

Ridgewell C of E Primary School



Newsletter

Wednesday, 31st October 2018

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a lovely half term holiday and are ready for the coming weeks of school. It promises to be a busy term, as always, in the run up to Christmas.

School Vision and Values

In July, we invited all children, the School Council, staff and governors to have their say in what the vision and values of our school should be. We had lots of suggestions and similarities in the responses. The four main values that were chosen were: Hope, Wisdom, Friendship and Respect. The vision came from a member of the School Council who said that at school we are all 'Learning to be the 'Best Person' we can be.' It was agreed that this encompassed many areas and is also a powerful vision to have.

Behaviour Policy Update

We have recently revised and updated our behaviour policy and have made some changes to the way we record behaviour in school. Often, the children at Ridgewell are praised for their excellent behaviour and we decided that we need to celebrate this more. We have introduced a 'Green Card Book' to write in examples of excellent behaviour. This will be checked regularly by the School Council and certificates will be made by the children to give out in assemblies. We will also have a 'Warning Book' to record small or one-off incidents, and also a 'Red Card Book' for serious behavioural incidents and repeated warnings. Parents will be notified if their child receives more than 5 green cards or if they repeatedly appear in the red card book. We have shared this with the children in an assembly who should be able to share this with you.

Spooks and Sparks Assembly

At the end of last term, we welcomed a member of Essex Fire Service who came to speak to the children about keeping safe at this time of year. The children were spoken to about fireworks, sparklers and costumes, and how they can avoid dangerous situations. We hope the messages are remembered throughout this season.

Storage of Wellies

We are enjoying using the new room which was built before the summer. However, this room has affected how we store wellies in school. We now have no space which is water-proof to store wellies. Because of this, we ask that all children in Mars, Jupiter and Saturn take their wellies home, and only bring them to school on the days when they are needed. We still have a small amount of space to keep Earth class wellies as normal.

Remembrance

This year, the school will be going down to the village memorial on Friday 9th November to hold a minutes silence. Please meet us at the memorial if you would like to join with us in remembrance.

School Council

The children in the School Council would like to thank you for your donations for their sponsored silence. Between them, they raised £30 to go towards their trim trail project. They would also like to thank you for your generosity in bringing food for Harvest, which was donated that same

day to the Haverhill Foodbank. They are also looking forward to raising money for Children in Need, which they will be organising a pyjama day on Thursday 15th November.

Kind regards,

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Stuart

Class News

Earth - There have been so many things that we have enjoyed learning about in our first half term at school! Oisin said he really enjoyed learning about counting and making our Steps to Successful counting list; whereas Jake said he really liked making the Mood Monsters "Because there is lots of them!". Effie, Ivy and Chloe had great fun taking part in the Blue Balloon activity "Because it was funny when it stuck on the ceiling!". Evie and Charlotte really enjoyed our RE activity that involved making jelly because "We loved to eat it!". Ollie loved learning about our body and being our model to draw around. You can find his silhouette in our classroom on display. We have all loved our cooking activities and we cannot wait for all the excited next half-term brings!

Mars - Last half term, we began our water topic. We have learnt all about the water cycle and using scientific words to explain how water is transported around the world. We have also thought about different food chains under the sea. Children discussed seascapes by Turner and used spatulas to make our own dramatic pictures. Children also used un-tuned instruments to make the sound of a thunderstorm and play along to 'Little April shower from the film Bambi. We really enjoyed making eels out of clay and even tried to twist them to make our initials.

Jupiter - So far this term in Jupiter we have been studying the Ancient Egyptians as our topic. We have enjoyed looking at the way in which they preserved their bodies through mummification, and how they buried their kings in rich tombs. Place Value, addition and subtraction have been our maths topics so far and we have been learning how to write instructions and written in the style of Julia Donaldson. Our science topic is looking at the body and how what you eat can affect your life. Everyone is looking forward to visiting Saffron Walden museum in November to see the Egyptian exhibits.

Saturn - This half term Saturn have been learning all about World War II. So far we have looked at; the causes of WWII, what countries were involved, important leaders, rationing, clothing, evacuation and we have just started learning about the Blitz. Pupils worked hard on writing letters as if they were an evacuee. Our classroom also proudly displays the excellent artwork created by Saturn class, inspired by the propaganda posters of WWII. The children have been bringing in items from home that are related to our topic and it has been wonderful to see how engaged everyone is.

We were also very fortunate to visit The Ridgewell Air Museum. It was fascinating to look at all the WWII artefacts and to learn more about the Ridgewell Air Base. Saturn Class has also recently enjoyed a wonderful 'Forest School' day at Parkwood. It was a busy day full of hide and seek, den building, foraging, exploring and even making bows and arrows. We even had time to enjoy some toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate! Next half term, we look forward to our trip to Duxford Air museum and our World War II day.