

Chilwell Croft Academy

NEWSLETTER

April 2014

Welcome to Chilwell Croft Academy

I am coming to the end of my first term here and would like to share some of the work we have been doing in the last few weeks.

There are three very important areas of the school that we will be focusing on for a while. These are;

- appropriate systems and structures to ensure a calm and orderly environment
- the right kind of behaviour from pupils so they are ready to learn
- high quality teaching across the school

We have already made some changes such as shortening of dinnertime for older children, this has made a big difference to lunchtime behaviour, although there is still a lot to do. We are working hard to improve attendance and punctuality. You will probably have noticed that children walk straight into school now instead of lining up! The electric bells for certain times in the day has helped a lot here.

Children's behaviour is gradually improving and the school is a much calmer place to be for adults and children alike. The introduction of rewards for good behaviour as well as appropriate sanctions has helped here. A very big 'thank you' to all the parents I have seen - we need your help in order to improve your children's behaviour!

We have introduced extra staff in Years 5 and 6 so that we can set the children in ability groups. Year 6 teachers have been doing Saturday classes and we are going to run an Easter school in English and Maths to give pupils the best possible chance in the SATs in May. All the teachers are working together to make sure their teaching is as good as it can be - this includes spending a lot of time marking books and giving feedback on your children's work.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nick Lambert
Headteacher



RECEPTION—SPRING TERM

During this half term we celebrated world book day. In Reception we dressed up as our favourite book characters and shared our favourite books with each other. We also celebrated Mother's Day by presenting an



assembly for all our special mums, where we sang our favourite songs and told them why we appreciate them.



SPRING TERM—YEAR 1

In Year One this half term we visited Ash End House Farm where we saw lots of exciting animals. When we came back to school we wrote all about them in a letter, in the form of a recount, to our friend. We used lots of exciting time connectives and adjectives in our writing.



In Maths we have been exploring the different properties of numbers. We have learnt about halving, doubling, odd, even and all about number and shape patterns.

YEAR 2-VISIT TO THE LIBRARY OF BIRMINGHAM



In Year 2 this term, the children visited the new Library of Birmingham in the city centre.



They enjoyed reading the wide selection of books which encouraged them to read different genres. The children also admired the beautiful views of Birmingham from the terrace of the Secret Garden which is a part of the library. This will enable children to demonstrate their learning through English work by writing a detailed recount of their exciting and enjoyable experience.



SPRING TERM—YEAR 3

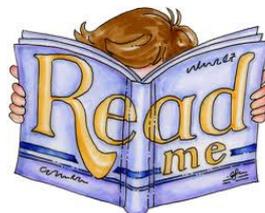
Year 3 have finished a very exciting term in which they have had the opportunity to experience lots of new learning. In English the children were learning how to write instructions for different audiences. To help them improve their writing they have made shortbread biscuits in the classroom, had an opportunity to analyse lots of instruction texts and used the many books in the library to help them write their own set of instructions on a topic that interests them. Recently the children have been learning about shape poems and calligrams which they have thoroughly enjoyed.



We have watched clips of famous poets such as Michael Rosen and the children have had a taster session in the classroom with lots of different fruits to help them write fantastic shape poetry.

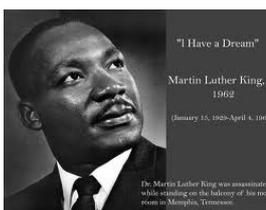


In Maths the children have been continuing to look at number such as; different written and mental methods for the four operations and we have focused more on areas like fractions, time and measure. We have also practised answering word problem type questions in most lessons to help prepare them when they have end of term tests and their recent results have proved that this has been worthwhile.



In guided reading we have continued to look at a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and discussed in depth the different scenarios and facts that have happened in each book. The children have also begun to read more poetry books after being inspired by our English lessons, which has been great to see.

In Science the children have been learning about different forces and they have been involved in several investigations and experiments each week with the use of magnets.



Our learning challenge focus for this term was: What makes a good Leader? Within this unit of work we have focused on a different famous leader each week ranging such as; Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. The children have really enjoyed this work and have remembered lots of interesting facts which they like to share with teachers and each other too.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance this term is **94.56%**.

We would like to thank you for your continued support in this area.

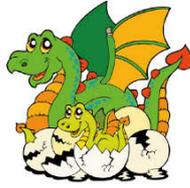
Every Day Counts! Missing School—Missing Out!

SPOTLIGHT

You would have received information about Spotlight and this will be starting Monday 28 April 2014

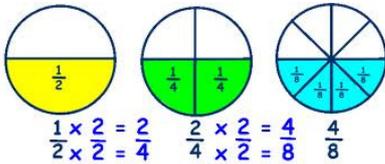
The children are back in school at 8.50 am on Monday 28 April 2014





English

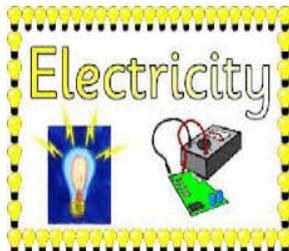
In English this term we have had an exciting time writing Non-chronological reports on Dragons! We became 'Dragonologists' and wrote about these amazing creatures. We wrote about where they live, what they eat and their appearance. This term in English we have also written Instructions on a variety of subjects. We wrote about how to sew finger puppets and then we actually made the puppets. The sewing was a challenge but fun! We also followed a recipe on how to bake a cake in a MUG! We had to measure and mix carefully but it was yummy.



