

# NEWS

Spring 2 2018 – Issue 25



## Dear Parents

As you can see from this newsletter, we've had a busy half term and we have managed to combine a lot of hard work with a bit of fun!

It was great to see so many pupils and staff dress up for World Book Day on Thursday 1st March.

We had a good attendance at the Year 1 Phonics Workshop. Thank you for your support – it is important to the children!

We continue to work hard on improving our teaching of reading. As I mentioned in our last newsletter we are introducing 'whole class teaching' of reading. This will start straight after Easter in all year groups. The books we will be using are as follows:

Year 1 Beegu  
Alexis Deacon

Year 2 Flat Stanley  
Jeff Brown

Year 3 Fantastic Mr Fox  
Roald Dahl

Year 4 How to Train Your Dragon  
Cressida Cowell

Year 5 Percy Jackson and the  
Lightening Thief  
Rick Riordan

Year 6 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas  
John Boyne

We know that the children will be very excited about the new way of being taught reading.

I do hope that you and your family have an enjoyable and restful Easter break.

**Mr Lambert** Headteacher

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to improve at Chilwell Croft and is currently at 96.17%.

Thank you once again to all parents for your continued support.

'Missing School is Missing Out!'



## RECEPTION

This half term in Reception we have been learning all about Space. The children have enjoyed learning new facts about the different planets, and have loved junk modelling their own spaceships and rockets. The children have been using their phonics to read alien words and then write their own.

In maths the children have been learning to talk about the time. They began by exploring different times of the day and sequencing key events. The children have started to tell the time and use the correct vocabulary relating to time.



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



## ENGLISH

In English, we have been learning about 'Instructions'. We analysed the features of instructions and looked at lots of examples of instructions in real life. This helped us to write instructions clearly, using appropriate time connectives and imperative (bossy!) verbs. Our favourite lesson was when we actually made chocolate nests in class

which helped us to write clear instructions.

## MATHS

In maths we have solved real life problems about measures looking at length and weight and we are getting really good at estimating and measuring! We have also been learning about picture graphs. The children have practised collecting, interpreting and transferring data into pictograms.

## GEOGRAPHY

In geography this half term, we have had a journey around the world! We looked at different parts of the world, particularly rainforests, coasts and deserts. We also learned

about the countries in the United Kingdom and our city Birmingham.

## RE

Our themes in RE this half term were 'Remembering Roots and 'Being Loyal and steadfast'. We drew a family tree and we discussed what makes a family, like: caring, teaching, helping and sharing religion. Some children shared what they do for Eid and we looked at some Islamic artefacts. We also thought about what makes a good friend and a bad friend and how Peter let Jesus down.

## SCIENCE

During this half term in science we have been investigating the strength of different materials by comparing their properties. We enjoyed working in our mixed teams to plan, predict, test and evaluate our findings when making a house for the three little pigs that the wolf would not be able to blow down.

We had great fun testing if the wolf could blow our houses down and it was very difficult!



# YEAR 2 We have had a fantastic half term in Year 2!

## ENGLISH

In English, we have looked at a variety of non-chronological reports. Children were able to analyse the different features of the text and understand the important vocabulary and tense that it is written in. We researched different nocturnal animals, turning this key information into an interesting report.

## MATHS

In maths this half term we have learnt all about bar models. Bar models can be used to help us work out what calculation to do to solve a word problem. We used practical resources and drew pictures to help us with our work. Additionally, we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We worked out: whether they have straight or curved sides or faces; how many faces, edges and vertices they have and how many lines of symmetry.

## HISTORY

In History we have gone into greater detail learning about the

explorer Neil Armstrong. We applied our writing skills through writing a diary entry as if we were Neil Armstrong and wrote a letter to NASA giving them information about themselves as well as asking questions that they think astronauts may be able to answer.

## SCIENCE

We have really enjoyed investigating materials in greater detail this half term. From testing which paper is the strongest to how much water a nappy absorbs, the children have loved predicting and testing their ideas.

## RE

In our disposition 'Being Regardful of Suffering', we considered the ways Christians and Muslims give charity to others and we thought of ways we could give charity to people who are suffering. We also thought about what a wonderful world we live in and how it would be if nobody cared for it.



# YEAR 3

## ENGLISH

At the beginning of this half term the children were learning about a fictional unit on Myths and Legends. The children looked at a range of stories to analyse their

features which also allowed them to identify the plots. From this we focused on characterisation and how we could include this in our stories. Near the end of this half term, the children also looked at informal letters. They analysed the language features and structure of an informal letter which helped them to become more confident in using a range of language features such as fronted adverbials and conjunctions to add on points.

## MATHS

At the beginning of this half term in Maths the children started a unit on 'Mental Calculations' and how to apply their knowledge

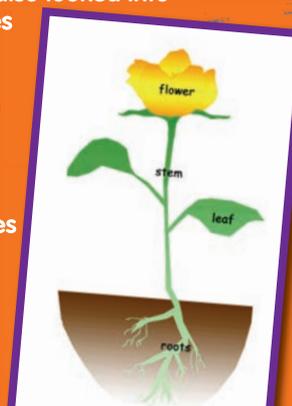
to addition and subtraction to solve problems and reason mathematically using mental methods. Near the end of this half term, the children started a new unit on 'Money'. The children had to apply the skills they learnt to solve problems mentally from the previous unit, to allow them to work through their work on their fluency, reasoning and problem solving using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

## SCIENCE

Our new unit in Science was Plants which also looked into climates. The children enjoyed using atlases to identify the different climates and discussing why plants need to adapt in different environments. We have also been learning all about the different parts of a plant and their functions.

