

NEWS

Spring 2015 – Issue 8



Dear Parents

As you can see from this newsletter we have had a good Spring Term here at Chilwell Croft Academy, with plenty of hard work in every year group.

Firstly, I am delighted to welcome some new members of staff who have joined our committed team here at Chilwell. They will be providing lots of additional support.



Michelle Gahir
Teaching Assistant
in Year 3



Rachel Duwe
Teaching Assistant
in Year 2



Chereena Henry
Teaching Assistant
in Reception



Samantha Trowman
Teaching Assistant
working with
Mrs Garcha supporting
SEN pupils



Maureen May
Lunchtime
Supervisor



Qamraz Bi
Lunchtime
Supervisor

As well as the hard work, we have been having some fun!

We had a fantastic response from children and staff for World Book Day on 5th March, when everyone came dressed up as a book character.

Everyone enjoyed Comic Relief on Friday 13th March. Activities included a staff v pupil football match, cake decoration and 'soak a teacher'.

Parents of KS1 children enjoyed the Mother's Day Assembly on 12th March. We welcomed 40 parents and carers, which is a great response.

Thank you for your support in all of the above.

Have a great Easter!

Mr Lambert - Headteacher

RECEPTION

In Literacy this term Reception have been learning about Fairy Tales. We have had fun reading Jack and the Beanstalk and Little Red Riding Hood, and writing about the characters.

In Maths we have been solving number sentences using different objects and recording our work in our books.

We had huge amounts of fun taking part in World Book Day, where we all dressed up as our favourite book characters.

We had a special visit from Aston Fire

Station where they brought in an enormous fire engine for us to see. We all got to sit in the fire engine, wear the equipment and spray the water hose.

For Comic Relief we decorated cakes to sell and took part in the whole school Zumba. We really enjoyed ourselves!

Next term we are looking forward to going on an exciting trip to the Sealife Centre.



YEAR 1

It has been a very exciting half term in Year 1!

In ENGLISH, we have been learning about 'Instructions'. We analysed the features of instructions and looked at some examples of instructions in real life. This helped us to write instructions clearly and using appropriate time connectives. Our favourite lesson was when we actually made chocolate nests in class which helped us to write clear instructions.



In MATHS we have been adding and subtracting numbers using partitioning or counting on and back to help us. Did you know we can solve real life problems about money and measures? We have learnt to tell time to the nearest hour and half hour and practised saying the days of the week and months of the year in order.

We used number lines and hundred squares to find 1 and 10 more and less. We have learnt more about 2D and 3D shapes and had fun making shapes from their nets!

In March we were very lucky to have a visit from the Birmingham Royal Ballet and we took part in their Dance Track workshop. We did all kinds of stretches and movements and we learnt to dance as a toy. It was quite hard work but also great fun!



In Geography, we have been learning about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. The children enjoyed locating their school and UK on Google maps. We also learnt about the key physical and human features, which we then identified around our local area.

During this half term in Science we have been investigating the strength of different materials by comparing their properties. We enjoyed working in our Moon base challenge teams to plan, predict, test and evaluate our findings when making a house for the three little pigs. We had great fun testing if the wolf could blow our houses down! On our visit to the Think Tank we were able to explore a range of materials and their uses.





YEAR 2

English

This term has been very exciting in Year 2 as children have been learning all about sharks! Children created a non-chronological report from the information they collected.

Maths

Some of the objectives that Year 2 have covered this term include: comparing weights of objects, mentally adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers and solving word problems that involve money and measure!

History

The National Space Centre

Following on from work on Neil Armstrong Year 2 visited the National Space Centre in Leicester this half term. They had a very exciting day learning all about the different planets, what it takes to become an astronaut and what it is really like to travel into space!



YEAR 3

Maths

In maths this half term the children have been working hard to learn more about shape. We have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes and their properties, focusing especially on the different types of angles and lines. Later in the term we have been focusing on time. Both maths groups have been practising how to tell the time using analogue and digital clocks and looking at time related word problems.



