

NEWS

Summer 2 2016 – Issue 15



Dear Parents/ Carers

We are coming to the end of the school year and I would like to say a big 'thank you' to pupils and staff for all their hard work.

All staff have continued to work very hard this term to ensure pupils' behaviour and attitude to learning is good. This year we think pupils' have developed a real love of learning!

We are welcoming lots of new staff for September, some of whom are already in school, getting to know their new classes. They are; Miss L Keogh, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Miss E Parkes (Year 5), Miss F Begum (Year 4), Miss A Gill (Year 2), Ms Moxon (Year 1), Mrs J Byrne, Teaching Assistant (Year 3) and Miss C Forrest, Teaching Assistant (Year 1). I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to Chilwell Croft Academy.

Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to a number of staff. Miss Johnson and Miss Norwood are taking up posts in new schools, Miss Byrne is going to spend next year travelling and Miss Horsley, the School Business Manager is going to work for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Of course, we wish them all the best!

I hope you and your family have a good summer break. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mr Lambert Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to improve and is above 96%. We want to beat this next year with your continued support.

'Missing School is Missing Out'

RECEPTION

In Reception this half term the children have been learning all about writing sentences, labels and captions. The children are using their phonic knowledge to write words, and making sure they use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. In maths the children have been reinforcing addition and subtraction, and solving these independently.

This half term we have visited our local garden centre in relation to our Growing Plants topic. The children really enjoyed exploring the different plants, and even saw some vegetables growing.

We brought back to school a beautiful plant that we are all taking turns to look after.

We also spent a fabulous day at Sandwell Valley Park, where the children enjoyed playing on the park, exploring the environment, and eating ice cream.

The children had a wonderful day, and so did all the teachers.

The Reception team would like to wish all the children the best of luck as the move up into Year One, and they will all be greatly missed.



Aston Neighbourhood Police Team Twitter: www.twitter.com/Astonpolice

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YEAR 1

We have had an amazing half term in Year 1!



ENGLISH

We have written information texts about animals. We looked at lots of information texts and we had to research our animal using the internet and other information sources. We learnt lots of interesting facts about our animals.

Our next writing topic was to write a character description of a character from a fantasy story 'The Princess and the Dragon'. We had to use lots of interesting vocabulary to describe their appearance and their personality. Some of us even

used a thesaurus to improve our vocabulary!

MATHS

We have been learning about division and understanding that it is sharing and grouping objects and numbers. We used arrays to help us divide. We have also learnt about fractions, finding halves, quarters and three quarters of shapes and amounts.

In time, we have learnt how to write the times for o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to on clocks and digitally.

We had great fun using the Blue Bots to help us understand quarter turns and left and right.

GEOGRAPHY

In Geography we learnt about animals from different continents. We learnt the names of the 7 continents and 5 oceans. We also worked in teams to create a big information poster about one continent and an animal that lives there.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We thought about whether people can depend on us and ways Christians say sorry to God.

We also thought about our hopes for the future and things Muslims look forward to, such as Hajj. We looked at lots of Islamic artefacts and some children shared their experiences.

SCIENCE

In our work this half term we have continued looking at plants. We investigated what plants need to grow and made amazing cress heads in our groups. They looked so funny when they grew hair!

We have also been thinking about healthy eating and have designed, planned and made healthy fruit salads. They were delicious!



YEAR 2

It has been an amazing half term in Year 2!

ENGLISH

During this term children have continued to focus on descriptive language and applying them in different text types, such as writing a fantasy story and poems. They have enjoyed learning new vocabulary and applying them in their work. During the poetry unit, children have enjoyed exploring and performing a range of poems and creating their own focusing on including similes and onomatopoeias. Additionally, they have been learning how to develop their ability to write in complex sentences and beginning to use a range of subordinating conjunctions.

MATHS

We have covered lots in Maths this half term in Year 2. Children have really enjoyed getting hands on with 3D shapes when they constructed their own shapes using straws and created shape posters to recall the different shapes properties! Children have also become more confident to bridge to



the nearest 10 on a number line and use known number facts to solve problems. As well as this, they have continued to use their reasoning skills to solve problems involving money, fractions and inverse.

SCIENCE

Our work this half term has been all about investigating plants. The children have applied their knowledge from last half term and created their own investigations from what they would like to find out and explore. They have had fantastic ideas and questions to investigate, such as: Does sunlight affect the growth of a plant? And 'Does the amount of water affect the plant's growth?'

From these investigations children had to make predictions and carry out their investigations and as a result they developed their scientific enquiry skills.

Year 2 have worked extremely hard this year and we are all very proud of their hard work and positive attitudes. Well done!



YEAR 3

We have had a very exciting half term in year 3

ENGLISH

This half term we have been learning about leaflets and adverts. Firstly, we used laptops and explored reading a variety of leaflets to gain a better understanding of their features. As a class we've enjoyed exploring how to write exaggerated phrases and using powerful, persuasive vocabulary. Children created

their own slogans and were able to include wordplay, alliteration and rhymes.

MATHS

For Maths this half term we have been focusing on multiplication and division. Children have learnt new written methods and have applied these to solve different types of word problems. Children have also been practising applying their knowledge of times tables



in order to mentally solve a variety of problems. We have been currently exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Children are using technical, mathematical vocabulary to describe the shapes in detail.

