

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Date: Friday 18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Soft start for Reception

We are pleased to inform you that starting from Monday, 4th November, we will be extending the soft start to include our Reception children. This means that from this date, Reception children can arrive at school from 8:45am.

The soft start allows children to settle in gradually and prepare for the day ahead in a calm and relaxed manner. We believe this will benefit our Reception children by providing them with a smoother transition into the school day. Please note that 9am is still the official start time but we would be grateful if Reception children could come in as close to 8:45am as possible.

Uniform Reminder

We kindly ask that all children come to school wearing the correct uniform, including school shoes. Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of children arriving in trainers, which is not in line with our school uniform policy. Please ensure your child wears the appropriate school shoes each day.

Additionally, we urge parents to label all jumpers with their child's name. The number of unnamed jumpers left in school is growing, making it difficult to return them to their rightful owners. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Exciting Events Next Week!

Next week is packed with exciting events for our school community:

- **Drama Showcase:** Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 children will be performing in a drama showcase on **Tuesday at 3:05pm** in the main hall.
- **Black History Month Art Exhibition:** Join us on **Thursday after school** for our Black History Month art exhibition, which will be held at the end of the school day.
- **Year 5 Harvest Assembly:** Year 5 parents are invited to the Year 5 Harvest Assembly on **Friday morning at 9:15am**.

Please note that certificates were not given out this week due to the INSET day.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Miss Rebecca Hughes and the OAP team 😊



Cooking Up Something New: Our Amazing Cookery Room is Coming Soon!

Autumn 2024



Reception

This week in Conker Class, we delved into the wonderful world of *The Colour Monster*. We explored the first three key plot points of the story, focusing on the emotions of the happy and sad monsters. Through our “emotions lens,” we discussed how these monsters might feel and what emotions they represent. Then, we looked at the story through the “action lens” and imagined what actions the red (angry) Colour Monster might make. This helped us think more deeply about how emotions can affect our actions.

In phonics, the children learned the new sounds: *ck*, *e*, *u*, and *r*. To reinforce their learning, we had an exciting egg hunt around the classroom! The children searched for hidden eggs, opened them up, and matched words with pictures, making learning fun and interactive.

In maths, we learned that one and another one makes two! We helped Number Block Three by identifying which images showed three and which did not, developing our understanding of number recognition and counting.

During our continuous provision, the children used their creativity to decorate Colour Monsters. They also practiced their fine motor skills by cutting out different body parts to create their very own monsters. It's been a week full of fun, learning, and creativity!

Just a reminder that there will be a performing arts showcase for parents and carers in Reception and Y1/2 on Tuesday 22nd October at 3.05. We look forward to seeing you there!

Year 1 & Year 2

We have had a great week in year one and two. The children have been finishing rewriting stanzas from the poem 'If I in charge of the world' and next week they will plan and write their own poems. In maths the children have been continuing to develop their number fact knowledge with one focus being on doubles and using this knowledge to reason about the answers to 'near doubles'.

This week we have been learning about Garrett Morgan who we are researching in celebration of Black History Month. The children have produced pieces of writing and artwork that you will be able to see at our exhibition on Thursday. The children are very excited to share this with you.

Next week the children will be finishing our units of work in history, geography and science. This has included the history of the school site, the human body and growing and changing and our local area.

Apologies for not sending homework books home yesterday. I will send them home on Monday.

Thank you for attending parents evening this week. It was lovely to discuss how well all the children have settled in and how they are doing so far. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 3

A short but productive week in Year 3! We've made great progress with column addition and subtraction, focusing on the important skill of exchanging from ones to tens. Encouraging your child to practice these skills at home can really help reinforce their learning.

In English, we wrapped up our plot points for the poem inspired by "The Reflection in Me." The pupils will be writing their poems independently next week, and we can't wait to see their creativity shine! In reading, we explored a fun news report about Humpty Dumpty, which helped the children practice their comprehension skills while engaging with a classic story in a new way.

