

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn 1 Core Value – Love Bright Learning Theme - Brave

As usual, it has been a very busy half term and I am very proud of the way the children have progressed over the weeks. There have been many highlights this half term but I particularly enjoyed both Harvest Festivals. Thank you parents for supporting this important festival and for the positive feedback that you gave after both events. I was really proud of our new Foundation children, as this was their first assembly with parents present and the generosity of our school community making donations to our local food bank.

Collecting Your Children from School

We are always looking to improve our procedures and teachers have reported it is quite difficult to dismiss children to their parents at the end of the day due to the number of parents in the Junior playground. To try and ease this congestion, UKS2 (Aspen, Sycamore and Silver Birch) will be finishing school 5 minutes later at 3.20 pm. This will give LKS2 (Maple, Rowan and Cedar) 5 minutes to begin dismissing the children before the older children arrive. All children will be dismissed to their parents unless Year 6 parents have signed a form to say that children can walk home on their own. This form does not apply to after school clubs. **We will be starting this new finishing time after Christmas.** We would like the UKS2 parents to stand near the back so that it is easier for the teachers to dismiss the younger children. There will be no changes in FS2 or KS1.

Little Canada

Yesterday, I welcomed the Year 6 children back from Little Canada. A good time was had by all and I would like to thank the staff that accompanied them, Mrs Sharman, Mrs Morton, Mr Blakely, Mr Miles and Miss Minchinton for all their hard work and dedication to the school.

As you know, our Core Values and Bright Learning themes are very important to us. Please talk to your children about what they have learnt this half term. These themes and values underpin all the work we do and are important to the caring ethos of our school. Visitors to the school always comment on our strong ethos.

I would like to wish you and your family a very happy half term.

Best wishes

Louisa Gurney

Head Teacher



Curriculum News

Foundation Stage:

Foundation have had an amazing start to their school journey. We are so proud of the way that they have settled in to school life and the daily routines that it brings.

We began our Read Write Inc. journey soon after the children started in September and have been working on learning the single letter sounds and some 'special friends' (where two letters make one sound e.g. sh). During the lesson we practise oral blending, where children say the sounds in a word out loud, and blend them together to make a word e.g. b a g blends to make bag. We have also started blending to read written words and the children have been bringing home Read Write Inc. books to support this. It really does make a difference if you practise these books at home with your child on a daily basis. If you are unsure of how to support your child with their reading at home then please do come and speak to a member of the Foundation Team.



In Maths we have been learning to recognise and order the numerals to 5. We have spent time counting objects carefully by lining them up and touching one object at a time. The children have also been learning to subitise (the ability to instantaneously recognise the number of objects in a small group without the need to count them). This is a skill that we will continue to work on next term. We have also been learning how to sort and group objects in different ways e.g. by colour, shape, type, size etc. We have been encouraging the children to explain why they have sorted objects in a certain way and to suggest other ways.

Our Topic lessons have been based around bears where we have read a number of bear themed stories before exploring these in greater detail. Particu-

lar highlights have included making and tasting porridge after reading Goldilocks and The Three Bears and going on our very own bear hunt inspired by Michael Rosen's book We're Going on a Bear Hunt and role playing Baby Bear after reading Whatever Next by Jill Murphy. The children also created their very own collage Bear Hunt maps, using them to describe each of the scenes in the story. Our favourite was the 'squelchy, squelchy' mud!



Reminders –

- Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.
- Please ensure that every item of your child's clothing (especially jumpers and cardigans) is named.
- It is a school expectation to read with your child 5 times per week – this can also be practising the sounds and reading the blending book. Please remember to record when you have read with your child in their Home Learning Diary.
- If you have not already signed up to Tapestry please do this as a matter of urgency. We have started uploading observations of your children so that you can see the learning that they have been doing at school. If you are having any problems accessing Tapestry then please come and see a member of staff who will assist.

Many thanks for your support this half term!

