



Junior School Newsletter

Spring Term 1



Friday 9th February 2024

Welcome to Foxhills Junior School's end of Spring Term 1 Newsletter.

Here is a roundup of the wonderful things your children have been up to this half term, as well as some important notices and dates for your diary.

Year 3 Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year! In Writing, the children have become experts at identifying nouns, adjectives and verbs, using these to produce a range of different outcomes that focus on descriptive writing. They have produced poetry, following a learnt structure, which has brought to life some beautiful settings. They have also applied their descriptive writing to the context of fairytales, retelling in their own words the story of Little Red Riding Hood. In Reading, there has been opportunity for students to practise and discuss the effect of volume and tone, whilst learning to rehearse and perform some exciting poems. The children have also focused on developing

summarising and predicting skills with familiar and unfamiliar texts.

In Maths, our children have been developing their conceptual and procedural knowledge through units on multiplication and division (using the 3, 4 and 8 times tables). They have also explored measurement using rulers, and are familiar with measuring in centimetres and millimetres, as well as identifying the correct measurement to use for different objects.

In History, students have consolidated their learning on the Iron Age, comparing it to the Stone and Bronze ages, with a focus on technology and lifestyle. Their history unit ended with a fabulous school trip to Butser Ancient Farm, where our children not only gained a valuable cultural experience but also engaged in some archaeology, ancient jewellery making, wattling and a chance to look around a replica of an Iron Age roundhouse, as well as a Roman Villa- leading nicely into our history topic for

Spring Term 2.



In Geography, the children have been learning to apply their knowledge of the water cycle. The learning in Geography has linked well with their Science, which has been all about changing states of matter (solids, liquids and gasses). Our children have been developing their understanding of the current world around them in these subjects and they had the opportunity to discuss, observe and explain the process of changing states, such as with ice and chocolate.

In Spanish, our children have been consolidating their numbers 1-20 and touched on animal names, which will

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continue into Spring Term 2. In Music, they have been developing their musical skills with attention to the classical piece, Hall of the Mountain King by Edvard Grieg. In Computing, our children have used Scratch software to programme a conversation between two virtual characters. In Design and Technology, students have been looking at structures and the nets which are used to form shapes.

Last but not least, our Year 3 children are ending the half term with the whole school involvement of the Take One Picture Project. Each class is doing something different but all projects are child-led. We can't wait to see the range of creative ideas they have produced, this Friday!

Year 4 This half term, Year 4 have continued their learning about the Anglo-Saxons exploring the discoveries found at Sutton Hoo and using the artefacts to find out more about their lives. The children also looked at the difference between Christian and Pagan beliefs and how Christianity

came to Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children are excited for the trip to Stubbington Study Centre next half term.

They learnt that Anglo-Saxons were skilled crafts people, so in DT they explored how to weave using the warp and weft technique. In music, they are creating their own soundtrack to the story of Beowulf, using a variety of percussion instruments, exploring different dynamics and tempo to match the story line.

In English this term, the children have been looking at two different types of writing: diary writing and dilemma narratives. For their diaries the children have been focussing on promoting good physical and mental well-being, linking in with the science theme of a positive body, mind and soul. They have also developed their writing skills by including correctly punctuated speech, expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to entertain and engage the reader within narratives. During reading lessons, Year 4 have been exploring the play version of Fantastic Mr Fox, looking at the

features of a script and embracing opportunities to perform.

In maths this half term, Year 4 have focussed on multiplication and division, using formal and informal methods. They have enjoyed using different resources such as Diennes and counters to solve mathematical problems.

The focus in science has been teeth. Year 4 were lucky to have started the half term with a visit from an oral hygienist, who introduced the importance of looking after our teeth and ways to prevent tooth decay. The children took a closer look at their teeth, learning to name them and understand their function. They carried out their own investigation to see which liquid causes the most and least damage to our teeth.



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Europe has been Year 4's focus in geography, as they have started to explore the location of countries within this continent, using maps and atlases. Next half term, they will learn more about the languages, landmarks and flags associated with specific parts of Europe.

Devotion has been the theme in RE. The children learnt how we show devotion in our lives, how it is shown towards us and they learnt how important it is within the Hindu faith, with particular reference to Mahatma Gandhi.

