



NEWS



Spring 1 2018 – Issue 24



Dear Parents

Pupils have had a very positive start to 2018.

Over the years we have made some big improvements to behaviour. However, we know we can do more. One of the areas to improve is how children come into school from the playground. In the morning you will have noticed we have started ringing a hand bell outside to calm children down before they line up to go inside. Although we have only just started, we can already see a difference!

In class we continue to have a big focus on improving the teaching and learning of maths and reading. We are introducing the INSPIRE maths scheme. This is based on Singapore maths and really stretches the children. In reading we are introducing whole class teaching of reading. A number of schools are already teaching reading this way. It is designed to support our children in making as much progress as possible.

Thank you to those of you who attended our recent parent's evening. As always your support is much appreciated.

Mr Lambert Headteacher



ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to improve at Chilwell Croft and is currently at 96.23%. Thank you once again to all parents for your continued support.

'Missing School is Missing Out!'

PE

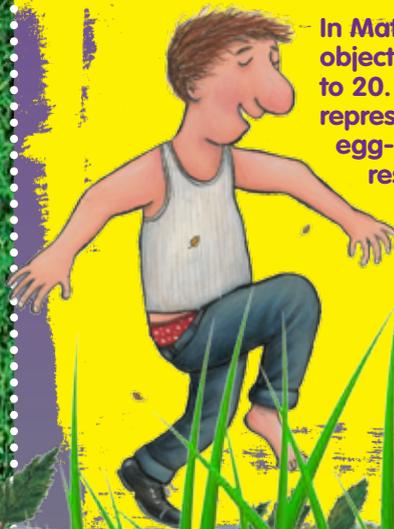
This term in PE the classes have switched over so those learning dance last term have now been learning gymnastics. In gymnastics pupils have been focusing on the key aspects, such as rolls, jumps, balances, shapes, travels and linking them together to make sequences. In dance the pupils have been learning about the 5 components of dance, travels and stillness. As for tournaments this term year 5 and 6 girls qualified for the finals in the Aston indoor football league. Year 5 and 6 boys were unfortunately knocked out of the HMS football shield losing 2-1 to West Hill Primary. Year 3 and 4 mixed came runners up in the King Edwards Aston football level 2, and year 5 and 6 pupils won the King Edwards Aston Basketball level 2 and progressed on to the level 3 tournament.

RECEPTION

This term we have been focusing on stories by Julia Donaldson in literacy. The children have read stories such

as 'Stick Man', 'What the Ladybird Heard', 'Room on the Broom', and 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. The children went on a trip to Birmingham Town Hall to see a live performance of 'Stick Man' which they thoroughly enjoyed.

In Mathematics the children have been using practical objects in order to add and subtract amounts up to 20. The children have been practising how to represent numbers in a variety of ways such as in egg-boxes on an abacus and by using Numicon resources. The children then used their skills in order to add and subtract in order to answer number sentences."



YEAR 1

ENGLISH

This half term we have been learning about adventure stories. The children watched *The Snowman* film, explored different camera angles used, retold the story through a story map with actions and wrote speech for the main characters in the story. They really enjoyed retelling the story and added lots of interesting adjectives to make the story exciting!

MATHS

In Maths we have been learning different strategies of adding and subtracting within 20. The children used their prior knowledge of number bonds to 10 to use the 'make 10 strategy' when adding two numbers together. They also used their place value knowledge to use the 'regrouping into tens and ones strategy' when answering calculations. The children have also been learning about length and using key vocabulary such as tall/taller, short/shorter and long/longer to compare objects.



HISTORY

Our History work has been all about significant people. We have been finding out about four important people; Denise Lewis, George Cadbury, Benjamin Zephaniah and Lisa Clayton. The children have really enjoyed working together to find out about the different things these people have achieved in their lives and are constantly thinking of more questions they want to find the answers to.

SCIENCE

We have been learning about different materials and their properties. The children investigated different materials and where they come from. They showed a great understanding of natural and man-made materials and enjoyed finding out how different materials were made.



YEAR 2

This has been a great half term in Year 2!

ENGLISH

In English, we have written an amazing story based on 'The Gruffalo'. We were looking at different books by the same author, Julia Donaldson, exploring their language and common features. We had to create our own terrifying monsters that we then used in our own version of *The Gruffalo*. Furthermore, the class role-played key scenes to develop a greater understanding of their story and the use of speech.

MATHS

In Maths this half term, year 2 have explored using different strategies to solve multiplication and division calculations.

Children used a range of different practical resources to support their learning. As they developed their strategies, children applied them to solve challenging word problems. Furthermore, year 2 have also learnt about fractions. Through developing an understanding of a fraction, children could find half, a third and a quarter of a shape or amount.



HISTORY

In History our theme was, "Who is the greatest explorer?" Having defined what an explorer is, we then found out many facts about each person's amazing achievements through a variety of activities until the children had to choose who was the greatest of them all.

SCIENCE

Science has been fantastic this half term with children learning about a range of materials. We investigated the properties of each material and then tested their suitability for the jobs that they do such as which material would be best used for a drink of water and why.

PSHE

In PSHE, children explored what makes a good friend and what they need to do to be one themselves. Moreover, we also explored families and why they are important and how they are all different but they are all special.



Ingredients
to make a
good friend

YEAR 3

ENGLISH

This half term we have been learning about leaflets and adverts. Having been on a trip to Gulliver's Land last half term, the children used this experience to help them create their own leaflet based on a theme park. The children have thoroughly enjoyed writing rhetorical questions and learning how to write exaggerated phrases, using powerful, persuasive vocabulary. The children also worked well to create their own slogans and were able to include wordplay and alliteration.

