

Chilwell Croft Academy

NEWS

Autumn 2 2015 – Issue 12



Dear Parents/ Carers

The Autumn Term is usually very busy, and this one is no different.

We continue to focus on quality first teaching in classrooms. This has been helped a great deal by pupils demonstrating increasingly good behaviour and attitudes to learning. As you know, we have introduced a new House System in school this term and this helped with behaviour across the school.

Children love receiving house points for good attitude, effort and work!

Our work and progress this term has been validated by the review team from Challenge Partners, who said some very positive things about our school, as well as suggesting further areas for improvement. The full report will be available on our website shortly.

I am pleased to let you know that our new website is now up and running! Please have a look on www.chilwellcroft.com Any feedback will be gratefully received.

May I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – have a good break!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Nick Lambert
Headteacher

Reception Intake 2016

Do you have a child who was born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012?

If so, it is important that you apply online for your child's Reception class place for September 2016 by 15 January 2016. For further information and to apply online please visit.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

alternatively contact a member of the Children's Information and Advice Service on 0121 303 1888.



Reception

LITERACY

In Literacy this term we have explored a range of Traditional Tales, including Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Three Little Pigs. The children have been writing simple sentences, remembering to use their phonics to segment and blend key words. The children thoroughly enjoy repeating the key phrases, and using the puppets to act out the stories.

LITTLE RED
RIDING HOOD



MATHS

This term we have been practicing our counting to 20, and are beginning to solve addition and subtraction sentences. The children have used everyday objects to support their learning. At home we encourage children to count objects around their homes, in the shops or even at the park!

This term in Reception we have also had an exciting trip to the Sea Life Centre. We saw some beautiful fish, an enormous turtle and some very frightening sharks. We all had an amazing time! The children enjoying playing in the role play area, where they dressed as bakers, and cooked delicious loaves of bread, cakes, biscuits and pancakes.



Season's Greetings



YEAR 1

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

ENGLISH We have been looking at 'Stories from a range of cultures'. We have learnt how to use amazing adjectives and connectives to write character and setting descriptions. In poetry, we used our senses to generate exciting vocabulary to write autumn poems. Our 'AUTUMN WALK' around the school helped us to gather ideas for our senses poems.

MATHS We have compared the weights of objects using appropriate vocabulary. Did you know that we have been using 100 squares carefully to find numbers that are 10 more and 10 less? We love practising our 2 and 10 times table and applying it to solve number problems.

TOPIC We have been learning about what it is like in the local area.. We went on a local walk and we created a HUGE 3D map of our journey to Phillips Street Park.

SCIENCE Our science work has been all about 'HUMAN BODY AND THE SENSES'. We have looked at our internal and external body parts and how our senses help us in different ways.



YEAR 2

ENGLISH

In English this half term we have been learning all about Jack and the Beanstalk as part

of our work on 'Traditional Tales'! We have really enjoyed performing the story using masks to help us get into the different roles. We have also been getting into the role of Jack and the Giant through hot seating, where we thought of our own interesting questions to ask each character and pretended to be those characters to answer them. As well as this, we have also used amazing adjectives to describe the characters and settings in the story and used speech marks to show when a character was speaking. To finish the unit we wrote our own fantastic stories, where we changed the ending to make it even more exciting!

MATHS

In Maths this half term we have been learning to tell the time to the hour and half hour. We enjoyed applying our knowledge of time, when we solved word problems to find out what time it would be one hour earlier and one hour later. We have also been learning all about addition and

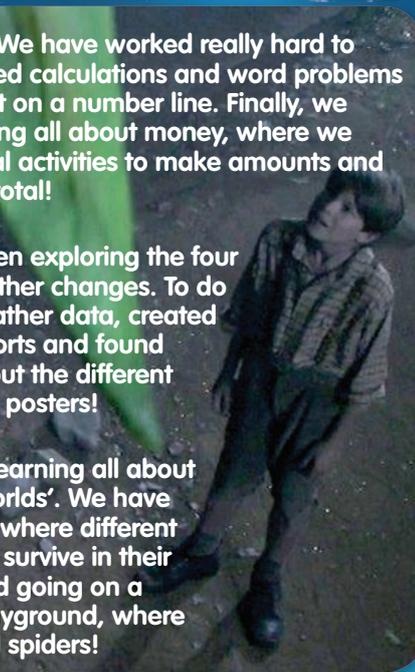
subtraction this half term. We have worked really hard to explain how we have solved calculations and word problems by sharing our working out on a number line. Finally, we have had lots of fun learning all about money, where we have taken part in practical activities to make amounts and find change from a given total!

