

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust this newsletter finds you well and you have already signed up to attend Monday's 'Meet the Parent' event. If not, please ring school to book a time to meet with your child's new teacher. Occasions such as this are important and demonstrate your desire to see your child succeed in school. It helps to put a face to the name, and gives you a chance to see some of the work your son or daughter has been completing in school.

I was pleased to see so many of you attend last Friday's coffee morning in aid of McMillan Cancer Support. Falcon Class did an excellent job in organising and hosting the event. Not only were the cakes they baked delicious, but they managed to raise over £100 for the charity. The pupils even spent some of the afternoon selling the left-over cakes to members of the public walking past the school.

Other highlights since I last wrote to you include two classes being lucky enough to witness the England rugby squad training at St. Edwards School. Please check the school website to see the players in action. St. Edwards continue to be very good to us - their design department have even agreed to design, build and fund the final phase of our indoor garden project. This will be completed by Christmas. We have also secured the services of a volunteer librarian, and we look forward to the room becoming more of a working library and promoting the joy of reading across the school.

On a less positive note, some staff have reported feeling uneasy about the way some parents have spoken to them. If you have concerns we will always listen to them, be it in person or over the telephone, and will seek to address and solve them as quickly as possible. We welcome visitors to our school, but we need to ensure it remains a safe place for pupils, staff and all other members of our community. I appreciate life can be frustrating, but we all want the best for the children we support. Working together is the best way of achieving this shared outcome. Please be aware that abusive behaviour will not be tolerated in the school or over the telephone. Visitors behaving in this way will be asked to leave the premises, and we will cease any phone conversation should we feel the tone becomes aggressive. Hopefully, neither step will be necessary.

I also ask that you inform us of any changes to your contact details. It is vitally important that we can get hold of you in an emergency, and that you check your voicemail for any messages that we might leave. Equally, please keep us informed if your child becomes eligible for Pupil Premium funding. If you are unsure of this, please telephone school with your National Insurance number and we will run this check for you. Having this information correct is important as it ensures the school receives the appropriate level of funding.

We are in the process of finalising the dates for the second half of the term, and I will share these with you in the next newsletter.



Jonathan Willis
Headteacher

Chaffinch Class

Chaffinch have been experimenting with different strategies of adding and subtracting numbers to 100 and 1000, in numeracy. They have also been working hard to learn their 2,4 and 10 times tables. In literacy, they have been using adjectives and adverbs to enhance their independent creative writing based on Under the Sea.

Eagle Class

Eagles have been working on addition and subtraction of whole numbers. We tested which different materials would keep out rain on an Anderson shelter and discovered they all kept the rain out, even paper. We have also been using Dienes equipment to complete the subtraction of two and three digit numbers.

Falcon Class

Falcon have been continuing their literacy work based on Friend and Foe, writing from the character's point of view. We watched a clip on the people's recounts of the Blitz and imagined what life was like during that time - we all agreed that we would have been terrified. In numeracy, we have been working on addition and subtraction, as well as consolidating place value. This week we enjoyed our session at Oxford Academy, playing basketball and learning more trampoline skills.

Heron Class

Heron have been busy in the kitchen. Last week we made forest jam using blackberries from forest school and apples from the school garden. This week we have been making jam tarts. In maths, we have been estimating and counting objects.

Some of us have been grouping the objects into tens and units. In literacy, we are continuing to enjoy the story of Annie and the ghost in 'Storm'.

Kingfisher Class

Kingfisher have been practising their adding and taking away in maths and have continued to read the ghost story 'Storm' in English lessons. The pupils have watched some clips from 'Blue Planet' to find out about some of the weird and wonderful creatures that live in the deepest parts of the ocean.

Wren Class

We have been enjoying the story Supertato. The pupils have made their own Supertato's and worked on writing a speech bubble to go alongside them. We also designed and wrote a sentence about a trap to catch the Evil Pea. Our swimming sessions continue to be a success.

Red Kite Class

Red Kite have continued to learn all about World War Two. We have written letters from the perspective of an evacuee, learnt about rationing and compared our lives today with those of the British people during the War. In numeracy, we have been multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 & 1000 using place value grids and have enjoyed quizzing each other on this! We built a swing, a dam and a tree house at Forest School, and made toasted sandwiches on the campfire, which were yummy!

Osprey Class

We have had a hectic week getting work ready for our assembly on Friday. We have been learning about rationing in World War Two and then comparing the food to what we eat today. We have also been designing our own Clarice Cliff inspired bowls in art and cooking Brown Betty (a WW2 pudding) in domestic science. We are looking forward to going on our trip next week to learn what life was like as an evacuee.

Kestrel Class

This week we have been using powerful verbs in literacy, reading the rest of Storm and thinking about when we use speech marks. In our topic, we have been looking at The Great Barrier Reef and in Science we have been looking at the characteristics of different sea creatures.

The Nest

We have been doing lots of role play this week. We spent our art session making a crown and then imagined what life would be like as a king. We then used this role play to help inspire some creative writing. In numeracy, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We made some pictures using 2D shapes and created some models with 3D shapes. We were given the challenge to recreate famous buildings, such as Big Ben and Tower bridge using wooden blocks.