

Newsletter

6th March 2020



Community, Creativity,
Challenge and Individuality

Dear Parents / Carers,

Our theme this week has been Historical Figures, and this week we have been thinking about people from the past who embodied the qualities of our elephant. We learned about the story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Rosa was a civil rights activist and through her determination and self-sacrifice to ensure that all people are treated as equals, demonstrated all the values we learn through our Community curriculum.



Penguins and Puffins Thank you to all of our families who sent in a bottle at the start of the week. As the week comes to an end, those bottles will be brought home again; this time containing a magical dinosaur potion, mixed and brewed using the ingredients gathered on Monday, and following the lists we wrote on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The activities set out in the classroom have been building knowledge of the numbers 6, 7, and 8, and developing fine-motor skills (such as concertina-folding paper to make legs for a spider), along with many varied challenges.

Phonics has focused on the sounds ear, air and we have now reach the end of the phase 3 sounds. On to Phase 4 next week.

It was lovely to see such great costumes on World Book Day - we had a great day. Congratulations to Mr Hollings, who, unbelievably, turned 42 this week. What a lovely chap - and doesn't look a day over 30!

Owls The children have been looking at money in maths this week. They have been learning to recognise coins and their value; to add totals of different coins and to work out the amount of change when completing word problems. In literacy, the children have been working towards planning an 'Explanation Text'. On Thursday, the children got a special delivery when they received a parcel from the book characters Rosie and Frankie. The children then decided that they would write a recount to explain their exciting morning.

Woodpeckers This week, Woodpeckers have been working on money in maths. They have been identifying coins and ordering them in value. Some children have been sorting the coins into groups and others have been calculating the value of a selection of coins. In order to think more creatively with the money, some children have been working out the value of their name based a new alphabet including coins! In literacy, we have been working hard with our explanation texts. This week we have been analysing the model text to help understand why the author has used certain words and phrases. This will help us when we begin to plan our own, which we will begin next week. Children have also been looking at sketching techniques this week using different pencils to help with shading. The children looked brilliant on Thursday for World Book Day. They loved showing off their costumes or sharing their favourite stories with the class.

Robins

This week in maths, Robins have been looking at money. We talked about the importance of understanding money and the role it plays in our day to day lives. We looked at the different coins and combined them into different amounts. In literacy, we explored the explanation text and the features in it. We found bossy verbs and noun phrases. World Book Day was fantastic and the children's costumes looked awesome. We held a costume parade of characters and the children talked about their favourite books and characters. The class made their own Where's Wally pictures in different locations around the school.



Sandpipers

Well done Sandpipers on another great week. It has been a very busy one. In maths, Sandpipers have been focusing on symmetry. They have identified symmetrical shapes and completed symmetrical patterns. In literacy, we have started our new genre of writing: newspapers. The children have thought about what is included in a newspaper and matched the headlines to the stories. The children are loving our Awesome Egyptians topic. In challenge, they have designed an Egyptian death mask. They learnt about what these were, why they were used and what they were made from. In science, the children learnt about the rock cycle. Some created their own cartoon strips to explain each stage. Also this week, we have continued with our play. They are really enjoying their rehearsals and can't wait to have an audience to perform to. On World Book Day, we completed lots of fun activities based on our class book, James and Giant Peach. Well done!

Swans

This week we've been extremely busy preparing for the play. All of the teams have worked tremendously hard on their different jobs in order to create something that will be "The Greatest Show in Wheelock!" During our literacy week, we have started to look at newspaper articles. We have looked at headlines and how these introduce the report. Our maths work has focused around symmetry. The children have completed patterns so that they become symmetrical as well as finding lines of symmetry in shapes. Swans have thoroughly enjoyed our new class book "The Boy at the Back of the Class" by Onjali Rauf. We carried this into World Book Day yesterday. The children have shown empathy towards the characters and we have had very mature conversations about refugees. Our Cross Fit session yesterday was fun, sweaty and a strange sight to be seen (due to so many fabulous costumes and pyjamas!) A wonderfully busy week - well done Swans! Keep up the amazing work!

Kingfishers

Kingfishers have been busy this week, continuing to prepare the production with great enthusiasm. The Props, Merchandise and Tech teams have been busy learning and practising timings for the play to ensure it runs smoothly. The actors have really impressed Miss Newton with their knowledge of their lines and their acting skills. On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day. Kingfishers came in with some wonderful costumes and shared their favourite stories with the class. They completed a Locked in the Library challenge, using their knowledge of Maths and SPaG to find the passcode for the lock. Afterwards, the children worked in pairs to complete a scavenger hunt using school books to find different animals, people or events. It required a lot of books and resilience to find some of the harder items. In literacy, the children have been building their knowledge of the events of the finding of Tutankhamun's tomb in preparation for writing a newspaper article on it. They have also focused on headlines and identifying key information from them. In Maths, the children have been learning about symmetry and completing shapes across a line of symmetry. It was tricky but they enjoyed the challenge!