GEOGRAPHY

In Geography we have been exploring the four seasons and how the weather changes. To do this we have collected weather data, created our very own weather reports and found out lots of information about the different seasons to create our own posters!

SCIENCE

In Science we have been learning all about 'Animals and their Mini Worlds'. We have been finding out all about where different animals live and how they survive in their habitats! We really enjoyed going on a mini-beast hunt on the playground, where we found worms, flies and spiders!



YEAR 3

We have had a very exciting half term in year 3!

ENGLISH This half term we have been learning about instructions. To deepen our knowledge in this area we made a tasty fruit salad, which the children enjoyed making and eating. We then made some shortbread biscuits and planned our instructions including all the features we had discussed in the lessons including adverbs and adjectives. The children wrote some great instructions and commented on how much they enjoyed it. We also created some brilliant shape poems on the four seasons this half term, using poetic features such as rhyme and alliteration to make them exciting.

MATHS For Maths this half term we sorted and described different regular and irregular shapes and explained the similarities and differences between them. This term children started to learn the different types of angles that were in shapes. We learnt to name identify and name these angles and went on an angle walk to find out which is the most common angle, which the children said was a right angle. During this term we have also really practiced

our division and multiplication tables using a variety of fun games.

SCIENCE In Science we have been investigating rocks and soil. One investigation involved the children finding out which rock would be best to use to create a building. Children really enjoyed testing how strong and permeable the rock was and could explain what they would recommend at the end. Future architects maybe!

TOPIC We looked at where we are in the world in Geography exploring different continents and oceans. Children labelled each of these as well as where we are. We then began to explore the weather and how it changes depending on how close countries are to the equator. Everyone really enjoyed comparing different countries climates and giving reasons for why they are different.



YEAR 4

In year 4 this half term, we have been studying:

ENGLISH

The children have been learning how to write information texts. To do this the children have watched the film 'How to Train Your Dragon' and then created their own dragons to write about. They have been looking at features such as pictures, fact boxes, diagrams and different ways of showing information.

MATHS

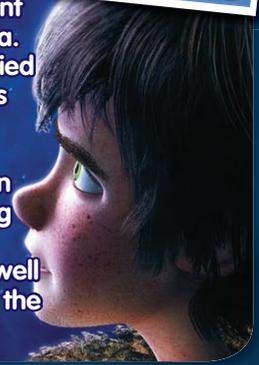
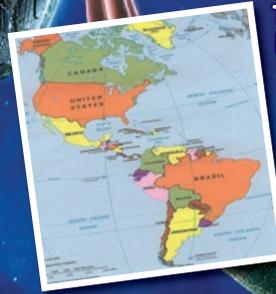
We have been learning a lot about Geometry this half term. The children have learned how to distinguish between 2D and 3D shapes, how to compare and classify them using their different features, grouping 2D shapes into polygons, quadrilaterals, triangles, irregular and regular shapes, identifying different types of angles and learning how to measure angles in degrees using a

protractor. Next the children are going to be reinforcing their knowledge of number.

TOPIC

Our topic this half term has been about the continents of North and South America.

The children started off the topic by listening to the music of Johnny Cash, which helped them to identify the different states in North America. They have also identified key cities within states and the countries and cities of South America. The children have also been using atlases to locate different places as well as Google Earth on the computers.



YEAR 5

ENGLISH

In English we have been learning how to write an explanation text about how a robot works.

Children had to design their own robot, which included three unique features that they needed to be explained in detail. The children have thoroughly enjoyed designing their robot and bringing it to life through their writing.

MATHS

In Maths, we have further developed children's ability to identify the properties of shape, which included parallel and perpendicular lines, as well as angles and lines of symmetry. Children investigated shape using ICT and applied their learning through solving a range of challenging problems.

GEOGRAPHY

In geography, we have further developed children's understanding of the topography (Detailed, precise description of a place or region). Children explored the local area by observing the physical and human features of Newtown. The children used created a local map and created artwork which included local landmarks.