SCIENCE

In Science we have been investigating forces and magnets. The children have enjoyed investigating magnets in different ways, for example testing which materials are magnetic and why. We also discovered that 2p and 1p coins before 1992 are not magnetic because they are made from non-magnetic metals.

TOPIC

This half term we have focused on coastal regions. Children have developed the use of appropriate vocabulary to describe the coast and have developed opinions on different coastal areas. In groups they have researched a region in the UK and prepared a presentation to explain what it is like there.



The Story of Tracy Beaker

YEAR 4

We have had an amazing summer term so far!

ENGLISH

This term the children have been learning how to write a story with a dilemma. We watched a few episodes of Tracy Beaker, in order to use her fiery character as an inspiration for writing. The children had many opportunities to study the setting of the children's home ('Dumping Ground') and enjoyed role playing in groups different scenes from some of the episodes we watched. In the end, the children produced some very high standards of writing for their final story. For the final unit of writing, the children are learning how to write a set of instructions. They enjoyed watching the film 'Big Hero 6' to help them with ideas for designing their own robot to then write a set of instructions on. We are looking forward to reading their final instructions before the end of the term.

MATHS

In Maths, the children have been learning how to find the area and perimeter of different shapes, especially quadrilaterals. To help them with this work, the children have liked working with their peers to investigate the perimeter of different rooms in a house and use squares

to help them find the area of compound shapes (two rectangles joined together). Although, they have found the work tricky at times, they have persevered, which has been fantastic to see! As we are coming towards the end of Year 4, we will be focusing on solving word problems.

SCIENCE

This term the children have been learning about States of Matter which includes understanding the properties and links between solids, liquids and gases. They have thoroughly enjoyed completing some Science investigations to further their understanding.

TOPIC

The children have been learning about volcanoes and earthquakes for Geography this term. They have been involved in a variety of activities, including watching videos, drawing pictures and diagrams, using the laptops to research recent activity and creating a live news report, which outlined the effects of a recent volcanic eruption.



YEAR 5

What a difference a year makes!

ENGLISH

We have been writing instructions. However, in order to do this, children had to make mouth-watering cheesecakes themselves. Children then wrote a set of instructions including a tantalising paragraph to persuade the reader to make the cheesecake, which was fantastic because they had to apply their culinary skills, maths skills and English skills.

Even Mr Lambert couldn't resist getting involved in the cake making experience!

MATHS

In maths we have learnt about the metric and imperial measurement system. We have converted gallons and pints

into litres, inches into cm and pounds into kilograms. The children have enjoyed learning about the differences in the measuring system and understand the difference between the two well.

SCIENCE

We have been doing a lot of independent learning this half term in science. Children have been learning about different forces such as gravity and air resistance and posing a scientific question in order to investigate their scientific enquiry. Children had fun taking charge of their own learning and finding out the results to their parachute investigation.



YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL

Several children from year 5 visited the glorious Oakerwood Glamping Leisure site for 2 nights and 3 days. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and developed team working skills, resilience and overcame their personal fears through completing tasks such as rafting, den building, forest krypton challenge and crate stacking. They learnt life skills like washing up, making their own food and being responsible for themselves and as a result all the children now have a greater appreciation of the hard work their parents/carers do!



YEAR 6

WOW! Can you believe it's Year 6's final term at Chilwell!

What a busy half term this has turned out to be... In English the children have been working hard on writing their very own ghost story, looking at developing characterisation through show not tell and then using their five senses to create detailed setting descriptions, the children have also been watching episodes of 'Are you afraid of the dark?' to give them ideas on how to create suspense and tension. In Maths, children have gone back to full classes for the first time this year, the children have adapted amazingly and have worked really hard on their peer learning skills teaching each other new concepts focused around fractions and data handling. In the afternoons children have been learning all about how to be the healthiest version of themselves in Science, how we are damaging our worlds in geography, World War 2 in history and then looking at how each faith worships in RE.

In other news, some of Year 6 had the opportunity to take part in 'Bikeability' which was a huge success and we want to give

a huge well done to those children who all passed with flying colours. The Year 6 are now working hard to prepare for their leavers assembly, which will take place in the final week of the school term (date to be confirmed) – they can't wait for you to see what they have planned.

Finally, we had a great prom! All the pupils really enjoyed the photo booth and the disco.

We wish the children the very best on their transition into secondary school, they'll be missed.

Mr Byrne, Miss Norwood, Miss Grover, Miss Simmons and Miss Parkes



AUTUMN TERM 2016

Teacher Days: Monday 5th September 2016 – Training Day
Children are not in school

Tuesday 6th September 2016 – Training Day
New Reception children in only

Term Starts: Wednesday 7th September 2016
All children in school

Half Term: Monday 24th October 2016 – Friday 28th October 2016

Term Ends: Wednesday 21st December 2016

Christmas Holidays: Thursday 22nd December 2016 – Friday 6th January 2016

Reminder: New Reception children start back to school on Tuesday 6th September 2016

All children in school on Wednesday 7th September 2016



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