



Barford St. Peter's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Together we love; together we learn

Newsletter

Friday 26th January 2024

It has certainly been a cold, blustery January so far! In school we this week we have continued to think about our school value of respect. We have talked about ways we can demonstrate respect at home, at school and in the community. We also reflected on times we see both respect and disrespect on television and in social media. The children gave excellent examples.

You should have received communication earlier this week that we are currently reviewing our curriculum offer. It is very important to us that you share your views and feedback on what we are doing well and what could be improved. If you are able to spare a few minutes to complete the survey please use the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/9VqQBc10He>

Over the past two weeks we have also been carrying out subject monitoring in school for history, geography, PHSE, PE and English. We have talked to some of the children about their learning in these subjects and looked through their work too. We have been incredibly impressed by children's positive attitudes and enthusiasm for their learning. They are taking great pride in their learning in their books too.

Please note we have added in class assembly dates for the Spring term – keep the dates free in your diary!

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,

Mrs Mary Baker

Staffing Update

Mrs Feldman will be leaving school next Thursday 1st February to commence her maternity leave. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her well for the arrival of baby Feldman. We will really miss Mrs Feldman while she is away but are very excited for the Feldman family!

I am delighted to be able to announce that Mrs Crawley-Horsman and Mrs Gourlay will be joining us from 5th February to teach year 2 while Mrs Feldman is away. Most of you will know Mrs Crawley-Horsman as she taught year 4 last year and we are thrilled to be welcoming her back to Barford. Both Mrs Gourlay and Mrs Crawley- Horsman have a huge amount of experience of teaching year 2 and are looking forward to getting to know you all better. We feel very blessed that they are able to join the team.

Uniform Reminders

Please could I remind you that correct P.E. kit should be a white t-shirt and red shorts or black jogging bottoms. In the cold weather children can bring in a black hooded sweatshirt for P.E. lessons. Children are beginning to bring a range of non-uniform P.E. kit items in a plethora of colours.

Please could I also remind you that hair clips, bobbles, bows etc should only be white, red or black. Children will be asked to remove any hair accessories which are not in school uniform colours. I do believe that it is important that we help children to understand and respect rules rather than bending them.

School uniform is a good way for us to help children to understand how to look smart and think smart. It is also an important way to help prepare children for secondary school. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

What we've been learning

Reception

We have continued developing our Amazing Animals topic with a focus on the texts, 'Night Monkey Day Monkey' and 'Monkey Puzzle' by Julia Donaldson. We created monkey artwork using wax crayons and soft pastels. We learned about creating defined shapes and blending colours with soft pastels to fill them. We have also looked at non-fiction books on animals and made

distinctions between them and the stories we have been reading.

This week we had a very exciting visit from ZooLab. An animal handler called Ellie came into class and we all had opportunities to look at, touch and hold some animals as well as finding out all about them. The children were extremely well behaved, asked super questions and were very brave, especially holding Kiki the corn snake and Turbo the giant African land snail.



All the children's hard work in phonics and letter formation practice is starting to notice. They have written some fantastic animal fact files about the animals that came to visit.

In our Maths we have been learning about investigating numbers, breaking them into small parts. The children love playing games to test their number bond knowledge and are becoming speedy with number bonds for 5.

In PE we have been practising our balancing skills and playing games following rules. Our favourite game is called 'Ghostbusters!'

The children have been thoughtful when reflecting on our school value, 'Respect' and we have been delighted to hear from some parents that their children have been discussing this with them at home too.

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have continued our learning about 'The polar regions'. In English, we have been working on information texts, writing about different animals that live in polar regions. We wrote information about penguins. We had to think about what a penguin is and we looked at some information altogether and then talked about what we found out before writing our own.

In maths, we have been learning our number bonds to 20! This can be tricky, but we worked really hard to do it. $9 + 11 = 20$ and we have done counting on and adding in our number bonds.

In science, we have been learning about different materials. We had to look around the classroom and find out what different materials the things in our classroom were made from. A window is made of glass.

In Geography, we had to find where the arctic circle is! Two different places in the arctic circle are Finland and Canada. We also talked about the different animals that live in those cold places like snowy owls and polar bears.

In PE, we had Miss Lane and we learned some dance skills where we had to make different shapes in a group, we had to run around and when Miss Lane blows her whistle, we had to make the shape that she tells us to make in our groups, there were 4 people in a group.

Year 2

In maths we've been learning about arrays. An array is when there are counters and they are equal to make different numbers for us to look at. They are presented in columns and rows and we use it to help us multiply. 5 counters in one column and 3 rows it would be 5×3 which is 15.

In English we have been learning about the moon monster. It is all about a video that we have been watching, like a little cartoon, 1 minute and 20 seconds and we have been doing a character description of the moon monster who is in the video.

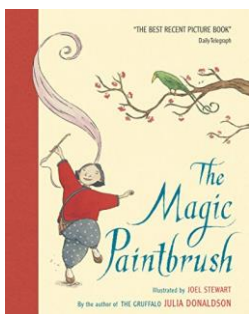
In science we have been looking at materials, we have been learning about what they could be used for, we learnt that rocks and sand can be used to make glass!

In PE, we had Miss Lane who is our sports coach and we were thinking about different ways of moving like skipping, hopping and running.