In science, our focus has been on the different types of muscles, and the students enjoyed learning about how they work and the importance of staying active. Additionally, we've begun our art and history projects focusing on Bessie Coleman, a pioneering figure in aviation who broke barriers for African American women. The children are excited to create artwork that reflects her inspiring legacy and contributions.

Year 4

This week has focussed on our work around Black History month. Year 4 have learnt about a famous explorer called Matthew Alexander Henson, a pioneering African American explorer who, along with Robert Peary and four Inuit assistants, became one of the first humans to set foot on the North Pole on April 6, 1909. Despite his achievements, Henson faced racial discrimination and was overshadowed by Peary and was not recognised as the first man to set foot at the North Pole. Henson was a skilled navigator, craftsman, and survival expert and their expeditions faced extreme conditions and Henson's experience was invaluable for the team to become successful. The children have used his story to further understand about what discrimination is and how we need to overcome this. The children then set about to create their own expeditions and put Henson's resilience and perseverance into place to make decisions about how they would achieve their goal to get to their destinations.

We connected our learning about Matthew Alexander Henson, the African American explorer who co-discovered the North Pole, to an art project inspired by the northern lights. Using pastels on black paper, students practised smudging techniques to create the glowing, colourful aurora borealis. To add depth and dimension, black paint was applied in the foreground, representing the Arctic landscape. The children worked diligently to bring the scene to life, reflecting both their understanding of Henson's achievements and their artistic skills. The project beautifully combined history, geography, and creativity.

In writing this week, we have used a wonderful story called Lion in Paris to support our ideas and writing stacks to start to create a persuasive brochure. The children have been using a range of literary skills such as rhetorical questions. Imperative verbs and the power of three to enhance their persuasive language. What a great start they have made to their brochures! In maths, we have continued to work on exchanges in subtraction and applying these in our problem solving. The children have been using bar modelling and concrete materials to support and deepen their understanding.

Year 5

Year 5 have been incredibly busy this week. In writing, the children have finished their plans for their poems based on Maya Angelou's, *Still I Rise*. I can't wait to see the finished product! In maths, we are mid-way through our first unit on multiplication and division. The children are becoming increasingly confident at explaining their reasoning when solving trickier word problems!

On Monday, the children extended their knowledge of our Black History focus figure, Mary Prince, by creating some beautiful pieces of clay-art – symbolising key events in her life. This aided them with our history lesson, where we looked at the Age of Exploration, diving into the fascinating topics of migration and colonisation. The children used their learning to take part in an engaging debate, there they used a range of persuasive techniques to argue either for or against the Age of Exploration. The children are really looking forward to taking part in an African Dance workshop next week for Black History Month, as well as showcasing all of their fantastic learning at our exhibition next Thursday. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Year 6

In English, we have been continuing our unit on poetry. The children have been incredible poems based on their dreams and ambitions. The children have used skills such as rhyming, repetition and metaphors in the poetry. They have also used a fantastic range of word choices to an inspiring poem about following your dreams.

In science, we've been learning about how lifestyle choices can affect our hearts, both positively and negatively. The children learned that regular exercise, eating a balanced diet, and staying active can strengthen the heart and improve overall health. On the flip side, we talked about how too much junk food, lack of physical activity, and smoking can lead to heart problems later in life, including thinning of the blood vessels and the muscle walls. The children have shown great enthusiasm for learning about how they can keep their hearts healthy!

Our focus in maths this week has been on mastering long division. The children been working hard to grasp the concept and remember the steps. It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they tackle these trickier concepts!

To celebrate Black History Month, the class has been learning about the life of Arthur Wharton, the first Black professional footballer. The children created a whole-class timeline showcasing his incredible journey and achievements. Inspired by his legacy, they have also been working on some fantastic artwork that will be displayed at the Black History Month exhibition next Thursday after school in the hall. The children can't wait to see their work showcased; we hope you all come to see it!