

Chaffinches (YR 2)

The Chaffinches have been enjoying exploring our topics this half term. We have learned about different celebrations including Hannukah, Halloween, Diwali and Bonfire Night. We looked at how light is used in symbolic ways in each. We are just beginning to learn about the story of Christmas and we are practising parts for our Christmas production. We enjoyed the story Bob – Man on the Moon in our English work and created our own stories based on the main character and settings. Now we are learning how to create an explanation text. We have enjoyed measuring length and weight in our maths work and now we are learning how to link multiplication and division to our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Sparrows (Y1).

We have just started sorting out bits and bobs for our Christmas production! We have had our first run through the play and are very excited!

We have learned lots of new things about our bodies and the senses we use this week. The progress we have made so far this year makes us very proud!.

Owls (Reception)

Over the last few weeks, we have been learning about our own and other cultures. We looked at how Diwali is celebrated through dance, stories, art and role play. We also consolidated our learning about patterns through Rangoli art. A few parents also gave up their time to help us learn more about Thanksgiving. We learnt why Thanksgiving is celebrated, how it is celebrated and who celebrates it. We enjoyed making delicious Rice Krispie pumpkins, turkey hats and developing our maths through colouring by numbers. As a class, we agreed that we were thankful for families, friends, food, water and toys. It was great to develop our partnership with parents and to learn from each other. Next we are moving on to learn about Christianity and the Nativity in preparation for our Christmas play.



**Asfordby
Captain's Close
Primary School**

Autumn Newsletter 2 - 2018

Headteacher's Message

In an week when we achieved our Route to Resilience accreditation, we had ours tested with our Ofsted visit! The award recognises the work school do to support children's resilience and our pupil questionnaire also shows that as a school our children have very positive attitudes to school. (Further details overleaf) Where there are areas of need we are already planning approaches. Our Learnful sessions support this too. We are renowned as a school that supports emotional health and well-being and our Year 6 Champions scheme is well respected across schools. Our pupil leader's work is now extending this across the school with children leading initiatives with our adult leaders. We have run a number of successful schemes for parents and will be launching the next round of Fun and Families soon. Our one to one work with families is extensive and a recent governor/ LA visit recognised this.

We are also recognised as a school that offers a good range of experiences for parents to share in children's education - our 100% attendance at parents' evenings is amazing- Thankyou.

We continue to plan ways to make sure everyone gets the chance to work with us. We are already planning some future programmes with our Epic wellbeing specialists to support parents across a range of issues.

Robins (Y3)

We have started this term with learning lots of interesting facts about people from the past particularly the Stone age. We have been exploring how they used to live and where, how they survived and how different life was all those years ago. This ties in with our class texts this term; Stig of the Dump and UG of the Stone Age. These texts will allow us to use our imagination and creativity to explore the emotions and hardships the characters may have faced.

We have also spent some time looking at friendships and relationships in Romeo and Juliet! This is a fascinating topic that the children have found extremely interesting! We are looking at rocks and fossils in Science and how they are formed/changed over time. This again allows us to look into the uses of rocks and stone from the past to the present.

In maths we have been recapping on our learning of addition and subtracting where exchanging digits is required. We are also going to be continuing to learn our times tables, particularly the 3x, 4x and 8x tables. We hope to use this knowledge to help us with our multiplication and division

Swallows (Y4)

We have had lots of fun looking at the story of Romeo and Juliet. We created some powerful drama pieces looking at the fight between the Montagues and the Capulets during the opening scene. The children are going to be writing a newspaper report documenting the fight. We are very lucky to work alongside the Royal Shakespeare Company! The children have also become enthralled by our science topic of electricity and are enjoying creating their own electric circuits. We have also been testing different materials to see if they are conductors or insulators. Please can I remind children to practice their times tables at home as it is incredibly important that they can recall them in Year 4.

Eagles (Y5)

Eagles class have been working extremely hard this half term so far. In English we have been looking at the War stories of 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and 'War Horse'. As a result of studying such great stories we have created some incredible work - writing from the viewpoint of a soldier in World War One. In maths we have been looking at calculations and special sorts of numbers such as Square and prime numbers - including their properties such as factors. We are looking forward to our new science subject 'Forces' and all the experiments it brings!