MATHS

In Maths we have continued to explore multiplication and division with a key focus on times tables. Children are becoming much more confident with their times tables and having been using a range of Maths equipment to support their learning. Additionally children are applying their knowledge to multiply and divide much larger numbers. Children are beginning to recognise the patterns



with numbers and apply various strategies to help them work out challenging problems.

SCIENCE

This term we have been investigating forces and magnets, which has been a very enjoyable and exciting unit for all the children. We investigated different forces around the school and how they change depending on the power that you put into them. Using the magnets was a particular highlight with children learning and using key vocabulary such as attract and repel. The children then investigated the magnets on different materials to see which was magnetic and which was not. The children learned that not every metal is magnetic.

TOPIC

We have been looking at the History of Britain from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age this half term. The children researched artefacts that have been recently discovered from this time period. Two of the exciting things they discovered was a warrior's tomb that was filled with gold jewellery and the Beaker pots. They have also learnt how people in the Iron Age lived and farmed.



YEAR 4

ENGLISH

This term in English the children have been learning how to write an information text. They really enjoyed watching the film 'How to train your dragon' to help give them ideas in creating their own dragon and writing about the habitat, appearance, special powers and any interesting facts. We are looking forward to reading their final information text, which they will write over the next week.

HISTORY

This term the children have been learning about the Romans. They have been researching in groups using historical books and laptops the key leaders during this time. For instance, they have found out about Julius Caesar and Queen Boudicca and have produced work related to the facts they have researched. Also, they have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in role play, where they had to act out the final speeches given by each leader explaining why they wanted to be part of the Roman Empire or not. I know that the children have found this History unit very interesting and have learned lots of new facts about the Romans.

SCIENCE

We have been investigating Electricity this half term, which has been very exciting for the children. We have looked at how electricity is produced. The children have also been investigating different materials which stops and allows electrical current to flow through a circuit, giving them the opportunity to see why materials are called conductors and insulators. The children then investigated how we use switches to open and close a circuit allowing the lamp to be switched on and off, this then moved on to the children creating their own switches that were used in their circuits. This term the children have thoroughly enjoyed science.

MATHS

This term, we have covered two units of work. The children began learning about how to collect and interpret tables and graphs. Children enjoyed collecting data in tables and graphs and interpreting their findings. Following on from this, children have been learning about fractions. Within this unit of work, we have focused on finding equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions to the lowest form, converting fractions, finding fractions of a number and adding and subtracting fractions. It has been a challenging unit, but the children have worked extremely hard and impressed both teachers with the amount of knowledge they have gained.



YEAR 5

ENGLISH

In English: the children have been learning how to write a non-chronological report. They started the unit by watching a documentary called 'Planet earth'. The children really enjoyed learning about all the different animals and making notes on the animals they found interesting. The children then researched their own animals so that they had information to write a detailed report.

MATHS

In Maths: we have been having a big focus on fractions. This has included: like and unlike fractions, proper and improper fractions, mixed fractions, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fraction and converting fractions into decimals.

TOPIC

In Topic: the children have been studying the Vikings. They have been learning how the Vikings came to England and what they did when they got here. They have also been learning the

reasons why the Vikings decided to leave their homes. As part of this topic, the children have also been learning about King Alfred The Great and debating whether he deserved the title of 'Great'.

SCIENCE

In Science: the children have been learning about separating mixtures. They have been conducting different experiments on the best way to separate mixtures that contain solids with different sized particles, such as sieving and filtration. They also designed their own fair test on the different way some solids dissolve in liquids.

TRIPS

As well as all this, the children had a lovely visit to Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, where they were guided round by some well trained year 6 children!



YEAR 6

ENGLISH

In English this half term, Year 6 have focused on recounts, particularly about the film adaptation of Louis Sachar's bestseller Holes. During the unit, children have had opportunities to hot seat various characters within the film in order to determine how they are feeling at various important parts of the story. This has led to some excellent class discussion and debate.

MATHS

Maths lessons have continued to go from strength to strength. The children have shown their in-depth understanding of fractions, percentages and decimals and how they relate to one another. The children have developed fantastic reasoning skills and now they often question concepts and are challenged to convince each other how to solve problems.

SCIENCE

In our Science work we have begun studying electricity and circuits. The children have shown that they can draw circuits confidently with the correct scientific symbols and understand

how to put together a working circuit with the right components.

TRIPS

A particular highlight of the half term was the visit to Stratford-upon-Avon where some children were tour guides around different properties associated with Shakespeare. The children were a credit to the school, not only when visiting the sites, but when guiding the Year 5 children and members of the general public. Many positive comments were received from both the staff at the venue and visitors who voluntarily filled in feedback cards.



Celebrating Chinese New Year

As in previous years, we celebrated Chinese New Year on Tuesday 6th February 2018 where we organised workshops for each year group to have an experience of cultural diversity and to become a part of this celebration.

This was the year of the dog, an animal which symbolises luck! Do you know what animal they will be celebrating in 2019?

The school kitchen staff arranged a special Chinese New Year lunch menu for the children and staff. Many thanks to Rubina and the catering staff for making this lunch a day to remember!



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017-2018



SPRING TERM 2018

Monday 26th February 2018 -
Thursday 29th March 2018

SUMMER TERM 2018

Term Starts: Monday 16th April 2018

Half Term: Monday 28th May 2018 -
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 next training days will be:

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.