Mrs Emma Luzolo, Foundation Stage Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Key Stage 1:

Key Stage One have had a busy but enjoyable start to the term. We have started our Read, Write Inc. journey along with Foundation and the children have been learning all about the 'special friends', Fred the Frog and Purple Pencils of Power! The children have been working really hard and we are all very proud of them.

In Maths, we are very lucky to have had lots of new and exciting resources to explore. This has helped with our learning to make it real and practical. The children have been working together to not only find the answers but to prove or represent them using different equipment.



The children really enjoyed their walk around the local area- even if it was a bit drizzly for some of us! The walk was very useful as inspiration for their junk model houses in Design and Technology. We have been working hard to show our creativity by making hinges for doors, measuring for roofs and curtains and even creating stairs! We look forward to showing you our finished products!



Thank you for all of your support with Home Learning this half term. Please remember to read with your child and sign the diary 5 times per week and to return the Home Learning file every Tuesday so spellings can be marked and re-issued. This still applies during the Topic Home Learning period, as your child will still receive spellings each week.

Miss Lauren Adkins, KS1 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Lower Key Stage 2:

Can you believe that we have completed a whole half term? The children have been amazing in the way they have settled in to the new classes, groups and routines of year 3 and 4. We feel that the learning attitudes of the children have helped everyone to settle in quickly, allowing us to strengthen our relationships with the children, build upon their learning from last year and produce good quality work.

Our Topic theme this half term has been 'Rainforests.' We are beginning to look at Prehistory – Stone age to Iron age, for next half term.

In English, we started the year with poetry; looking at poems, rhymes, alliterations and rhythm. The children learnt a rainforest poem, mapped it out and then used the elements of the poem to write their own Rainforest Rap. They showed their knowledge, and bravery, by performing their raps in front of their class. The enthusiasm spilled over into dressing up and beat-boxing along to the 'raps' allowing the class adults to get, 'down with the kids'.

We then moved onto non-chronological reports, studying the features and looking at different types of reports. The children gathered facts to produce their own non-chronological reports, with all the relevant features, on rainforests and the animals, plants or products found in them.

In Maths, we have been focussing on reasoning skills. We have just received some lovely resources that the children are using to show their thinking. They have used their Growth Mindset and Bright Learning attitudes to convince us their answers are correct, using mathematical language and their knowledge of place value.

We welcomed Sue and Dave's Rainforest Roadshow at the end of September which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The teachers and children were engaged and very brave; holding Amelia-the-tarantula and the 256-legged millipede. We apologise to those parents that have been asked to purchase a pet tarantula – at least you know they enjoyed the experience. Just an advanced warning, if you said 'no,' we have heard children stating that a tarantula could go on their Christmas list for Santa to bring instead – again, apologies!

In Science, it has been a pleasure to see discovery learning with the children thinking about what plants need to grow and making predictions on what would happen if one of those elements were taken away. We now have a range of pea plants that are healthy, frozen or starved-of-light. Our next observation is seeing if we can get them back to health.

Signing the Home-School Diary after your child has read to you, 5-times-a-week, is going well. It is a very important part of the home-learning contract between school and home so please do continue the good work. Learning of times tables are an integral part to understanding and applying maths concepts – please encourage your child to log on to Times Table Rockstars to continue the learning they have been doing in school. As mentioned in 'Meet the Teacher,' year 4s will have a multiplication checker assessment in June which will log their times table knowledge. We would love all children to be able to show success in this as it will build self-esteem and also impact on their maths learning.

We are starting to hear and see some of the Topic Home Learning coming into school which is causing excitement and anticipation along the LKS2 corridor. It is lovely to see the home-learning and to hear how the children enjoyed the interactions with their home adults. We are excited to see what will appear.

Thank you for your support and friendly smiles on rainy family Fridays – it really does make a difference.