English

This half term the children have been learning how to write a letter of complaint. We have enjoyed exploring interesting vocabulary and writing in a formal style. There have been lots of opportunities for children to take part in drama activities and exploring how a character might feel in different situations. In the second part of the term we have been looking at information text and have been finding out lots of factual information about penguins.

Topic

Our geography focus for this term has been comparing different regions. The children have been looking at Newtown and Bewdley town, comparing the differences and similarities. We have enjoyed finding out more about the city we live in as well as exploring another town. The children have been able to engage in group activities using laptops and information texts to find out more about the two towns.



YEAR 4

English

This half term, in year 4, we have been learning about persuasive writing. We have watched the film Dumbo to explore the theme about animals living in circuses. It has made for some lively, powerful and interesting writing.

Maths

In maths we have been stretching our learning and focussing on reading, writing and ordering numbers past 1000. Children have loved this challenge and have worked together to solve problems.

Enabling Enterprise

In these lessons, children are young entrepreneurs and are creating a chocolate bar brand. It is very exciting as children have to make a television commercial and pitch their ideas about their chocolate bars to other teams in their class. Children have full control of the making, designing and advertising of their chocolate bar and have worked well trying to launch their brand.



YEAR 5

Year 5 have had an exciting half term.



by Aston Manor. Twenty children competed in a range of activities from relay to javelin against children from four other local schools. Supported by cheering and whooping from the remainder of the year 5 children, the competitors tried their best and we WON!!!! We beat our rivals St.Georges by 16 points. 1st Place is the best place! Go Chilwell!!!



Enabling Enterprise

Selected children from year 4 and 5, who won the Autumn enterprise challenge, were rewarded with another challenge day at Aston University. The children were in awe of the size of the building and were helped by student volunteers who told them what University life was like, helping to inspire the children to aim high.

Maths

This term children have enjoyed learning more about shapes and further developing their understanding of place value to help them solve complex problems.

English

The children became journalists and developed their skills through writing a news report of a Viking raid based on How to Train your Dragon. The children researched the event, interviewed witnesses and produced detailed reports of the event.

Sports

Selected year 5 children have competed in an inter-school Olympic competition at the Doug Ellis Centre, organised

Comic Relief

Thank you to all of the parents and children that supported the schools efforts to raise money for a very good cause. The soak the teacher was a hit and the children relished the opportunity to get their own back! It was lovely to see so many children dressed in their pyjamas and teachers in red clothing.

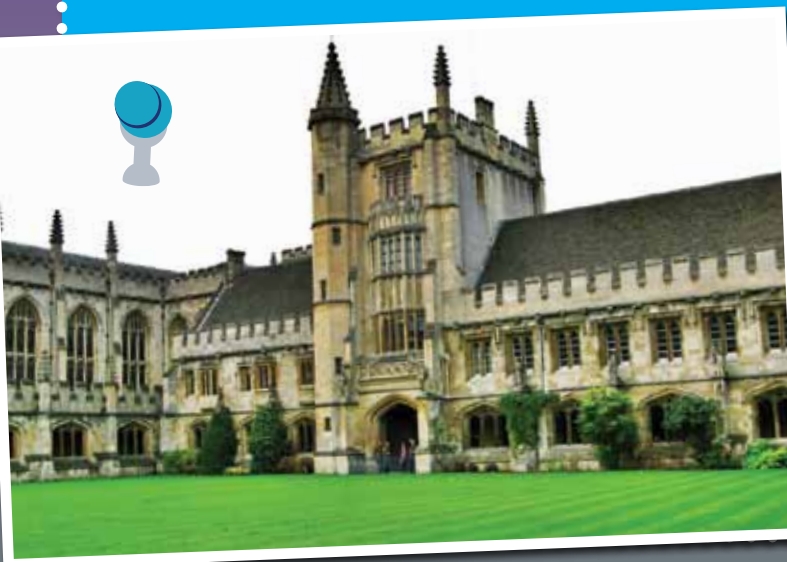
The cake and red nose sales were phenomenal- selling out of 240 cakes and 270 red noses is a massive achievement!. Unfortunately, we did not find the golden nose however the children had fun trying to find it.

