

### Chaffinches (Yr2)

The Chaffinches enjoyed braving the cold today and went out to make patterns in the snow with our footprints. We also developed our creative side by drawing pictures in the snow. This seemed a good way to finish off our shape and pattern unit of work in mathematics. Now we are starting to learn about fractions. We have also enjoyed learning how to write recounts and letters of recount. It was great to welcome parents into the classroom today for a lesson to learn about important features we use in our writing. Thanks for coming. Our main topic this half term is about Meerkats and the habitats they live in. We have been learning about their food chains and how they are adapted to the habitat they live in. We don't think they would like this snow!

### Sparrows (Y1).

We have been learning about what objects are made of. We have been looking at different materials and finding out what they can be used for. We found out that some materials are natural and some are man-made. We have also been learning about toys and how the toys we have today compare to the toys in the olden days. We used our learning about materials to design our own spinning tops. We collected different materials and used these. We then tested them to see which worked best and why.



**Asfordby  
Captain's Close**  
Primary School

## Spring Newsletter 4

### Owls (Reception)

This half term we are learning all about plants. We kick started our topic by reading and taking part in drama activities linked to the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and used this to get us thinking about descriptive writing. We also created our own beanstalk using leaves to plot the height of everyone in our class. Our colour mixing skills were tested when we crated some fabulous beanstalk finger paintings. We are looking forward to watching our own beanstalks grow.

In our PE lessons we have really enjoyed having Charlotte Griffiths, from the Melton Mowbray Tennis Club, help us develop our tennis skills.

#### We need your help!

If you have any old and unwanted big pots or pans, hand whisks etc. which we could use in our mud kitchen, we would really appreciate you sending them in to school. We are also looking for any plastic crates, tyres, or planks of wood for balancing that we can add to our outdoor learning area. Finally, we would also like you to collect any small, clean junk modelling materials, e.g. toothpaste boxes, milk tops, yogurt pots etc. Unfortunately, due to allergies, we are not able to use any packaging that has contained a product with nuts in.

## Headteacher's Message

### Hello all

I hope you're all managing to keep warm. Thank you so much for your support last week when the boiler let us down. I'm very glad it's back to normal this week. Our learning continues to set us alight! The children came back from Half term with really purposeful attitudes and that is tremendous to see. I spent some time with pupil leaders asking the children what they thought of our school. They were proud of the respect everyone shows each other, including adults respecting them, they recognised that school leaders enable teachers to learn and plan to make lessons and learning exciting and supportive. They also like how communication is two-way and they communicate to teachers during lessons to further learning. Importantly, they said staff make learning fun and keep them on track. We also unpicked Safety in school and it was great that they recognised their roles in this, eg Pupil Leaders, Champions and School Council, as well as the fact staff make decisions to keep them safe-and they do feel safe! It was also very positive to hear their attitude to high standards and challenge-they enjoy this commitment and this is a key priority area for us. Integral to this is resilience and perseverance, as well as optimism and we seek to reflect this ourselves as adults. What amazing children we have!

### Robins

This half term Robins are continuing to learn about the Romans, we are looking at the different art that the Romans introduced including life drawings and mosaics. We are planning to change our reading corner into our own Roman mosaic, telling a story of our own. We are also learning about animals and humans in our science lessons discussing everything from diets to habitat.

In our English lessons we are reading 'I was a rat' by Philip Pullman with the aim of creating our own twisted version of a classic tale. We will also be having some great debated, learning how to share information in a persuasive and expressive way.

In our Maths lessons we are looking at fractions, from understanding that a fraction is part of a whole to finding a fraction of a number and also being able to simplify fractions and find equivalent fractions. We are excited about learning all these new skills this half term and hope you enjoy hearing all about it 😊!!

### Swallows

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their learning today. World Book Day has been a great opportunity for them to share their love of books and their own love of writing. We created our own shared write that the children were really keen to share with you. I hope you enjoy the opening sentences, we will blog the finished article at the end of the week.

*At dusk, the children arrived to see the magnificent, lost city of Atlantis shining in the moonlight like a precious pearl upon a soft, velvet pillow.*

### Eagles

Year 5 have been working hard this half term in all areas of the curriculum. In English we have been concentrating on using RSC techniques to learn about Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Children have written characterisations of the main protagonists in the play. We have also been concentrating on grammar, spelling and comprehension based around the language used in the play. Our maths has taken the shape of decimals, fractions and percentages - including problem solving and reasoning. Our topic work is looking at Jungle Mania! We have started to look at climate and animals. The year 5 team are busy planning a series of science days.

### Year 6 (Kingfishers)

We are having a great term so far, learning about many things...especially fractions! We now know that you never intermix decimals and fractions when you write fractions as they represent the same thing, they're just written in different ways. We have been learning how to use a common denominator to find equivalent fractions, before using this knowledge to compare and order them. This has also included positioning fractions on number lines. Simplifying fractions has been fun too: this is when you use the highest common factor of the numerator and denominator to express it in its lowest form, e.g.  $4/12 = 1/3$ . We're now looking forward to learning about calculating with fractions next. Our trip to the Warning Zone before half term was absolutely brilliant! Because the zones that they let us explore are so realistic, the day was very memorable. We learnt how to keep ourselves safe in real-life situations where risks and peer pressure influence our decision-making. The volunteers who helped us to learn about e-safety and social risks were so knowledgeable and they really helped us to understand the dangers that can be involved. The e-safety fairground was very impressive too: who'd have thought a game of Guess Who? could be so effective at teaching us about protecting ourselves online? We are looking forward to creating Tudor purses for a rich Tudor as well this term, which will help us to develop our sewing skills.



# Asfordby Captain's Close Primary School

## Headteacher's messages

### **Call parents**

This is the quickest and most efficient way to contact you all quickly, but depends on us having an accessible phone number. Please make sure the office has the number you want us to prioritise.

### **Morning access to staff**

This is a polite reminder that staff need to prioritise the children getting in to school safely and calmly in the morning, ready to start lessons promptly, therefore please speak to Mrs Bartram/available support staff on the playground or the Office if you have messages and we will get back to you.

### **Parent evening evaluations**

We are still awaiting the return of some of these-please send them in ASAP-by 3rd February.

### **Water /Toilets**

We have had a couple of requests to outline arrangements for access to these in school.

As a Healthy school, we seek to promote Healthy Lifestyles and therefore provide water in school as well as encourage children to bring their water bottles in. We do have to have some arrangements for access , as with all key skills and behaviours we aim to develop independent self-management for life, but this is structured differently through school in line with preparing children for their next steps and to ensure efficiency for learning in the classroom. Reception and Year 1 have looser arrangements while some children are still learning to self-manage. From Year 2 to Year3 and 4, depending on maturity, we ensure children have regular access to water and toilets. Obviously any desperate needs are attended to and medical needs are considered where relevant in collaboration with parents. We do not have bottles/cups on tables as this can inevitably cause spillages and damage to other children's belongings and work, resulting in distress. In some cases this also distracts children from their learning-and practically there isn't always room! As children approach Key stage 2, we do try to encourage drinking and toileting at appropriate times-I am sure you'll understand , once one child goes the others usually follow and this can severely disrupt lessons-or be used as a distraction technique, but teachers do use their common sense, particularly when we know the children's individual needs. It also enables us to monitor and support children who may need to drink, or may be refusing to drink and enables us to manage the cloakrooms.

By year 5 and 6 we would expect children to use transition points independently to self-manage this in preparation for moving on-and so we can support their learning efficiently.

## **School Bank Dates**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May