Year 5 This half term, year 5 have been reading the book 'The Light in Everything'. The children have been developing their inference skills and have been supporting their responses using evidence from the text. In writing, the children learned how to use modal verbs and they applied this and other persuasive devices to write a persuasive letter to the chair of governors. In DT, the children

have been learning about the many benefits of buying food in season. They have tasted a variety of seasonal produce in preparation for designing and cooking their own healthy balanced meal. The children revisited their knowledge of fossils in science and learned how different species evolved and adapted over time. In maths, the children learned how to use the formal written methods for short and long multiplication. In geography, the children learned about South America. They identified its location and the countries within the continent.

Year 6 This half term, the children in Year 6 have been exploring the text 'Clockwork' by Phillip Pullman. This compelling and intriguing story tells of apprentice, clock-maker Karl who must craft a new figure for the great clock in town. From this text, the children have been inspired to write a formal letter in role, a character description and a short suspense story that details an alternative ending to the story. In their reading sessions, Year 6 have been focusing on understanding and

making inferences about the meaning behind poetry and we have given the children the opportunity to explore the work of acclaimed writer, Benjamin Zephaniah.

This half term's maths journeys have concentrated on improving the children's understanding of fractions, prior to introducing them to position and direction. During their science sessions, Year 6 have completed their learning on evolution and inheritance and have begun to investigate how light travels and how we see.

In foundation subjects, Year 6 have been learning to explore how to use shading techniques to add depth to their art work. In computing, the children have been enjoying investigating how to create a web page using the language of html. Whilst in RE, they have developed a clear understanding of the significance of rituals and ritualistic practices.

The children in Year 6 have also begun their 'Take One Picture' journey and we look forward to sharing their creations with you all.

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Leaver's Hoodies

We would like to say a huge thank you to Friends Of Foxhills for organising and contributing to the cost of the hoodies. These have now been distributed to the children and they are welcome to wear them to school on their allocated PE days.

Exciting news!



Two children in year 5, Seb L and Esme Do, entered a young writer's competition and their short stories have been chosen to be published! Well done to both of them!



Spotlight on Foxhills

In this episode: our reporters go head-to-head to find the most animals in the school nature area, Mrs Griffiths from Year 5 is asked Year 3's questions and we learn about a new Rubik's Cube club setup by Year 3 children.

<https://vimeo.com/910386173>

Important Notices

No Drive Zone

08:20-08:45

15:00-15:25



Please could we remind families that the drive way is a 'No turning around' zone. We must insist on this for the safety of our visitors on site.



Girlguiding World Thinking Day 2024



Thursday 22nd February is Girlguiding World Thinking Day and children are invited to wear their Rainbow, Brownie or Guide uniform to school for the day.



Holiday clubs / activities

Don't forget you can find out information about local events on our school website.

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Local+Activities%2C+Clubs+%26+mp%3B+Events&pid=107>



Health Well-being

We have added some events. Please visit our website for more information.

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Mental+Health+and+Wellbeing%26%238203%3B%26%238203%3B%26%238203%3B%26%238203%3B%26%238203%3B%26%238203%3B%26%238203%3B%26%238203%3B&pid=106>

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Toys

We recognise that some children still need the comfort of a familiar object or a transition toy, and when it has been agreed, we permit children to bring home toys to school. As I'm sure you will appreciate, we cannot allow all children to do this because we do not have storage for them or the ability to keep them safe (and we are sure they are special toys to your child).

Unless it is for a specific, agreed purpose, please ensure all toys and teddies stay at home, many thanks.



Community Policing

Please follow the link below for January's beat report.

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Community+Policing&pid=109>

Dates for your Diary

12th – 16th February – Half Term

Monday 19th February – Inset Day

Tuesday 20th February – Term starts

Tuesday 20th February – Year 5 Swimming Sessions Start

Thursday 22nd February - Girlguiding World Thinking Day

26th February – 1st March – Year 6 Osmington Bay Residential

Tuesday 27th February – Year 5 Bookshop

4th - 8th March – Mother's day gift shop TBC

Tuesday 5th March – Year 6 Bookshop

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day- 'Book Characters' Dress Down Day

Thursday 7th March – Year 4 Stubbington Study Centre Trip - Cedar Class

Friday 8th March – Year 4 Stubbington Study Centre Trip – Hawthorn & Hazel Class

Tuesday 12th March – Year 4 Bookshop

Tuesday 19th March – Year 3 Bookshop

Tuesday 26th March – Year 5 Last Swim Session

Thursday 28th March – Last Day of Term

29th March – 12th April – Half Term

Monday 15th April – Term starts

Friday 21st June – Federation Sports Morning

Friday 28th June – Federation Sports Morning - Back up date

<https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7&pid=8&viewid=1>



Remaining Inset Days for the Academic Year 23-24

- Monday 19th February 2024

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