Thank you to all the staff and children who helped make the day a success and we raised a staggering £255. A special thank you to Josh (yr6), Alannah (yr5) and Afrah and Denasha (yr6) who raised, £55 , £24 and £40 respectively. Well done!



YEAR 6

This term in Year 6 we have been continuing with our preparation for SATS. As part of the venture we have introduced booster classes, practice SATS papers and key focus lessons on identified weaker areas of maths. The children have been working really hard and we as the year 6 team are proud of the commitment they have been showing.



Year 6 on their free afternoon have been focusing on Geography and have been tasked with learning about and creating a replica of the world's 8 biomes. For their final writing genre we are looking at personification in poetry to create imagery. To stimulate this learning we are using Pie Corbett's 'City Jungle' poem, where children will write in the one of their own in a similar style based on their city of Birmingham. To support them with this we took the children on a walk around Birmingham City centre which helped generate ideas using their 5 senses.

A number of pupils were fortunate enough to visit Oxford University this term, they looked around two different halls of residence in addition to the museum of Natural History. This opened the children's eye to what doing well in school could possibly achieve.



School Council Art Project



This term the school council have been involved in an art project based on the school's new behaviour policy. Our expectations for learning have four key areas: Be Ready, Be Positive, Be Independent and Be Respectful. The children have been working with several members of staff to design four mosaics to show what is meant by these areas.

Firstly, the council had to meet regularly to discuss and design ideas. We were able to put all our ideas together to come up with four final designs. Once we decided exactly what we wanted the mosaics to look like, we started an after-school club where parents and siblings have been invited to come along too. Everyone has been working together hard to start putting tiles on the design boards. We are looking forward to presenting the mosaics to the school in the new term.



Promoting Happier Parenting (PHP)

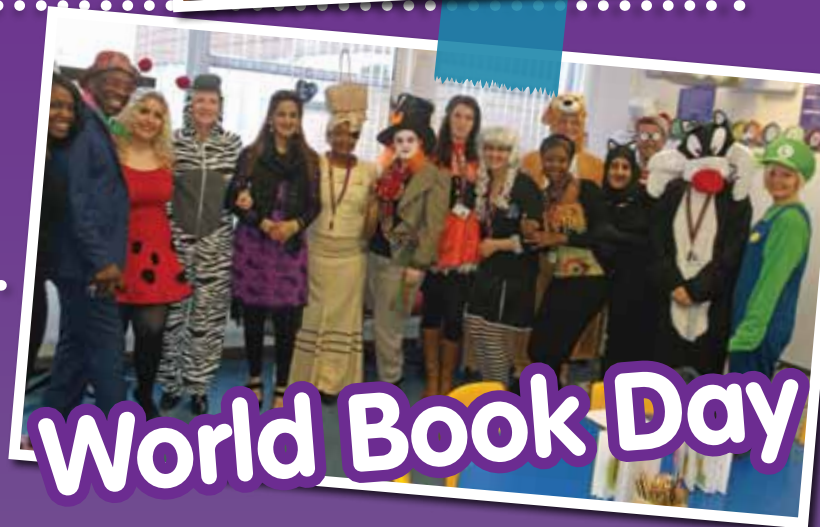
Our Promoting Happier Parenting Course commenced on Monday 16th March and will run until Monday 18th May 2015.

Attendance Workshop

On 17th and 24th March we held an Attendance Workshop in school to give parents support and advice to improve their children's attendance.



We have raised a total of £531.66 for Comic Relief!



World Book Day

ALL PARENTS

**Monday 13th April 2015
is a Teacher Day**

**School will re-open for
children on
Tuesday 14th April 2015**

SUMMER TERM 2015

Tuesday 14 April to Friday 22 May

**Half Term Holiday:
Monday 25 May to
Friday 29 May (1 week)**

**Monday 1 June to
Friday 17 July 2015**

Attendance for the Spring Term was 94.95%



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