very impressed with the home learning that has been coming in too!

We've had some amazing learning over the term and the children have really engaged with their learning journeys.

### Oak Class

Oak Class have finished their first term at school! We are so proud of how they have adapted to being in their new class and the school routines. It has been a busy term for Oak Class and the children have enjoyed exploring all of their new learning activities and environments.

This term Oak Class have been learning about themselves and their friends.

The children have been sharing their likes and dislikes, experiences and stories with each other. Throughout the Marvellous Me topic the children have explored their five senses, read the story Funnybones and have been learning about the body and skeleton. Some of the activities include making their own skeleton artwork, creating skeleton gingerbread people and retelling and making up Funnybones stories in the small world.



### Apple Class

This term, Apple Class have been learning all about dinosaurs and fossils. They have thoroughly enjoyed reading books about dinosaurs including Tyrannosaurus Drip, Stomp Dinosaur Stomp and Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs. From this, they have created a storyboard, character descriptions and even written their own stories.

In art, the children have created and made a range of artwork. This includes dinosaur pendant necklaces, mixing colours to make a silhouette dinosaur pictures and printing using apples to make a whole class apple tree display in the classroom. The children have loved pressing and printing to make their own dinosaur fossils too.



The children have been working extremely hard in maths, as they worked in depth using numbers between 0 - 10. This included adding numbers together, making number bonds and using different ways to represent each number. The children will be working on subtracting numbers within 10 before moving onto numbers within 20.

In science, the children have been learning about everyday materials. This has meant the children have carried out a variety of experiments to test the strength of materials, whether they are magnetic or if they are waterproof. This was a lot of fun and the children enjoyed finding out which material would be best to use.

It has been brilliant to see so many pieces of home learning and how interested the children have been in learning about Dinosaurs and Fossils. Well done Apple Class for such a great first term.

## Cherry Class

This term the children have been learning all about the Great Fire of London; how the fire started, how it spread and how London was re-built after the fire. We began the Learning Journey with a time capsule delivered by Mr Shevels. The time capsule had different artefacts which we discovered belonged to Samuel Pepys! We read a story called Fire Cat, which is a diary of a boy who experienced the Great Fire. The children wrote some fantastic diaries in role as the boy from the story. In history, we learnt how the Great Fire began and what happened during the fire. The children wrote comic strips to order and describe these events. We also

thought carefully about different ways that London could be re-built and designed new streets and houses. After learning about the Great Fire, the children wrote newspaper articles and thought of their own dramatic headlines! In Art, we had fun making our own collages of the burning houses. To celebrate our learning this term, the children immersed themselves in a Great Fire of London day! We performed a dance to tell the story of the Great Fire and made our own Tudor houses.



## Silver Birch Class

This term Silver Birch class have been learning about the Stone Age as part of their Fire, Fur and Flintstone topic. They have learnt all about the different types of Stone Age homes, types of clothing, hunting, gathering, fire and food. In English they looked at the book Stone Age boy and used this to help them write their own setting descriptions about a Stone Age cave.

The class also used all the information they had learnt to write their own non-chronological reports. Silver Birch class have also been learning about rocks in science. They have learnt about the 3 different types of natural rocks, how rocks are formed and all about fossils. They also learnt about the famous fossil finder Mary Anning.



### Setting description by Robert

In the dark pitchness, a rough grey cave lay under the shadows looking like a vast beast. The rain was the only sound that could be heard for miles around as it splattered down upon the cave. A blood red moon like a werewolf's eye looked at the sharp pointy rocks that made the frightful place a monster. Water ran down the beastly, horrible cave like the saliva of a hungry bear.

## Copper Beech Class

This term, Copper Beech have been learning about Ancient Egypt. The children have learnt about famous pharaohs, Egyptian Gods, hieroglyphics, and also investigated how the pyramids were built. After learning about the death masks pharaohs wore in the afterlife, the children designed, created and painted their own death masks. On their learning journey day, Copper Beech learnt about the mummification process and use of canopic jars. They then created their own using clay, and later painted and decorated these.





They have also been using books and the internet to research Modern day Egypt, discovering the importance of the Nile both now and 5000 years ago, Egyptian food, and interesting places to visit. In Science, Copper Beech have been finding out about the digestive system, also conducting some very hands on experiments with organic remains!

## Willow Class

This term, Willow Class have been learning all about some Incredible Invaders. We have used drama to create timelines of events of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, designed Long Houses and have learnt all about the fascinating punishments and laws that were used in these times. In English, we have written diary extracts and created a dragon encyclopaedia alongside making some brilliant dragon eyes out of clay.



In Grammar, Willow Class have been including fronted adverbials and parenthesis in their writing. In PE, we have been focussing on working as a team and showing good sportspersonship.

The class have done this brilliantly and have been really supportive of each other. On our return to school, we will be conducting our fantastic finish where we will be building and racing Viking Ships.



## Yew Tree Class

This term, our Learning Journey has been Lights, Camera, Action, centred on the historical context and development of film as a medium in entertainment, public information and education. The theme has permeated as much of the rest of the curriculum as possible. In English, we have been writing across a range of genres applying a range of punctuation and grammar. We have been reading the book, 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brian Selznick, all about the history of film.

In science, we started the year looking at electricity and circuits, practically building and experimenting with circuits and components (using batteries) and learning from actual circuits.



In art and DT, children have been learning the technique of cross-hatching and doing drawings based on the beautiful illustrations from

within our reading book: The Invention of Hugo Cabret and constructed and tested their own zoetropes. At the end of term, children also looked at movement in art and constructed wire based sculptures.

In PE, we have studied dance concepts such as: exaggerated movement, different levels, mirroring, cannoning and motif as well as some acting techniques based on a Charlie Chaplin fight scene from 'The kid'. We filmed it to ragtime music and played it back sped up and in black and white to create the right effect.



## **In other news...**

### **New menu**

The kitchen staff have done an amazing job of being able to start serving hot food in Term 1 and we are pleased that they will be able to serve a full lunch menu from next term. The menu has been sent out but it is on Parent Pay for you to look at. You will be able to select the meal you'd like your child to have on there for each day you'd like them to have a meal in future.

### **Crossing Patrol**

There is an increase in traffic with parents queuing early at drop off particularly. Please can you ensure that you are being vigilant of the crossing and pedestrians on the paths near the school.

### **Absence reporting**

Please can I remind you that absences from school should be reported as soon as possible. Registers close 30 minutes after the children have arrived and therefore it is important that we know why a child is not in school that day. At the moment this is staggered like our start times. Absences can reported both via the telephone or via Parent Mail.

I hope you have had a restful half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term ahead!