## TOPIC

In Topic the children have looked at climates around the world. They all enjoyed finding out about the different climate zones and which are the hottest and coldest climates in the world using their atlases to help





# YEAR 4

## ENGLISH

The children have been learning how to write an explanation text about their own superhero. They watched the film 'The Incredibles', which they all really enjoyed watching and gained

fantastic ideas to create their own

superhero. They have been working very hard to use the different types of language features within their explanation text and have enjoyed being creative with their superhero designs.

## MATHS

This term the children have been learning all about decimal numbers. We have focused on rounding decimals, converting fractions to decimals, also adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. It has been a challenging unit, but the children have gained an incredible amount of knowledge and have impressed both teachers. Keep up the good work Year 4. You're Super Mathematicians!

## SCIENCE

This term the children have been learning all about 'Living things and their Habitat'. The children have enjoyed learning about the different classification groups, food chains and have loved exploring the different habitats around the school. Children have also researched about the endangered species around the world using the laptops.

## TOPIC

The children have been learning all about Volcanoes and Earthquakes this term. They have been researching earthquakes and volcanoes using a range of resources. The children then went onto using their research to write an explanation text about how earthquakes happen and how volcanoes erupt. They have also made their own model volcano using a range of material in their groups which they have really enjoyed.



# YEAR 5

## ENGLISH

In English the children have been learning how to write a myth or a fable. They started the unit by watching a film called 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' and looking at different written texts. The children have learned about the difference between a myth and a fable and looked at the key features. In our classes they chose whether to write a myth or a fable and have enjoyed inventing their own morals.

## MATHS

In Maths we have been having

a big focus on fractions, percentages and measurements. This has included: converting between fractions, percentages and decimals, converting between smaller and larger units of measurement and learning about area and perimeter. These have been done through practical, pictorial and reasoning activities.



## TOPIC

In Topic the children have been studying the Alps. They have learned how to identify the Alps in an Atlas and can describe its location in relation to physical features. They have been learning how the Alps were formed and recreated this in a practical activity. They have also researched and written a non-chronological report on the Alps.

## SCIENCE

In Science the children have been learning about different types of changes. They have looked in detail at chemical and physical changes. They have carried out some activities to help them to understand reversible and irreversible changes. They have enjoyed opportunities to examine materials such as wax and ice and what changes they can make to these.



# YEAR 6

## ENGLISH

Year 6 have been learning how to write instructions. To help the children with this, they

have enjoyed experiencing some cooking sessions, with some children going to Aston Manor to use their cooking facilities too. The children were able to analyse the language features of instructions really well and are looking forward to writing their independent set of instructions.

## MATHS

In Maths this term, Year 6 have been working extremely hard on learning the last few units before revision commences for their SATS. They have been working on converting different measures, including imperial and metric units and have moved onto finding the area of shapes such as, triangles, rectangles and parallelograms. The children have also been working well on applying their knowledge to answering reasoning and problem solving style questions. Overall, all Year 6 teachers have been very impressed with the children's recent progress in Maths.

## SATS

Year 6 have been working extremely hard on learning all of the content needed for the upcoming SATS in May. We continue to focus on Maths, particularly reasoning and problem solving and have also put extra reading sessions in place, so that the children are fully prepared. We would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support, as it is making a big difference.





# WORLD BOOK DAY 2018

Wow, what a day! This year for World Book Day, staff and pupils were extremely creative and transformed themselves into their favourite book character. The entire day was action packed with activities that gave the children the chance to explore their favourite books and authors. Each class started the day by having a story read to them by a teacher from another year group, followed by classes writing their very own story, designing book marks and covers and even acting out their favourite story scene. Year 1 was treated to their very own performance of 'A Squash and A Squeeze' by their class teachers. The afternoon gave the children the opportunity to mix with other year groups and hear each other read. It was a pleasure to see all the children sharing their enthusiasm and passion for reading. A special thank you to all parents/guardians who continue to support their child/children's love for reading.



## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017-2018

### SUMMER TERM 2018

Term Starts: Tuesday 17th April 2018

Half Term: Monday 28th May 2018 to Friday 1st June 2018

Term Ends: Friday 20th July 2018

### STAFF TRAINING DAYS

As you know staff training and development is a big part of our effort to make Chilwell Croft Academy as good as it can be.

Our nominated Teacher Training dates will be held on:

Monday 16th April 2018

Friday 8th June 2018

Friday 6th July 2018

### MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY - MONDAY 7TH MAY 2018

Monday 7th May 2018 is a Bank Holiday and school will be closed to staff and children

School will reopen as normal for children on Tuesday 8th May 2018

### ELECTIONS 2018 - THURSDAY 3RD MAY 2018

Thursday 3rd May 2018 - Birmingham City Council Local Council Elections

School will be closed from Reception to Year 5 on Thursday 3rd May 2018

Year 6 children will be required to attend in order for them to continue preparing for their end of Key Stage National Tests and they will receive an individual letter to take home



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