Eagles

This week in Eagles we have been learning all about how to be sustainable at home and at school. I was very impressed with the children's prior knowledge on the need to improve our sustainability in this country and around the world and how we can do this. Next week, the children will be using this knowledge to write a persuasive letter on why and how we must make a change to our way of life. In maths, we have continued to look at angles - improving our skills on measuring and drawing angles. In topic, Eagles have been comparing the life of Celts, Romans and Vikings. Following independent research, Eagles then produced a role-play to portray the differences in battle styles - a few rulers were sacrificed in this activity! Finally, in French, we have been learning different country names, and we will be moving on to discussing their holiday in French next week.



Kestrels

Fantastic week in Kestrels. The children did us proud in our equality assembly - they learnt their lines and parts brilliantly in an incredibly short period of time. The positive comments received from both staff and parents were really appreciated. Unfortunately I forget to take any pictures! Feel free to send some into the office to be put in our class book. In our literacy and community sessions, we have developed our understanding of sustainability; looking at the advantages and disadvantages of both renewable and non-renewable energy. Next week this information will be used to create a persuasive letter to the government. In maths, we have continued to work on shape and angles - I'm really impressed with the progress made by the children. We have also been developing our understanding of computer programming using an online programme. We hope to continue this over the coming weeks. Finally, our French sessions have introduced the children to the country names and will move on to talking about their holidays next week. As you can tell this has been a very busy week in Kestrels and the children may well need a rest over the weekend!

Hawks

In Hawks this week, we have been learning about what natural resources are and their distribution of them around the world. We have also looked at and created a poster to give advice on how to be sustainable. Next week, we will be researching the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and non-renewable energy and using this understanding to create a persuasive letter to the Prime Minister.

As part of our creativity strand to our curriculum, we have explored examples and reasons for Stone-Age cave paintings and have created our own. We have also learnt about Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and have created our own cartouche of our names.

The Hive

We have had so much fun in The Hive this week especially on World Book Day! Such a colourful array of pyjamas and costumes: we smiled and admired each and every one. Nimble fingers have been hard at work making fortune tellers; choose a colour then a number, lift up the flap and all is revealed. It has been a wonder to see children making their first one! In other news, we have an exciting competition underway. The children are designing a new dish for our teatime; the winning dish will actually feature on our new summer menu! The weather has been kinder to us this week, we have actually seen some sunshine, it certainly lifts the spirits and puts us in mind of spring. The chicks are growing every day and we have got used to the beep as the machine gently turns the eggs. It is with great anticipation that the children tick down the days and follow the development chart!



FOWS

What a busy week we have had organising our next few events.

 Swimathon 21st March. 

All swimmers should have received their sponsor packs now, please get in touch if you would still like to participate, last entry date is Friday 14th March.

 Bookfair 24th-25th March 

Looking for a little well done treat after parents evening? We will be selling a lovely selection of books suitable for KS1 & KS2 again priced Between £1-£2.50. House PE T-Shirts will also be available to buy too on the book stall.

We do need a couple of volunteers to help on the stall each day, please get in touch if you can spare some time either before or after your appointment. Fowscontact@gmail.com

🍫Chocolate Bingo! 2nd April🍫

One of our favourite events!!!

Letters have gone out and tickets are already selling well. Please remember, this is a ticketed event and numbers are limited. They are being sold on a first come first served basis. Please return your completed form with the correct money to the FOWs postbox In the school main entrance. Note there will also be a non-uniform day on the 27th March where we kindly ask for a chocolate donation for the bingo.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to get more involved & find out about what the FOWs do, please get in touch

Fowscontact@gmail.com

Whole School News

World Book Day

We had a brilliant day on Thursday celebrating World Book Day. The children all looked fantastic in their costumes and pyjamas and enjoyed lots of fun activities in their classes linked to their favourite books.

Charity Auction Night

We are very excited about tonight's charity auction and are confident that it will be a fantastic night as well as raising lots of money towards our fundraising target. We will let you know next week how it goes.



Parking around school

We have been asked by a local resident to remind parents of the importance of parking safely and considerately around school. In particular, it has been flagged that some cars being parked at the junction into Lightley Court are causing a dangerous obstruction to those trying to cross the road.

Coffee and Play

Just a reminder that our Coffee and Play sessions run every Friday from 9.00 to 10.15. All parents and younger siblings are welcome to attend. There is no cost, just a voluntary donation for your drink and biscuit.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Helen Sweeney,
Headteacher.