SCIENCE

In science children have been exploring Earth and Space. Children have been naturally inquisitive about the phenomenon of Earth and space and have shown their enthusiasm and passion for learning through their diverse range of questions. Children will consolidate their learning on Tuesday 8th December 2015 with an educational visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester. The children will be part of an astronaut challenge and watch a fascinating programme about Earth and Space in the UK's largest planetarium!



YEAR 6

ENGLISH

In English this half term, year 6 have been looking at a range of genres; persuasion,

instruction and discussion. During the instructions unit they made a 'no bake' Oreo cheesecake, as a starter activity, finishing with a set of instructions for their own imaginative cheesecake recipes. The final pieces of writing were fantastic and some children even tried their recipes at home. Currently, the children have been analysing and discussing the relationship between Anna and Elsa in 'Frozen' and will be writing a discussion piece on this relationship.

MATHS

The Maths learning of the children has continued to go from strength to strength. Working on their multiplication and division skills and their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes and their properties; the children have engaged in a range of written, oral and practical activities, as well as problem solving, in order to demonstrate their fantastic knowledge and maths learning.

SCIENCE

In our Science work we have been studying the life cycle of plants and have used 'real' flowers in order to identify the

differing parts of the plant. Additionally, we performed an investigation that looked at how a plant extracts water from the soil and how it travels up the stem to the leaves and the flower.

GEOGRAPHY

As well as this, we have been using our knowledge of countries and the local area to consider the journey of a cocoa bean from source to consumer. As part of this unit we played the 'Fair Trade Game' where the children took on the roles of farmers, chocolate companies, super markets and shoppers. This was great fun and the children learnt that although the farmers do the most work in the process they get the least money and, because of this, understood what companies like fair trade are trying to achieve.

After a fantastic half term, where behaviour and attitude to learning have been excellent, we are looking forward to our trip to the outdoor ice rink in Birmingham. A well-deserved treat. Mr Byrne, Miss Norwood and Miss Begum



ART THEMES

Throughout this term children from across the school have been working with our artist-in-residence Andrew Tims to create artwork in response to a variety of themes.

Reception created collages of fish (based on their visit to The Sea Life Centre) and the big bad wolf (from the book the children were reading Little Red Riding Hood).



Year 1 made portraits inspired by the artwork of Pablo Picasso. The children were able to experiment with a range of media, including pencils, pastels, ink and collage in order to create portraits of each other, similar in style to those produced by Picasso.

Year 2 children have been exploring line, tone, colour, texture and shape of natural forms, inspired by the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy.

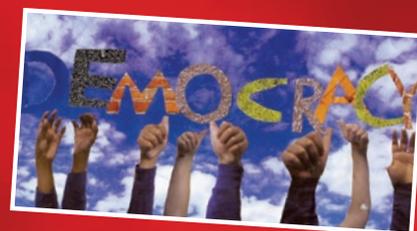
Year 3 created images of animals using printing techniques, taking inspiration from paintings found in caves produced

during the Stone Age.

Years 4 and 5 made artwork about British Values. The children experimented with photomontage techniques, using a range of imagery, including photographs of themselves to create scenes that they felt encapsulated the different British Values terms.

Year 6 produced artwork - portraits of Clayton, Zephaniah, Lewis and Cadbury - people from Birmingham and the West Midlands that have gained prominence for achieving success in their fields and have subsequently become the names of the school 'houses'.

School Council worked together to create a series of anti-bullying artwork based on propaganda posters from World War II using image manipulation computer software.



SCHOOL UNIFORM & PE KIT

Can we please ask parents/ carers to clearly label their child/rens school uniform and PE kit so that we can return any lost property back to the correct child. It would be really helpful if you could also ensure that your child/ren brings their PE on the correct day that they have PE.

School Year 2015-2016

Spring Term

Term Starts: Tuesday 5th January 2016

Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2016

Term Ends: Thursday 24th March 2016

Reminder: Children start back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2016

Teacher Day

Monday 4th January 2015

STAFF LEAVING

We are sad to let you know that Mrs Andrea Garcha will be leaving us at the end of term. She has been successful in gaining a promotion to the role of Deputy Headteacher at Hateley Heath Primary School in Sandwell.

I am sure you will join me in wishing her the very best for the future.

ATTENDANCE

96.13% attendance since September 2015.

This is our best ever!
Well done everyone!