Kingfishers (Y6)

We've really been enjoying our Maths learning over the last month and gained lots of confidence with using the long multiplication calculation method. We've realised how much more efficient this than drawing out a grid to multiply two numbers together with and we're now moving on to understanding how to use long division accurately. Some of us have even started to think about how we can express remainders from division calculations as fractions and simplified fractions - we're making some great links in our Maths learning at the moment! However, it's also taught us how important it is to have a solid grasp of our times tables, or know reliable strategies we can use to recall these accurately because it's this knowledge which is helping us to use the methods correctly. Using Romeo and Juliet in our English lessons has been brilliant too. We've loved exploring the prologue and key scenes and reading on a deep level, particularly making inferences about themes and characters based on the language used. After the broadcast, we can't wait to take our learning further and develop some high-quality pieces of writing in role as different characters facing crucial dilemmas, especially Juliet and Friar Lawrence. So far in PE this half term we have benefited from some great coaching from the Leicester Riders and have taken part in a local athletics competition. The speed-bouncing was incredibly challenging but the relay races were so much fun: turning off of the reversaboards was definitely a highlight! We are really intrigued by our next topic too, which connects global issues such as migration, human rights and refugees with learning about the Ancient Islam era.

Headteacher's messages

As always we ask that all adults in school model our school ethos in terms of our three principles that are rooted in care, respect and positive decision-making. Parents play a crucial role in this and we are fortunate to have a range of volunteers who are instrumental in this.

Ultimately in a school we expect some issues, and we are grateful to those of you who model positive decision making and resolution to children by working with us. I hope you understand that all issues brought to us are considered carefully. In a school system where there are many more levels of accountability we can assure you that all issues are documented and subject to scrutiny by the Trust wider team, including the Director of Primary Education, Our Advisory Board, the Local Authority and Ofsted. As professionals with a wealth of experience we consider these issues objectively in light of key guidelines. We understand any issue involving children and families is emotive, and, as such, consider everything sensitively and with the interests of children at the heart. When parents enrol a child in our school, we enter into a home school agreement to ensure that our children see us working together. Even when we face issues it is crucial for them that they see us working together. This supports their ongoing confidence and behaviours.

We continue to ask families to see the appropriate member of staff if they have any concerns so they can be addressed. Wider debate can impact on the individual's right to privacy and reputational/ emotional damage, so it is much better for us all to work together to resolve matters, rather than involving others or using social media. Ultimately every adult in school wants each child to be happy and wants to support their growth and development.

We would love to hear from parents who have been using the Learnful home sessions and hear how they have helped at home. We have had some great feedback around many of school approaches and this helps us to plan for the future. School coffee and chat sessions have also contributed to this.

We have pleasure in confirming Mrs Llewelyn is expecting an addition to her family. When she prepares for this in early February, Mrs Parsons will join the EYFS team. She is already working across our school. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Llewelyn and Ben on this exciting news. We are aware a number of parents speculate around staff personal events. As a school we have a duty of care to our staff and deal with all personal details sensitively and in collaboration with them. We also have to consider appropriately timed announcements. Sometimes it is not appropriate to share news wider, or sometimes timings are crucial in terms of our children and individual staff requests. We also ask that our wider community respect this. I know you understand how damaging debating confidential sensitive issues can cause emotional distress. Where a staff change is involved, we always consider timing carefully so as to ensure children's learning is not disrupted and for least disruption to family confidence. I am sure most of you are aware that appointing staff takes a while and we cannot officially make announcements until everything is complete in terms of official arrangements. Rest assured, the leadership team prioritise sharing information with families as soon as it is appropriate to do so. When confidentiality prevents this we would ask that you trust our systems and integrity.

School Bank Dates

Wednesday 5th December 2018

Wednesday 9th January 2019

Wednesday 6th February 2019

Wednesday 6th March 2019

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Wednesday 1st May 2019

Wednesday 5th June 2019

Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Key Dates for this term

Open morning for new intake of Reception children (Intake for 2019)

Tuesday 27th November 10-11.30am

Year 6 SATS Meeting - Year six Classroom

Wednesday 28th November 3.30-4.30pm

Year One & Two Christmas Show

Wednesday 12th December 1.15-3.00pm

Pantomime

Monday 17th December 11.00-3.15pm

Thank you Morning for helpers

Wednesday 19th December 10.00-1.00pm

Christmas Carols for Key Stage Two

Thursday 20th December 1.30 – 3.00pm