Maths: In Maths this term we have learnt many new things but also improved on some

subjects. The topics we have covered include; fractions, word problems, times tables, bar charts, pictograms, measuring lengths, telling the time, weighing objects and of course adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing!

Science: In Science we have covered two topics; Rocks and Soils and Electricity. The different rocks and soils found on our planet is awesome. We even found out that there is one rock that can float! We did an experiment with layering chocolate to represent how the Earth is made up from layers of rock.



Topic: In the first half of the term we researched Volcanoes using our really cool iPads. We looked at maps on where volcanoes are around the world and we also did some reading about how the city of Pompeii was destroyed by a volcano hundreds of years ago. Even diamonds come from volcanoes! We finished off this unit of work by building and blowing up our own volcanoes - it was a blast!



MUSIC TO OUR EARS



At Chilwell Croft we pride ourselves in the musical opportunities the children have. We have a variety of whole class instrumental lessons from year one all the way up to year six: brass, which includes cornets, tenor horns and baritones; string, which includes cellos, violins and ukuleles; African drumming and tin whistles. We also have a dhol drumming club, a steel pan club and a choir, all of



which take place in the school day. In Key Stage one we have a vocal skills teacher who teaches singing.



All of the music staff come from the Birmingham Music Service and are fantastic teachers who are all passionate about their art.

This year, the choir have participated in a St George's Day competition with other schools in the area and will also have the opportunity to perform in a huge combined choir at the Symphony Hall this June.

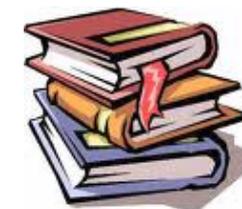


IMPACT WORKSHOPS

A big thank you to those parents who attended our IMPACT Workshops this term. Mr Roy Broadfield, Primary National Consultant, delivered maths

IMPACT sessions to pupils and parents in Years 6, 5 and 1. Many parents remembered attending the IMPACT in Learning Workshops and working alongside their child in literacy and numeracy. The programme has been successful in showing

parents how children learn in school today, giving parents and carers a better idea of how to support children's learning in the home.



Thank you children for all your hard work this term!

Year 5

SPRING TERM—YEAR 5

In Year 5 this term we have been really focusing on improving our literacy writing skills. We started the

term with persuasion genre, where we kick started the topic with the children watching a well-known film and presenting them with an argument to fight for or against using the structure of point, elaboration and evidence.

The children responded amazingly to this and the pieces of writing produced were to an excellent standard. This led on nicely to our second genre of the term 'play scripts' the children at the beginning found these a little more



difficult, but with some gentle guidance and some wow experiences; including a Shakespeare workshop in school and a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon his birth town, the children have really jumped on board and produced yet again some amazing and inspiring pieces of writing.



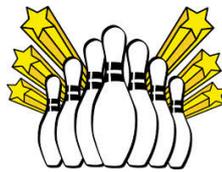
SPRING TERM—YEAR 6

Year 6

Year 6 have been incredibly busy this half term preparing for SATS. They have covered a variety of topics in Maths including fractions, angles and algebra. In reading they have been perfecting their comprehension skills and in writing have produced have written a set of instructions to make a dish. They have also completed a persuasive argument to convince someone about the way that animals should be treated. As part of our enrichment programme in



English they have visited the Birmingham Nature Reserve, the library and Pizza Express to support their writing.



It has not been all hard work however. For their efforts the children have been bowling and roller skating as a reward for their motivation and positive behaviour this term.



Year 6 SATs

As you are aware, the children will be sitting their SATs starting 12th May. It is therefore vital that they complete any homework that they have been given over the holi-

days. If they have been selected for booster Easter classes, please ensure that they attend every day. After the holidays it is essential that they attend school everyday and that they arrive on time. During the week of the SATS, breakfast will be provided each day for them so please ensure that they arrive between 8 and 8.30 so that they have time to mentally prepare for the tests.

A SAD GOOD-BYE MR ANDREW MOFFAT



Many of you will have had the pleasure of knowing Mr Andy Moffat, Assistant Head Teacher, who worked in the school's Resource Base. Mr Moffat has been a loyal and committed employee and he has decided to widen his horizons and has taken up a new post. I know you will all join me in offering him our thanks and very best wishes for the future.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2013—2014

Summer Term 2014

Monday 28 April to Friday 23 May

Half Term Holiday

Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May

Monday 2 June to Monday 21 July

May Day is Monday 5 May 2014

Local & European Elections

Thursday 22 May 2014—school is closed for children, but open for staff.



Have a CRACKING Easter Break!