Year 3

In year 3 we have been very busy! In English, we have been exploring 'The Tale of Two Doves' story as it relates to our learning theme; China. We have been learning about adverbs. Adverbs are ways of describing a verb for example; walking slowly, quickly, tirelessly. We wrote our own versions of 'The Tale of Two Doves' that we first did a slow write on. We were also thinking about how to write about our emotions, how we could use synonyms for different emotions e.g. sad could be distraught or devastated. We have also moved onto our different story "The Magic Paintbrush!"



In Maths, we finished our time unit! Now, we are doing a recap on lots of different things we have learned so far. We also have been getting questions and finding out which way we could answer it. We could do mental or column multiplication or addition or subtraction.

In geography we have been learning about China's two rivers the Yellow and Yangtze river. We went on the chromebooks and we got lots of interesting facts about the two rivers. Every week we have 2 P.E lessons; 1 with our teacher where we are doing circuits! Every week we see how much stronger our muscles are getting. We also did a carousel of different Exercises.



Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have been very busy! Last week we had a Roman visitor and had a whole day experiencing what life was like for the Romans. We got to dress up in armour like real Roman soldiers, we even got to hold shields! The special armour is called chainmail. We also wrote our names in the Roman alphabet. We used clay to make prayer motives for the temple. We also had a go at being 'gladiators'!

In English, we have been writing about our class book 'The Lost Thing'. We did this through slow writing at first, which is where we have time to discuss our ideas and our 'higher level' vocabulary choices.

In Maths, we have been focusing on dividing and multiplying by 10 and 100. We found this quite tricky at first so we had to persevere. We used the place value charts to help us.

In History, we created timelines of how the Romans invaded Britain and took over. In PE, we had Miss Ruby! We did gymnastics, this week we had to practise handstands, cartwheels and forward rolls! In RE, we are busy creating a new prayer book and so we have been writing prayers for the book. In PSHE, we have been drawing pictures of our comfortable, calm spaces.



Year 5

This week in year 5 we have been continuing our learning with 'The Monster Slayer'. We have been writing kennings; kennings are two word phrases that are separated by a hyphen and usually consist of a noun and a verb or another noun ending in er or ing. We have written kennings about Grendel, Hrothgar and Beowulf.

In Geography, we were learning about where the Anglo-Saxons came from. They came in three different tribes: The Angles, The Saxons and The jutes, from three different places in Europe; Scandinavia, Germany and Denmark. We then used atlases to compare the maps of the 7 Anglo Saxon kingdoms to the current map of the UK. We live in what was once called Mercia!

In music we are doing musical theatre. The boys' song that they have been working on is 'Getcha head in the game' from High School Musical, the girls have been working on 'naughty' from Matilda and as a class we have been working all together on 'I Just Can't Wait to be King' from the Lion King.

In maths, we were learning about measure problems. Measure covers lots of different areas in maths! We have been learning about area, perimeter, mass, weight, volume and capacity too!

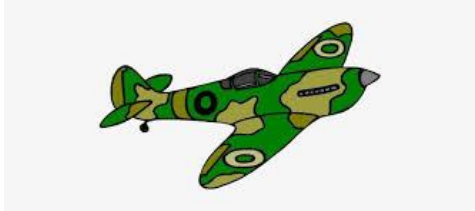
In PE, we practised hockey and our passing, in hockey they use a 'push pass' which was tricky to master at first so we persevered, and we all had a really fun time.



In science, we have been looking at electrical conductors and insulators! We explored which bulb shone the brightest to determine whether the material we are adding to the circuit is a conductor or an insulator.

Year 6

This week, we have been writing setting descriptions from Tudor London. We had to describe the back streets of London and convey the character of the beggars. In History we learnt about how WW2 started and The Dunkirk evacuation. We debated whether the evacuation was successful or not. We also learned about the Dunkirk spirit and what it means. In maths we are adding and subtracting fractions and decimals.



In P.E. We have been doing gymnastics with our dance teacher Mis Ruby. In our second PE with Miss Taylor we made Anderson, Morrison and communal shelters. We had to think about different levels and how we move around the room.

In music, we listened to some classic wartime songs such as 'We'll meet again' and 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag.' We are continuing our topic of WW2 in Spanish by learning the key vocabulary.

Year 3 Cake Sale

Thank you so much to all the year 3 parents for donating so many delicious cakes last Friday, and to the rest of school for supporting the cake sale. We made a much needed £211 towards school resources.



Spring Term Dates 2024

Date & Time	Event
Tuesday 30 th January 3.30pm to 6pm	Year 2 Parents' meetings
Tuesday 30 th January 3.30pm to 5pm	Year 6 Open Evening
Wednesday 31 st 1pm to 4pm	Year 2 Parents' meetings
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 6 th February	Reception Parents' Meetings
Wednesday 7 th February	Year R, 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Parents' meetings
Thursday 8 th February	Year 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Parents' meetings
Friday 9 th February	Year 2 Cake Sale
Monday 12 th February to Friday 16 th February	Half term
Tuesday 27 th February 8.45am	Year 6 Class Assembly
Tuesday 5 th March 8.45am	Year 5 Class Assembly
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Monday 11 th March	Science Week
Tuesday 12 th March 8.45am	Year 4 Class Assembly
Friday 15 th March	FABs Disco
Tuesday 19 th March 8.45am	Year 3 Class Assembly
Thursday 21 st March 2pm	Easter Service @ St. Peter's Church
Friday 22 nd March	Break the Rules Day End of Term

**Final INSET day this academic year is Monday
8th April.**