Kind regards,

Mrs Michelle Jay, LKS2 Phase Leader



Curriculum News

Upper Key Stage 2

From the start of the term, the Upper Juniors have immersed themselves in the Autumn Topic of Beer, Bulbs and Biscuits – a history focus on Reading. We have talked about how Reading has changed over the centuries and the impact of the railway on our town. Did you know that a king is buried in the Abbey ruinssomewhere?

In English, we are reading 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. Our diary entries, from the point of view of 'Jim Jarvis', were very moving. We captured the sadness of the poor desolate Victorian children who ended up in the workhouse. Our knowledge of Victorian terminology definitely helped to make them sound authentic. We have just finished our biographies on Dr Thomas Barnardo – a founder of homes for poor children - and Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and learnt so much from researching them using different sources of evidence.

In art, we have all been inspired by William Morris, one of the founders of the Arts and Crafts Movement. His famous quote was '**Have nothing in your homes that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful**'. We enjoyed creating repeating patterns using nature. We then looked at other Victorian artists and had a go at producing a piece of art in their style. We have also sung some music hall songs – 'Daisy Bell' and 'Any Old Iron' which were great fun to perform.

Science has been all about light and how we see objects. Making our own box camera proved challenging but we got the idea. We have enjoyed investigating shadows and making our own silhouettes.



Islam has been our focus in RE. We have specifically discussed how Muslims show commitment to their God and have looked at the Five Pillars of Islam, which we found fascinating. We have made our own commitment to a club or a family member and are trying to keep to it.

As well as all the above, we have looked in depth at place value and some challenging calculations in Maths. Year 6 have been working very hard to master long division.

It has been a busy start to the term – and that doesn't even include the Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight!

Mrs Alison Sharman, UKS2 Phase Leader



Sporting News

It has been a busy start to the new academic year for sports at Woodley C of E! We started the term with an inspirational visit from Team GB athlete Megan Kealy! The children had an amazing time and were really inspired from the event.

We then had our first cross country event at Cantley Park. The children were excellent and showed great determination to achieve our best ever score as a school. A big shout out must go to four of our children for all finishing in the top 10 !!



Mr Michael Clare, PE Co-Ordinator

Reminders from the Office

Office hours: 8.00am - 4.25pm Peak times: 8.45am - 9.15am / 3.00pm - 3.15pm

New term, new season.

Please make sure that children have appropriate out door clothing as the weather starts to change. Even on damp, drizzly days or very cold days, the children will go out for a run around and fresh air if possible.

Safety around site.

Thank you for supporting us in ensuring the site is kept safe for our children. This includes parking safely and considerately in our neighbouring roads and the community centre and ensuring the children walk sensibly along the path and not through the car park when accessing or exiting the Junior Playground. Parking on site remains only for staff or for families with a Blue Badge.

End of Day Safeguarding Procedures. If someone other than parents or nominated permission to collect family and friends is collecting your child from school, please ensure you have left a message with a member of staff on the gate and/or spoken to a member of the office team and written a note in the Home Learning Diary. Office staff will phone for clarification before letting your child go home with anybody who we have not had a message about or without prior authorisation from parents.



PTA News

PTA Update

Many thanks to everyone who baked some amazing cakes for the first **Cake Sale** of the year. It was a huge success and made £226.65 for the children in Foundation.

The **Disco** was also a success and hopefully all the children had a great time. A massive thank you to DJ Dave Mills who stepped in at the last minute and volunteered his time and provided the children with a great evening. The Disco raised a total of £679.50

The next event is the **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 30th November 11am – 2pm. You will start to see more on this over the coming weeks, but in the meantime, please put the date in your diaries and get in touch with the PTA if you want to be involved. Many of the discussions for help, will be on the Facebook group 'PTA Gang and Supporters' if you wish to join.

As usual, we will also be having the Christmas Fair **Dress Down Day** the week before the fair on Friday 22nd November, where we will be asking everyone to bring in donations for the fair. Please start collecting any of the following items. Again, more information will follow on this: Toiletries, Alcohol, Confectionery, Teddies, Jewellery, Chocolates, Vouchers, Mugs, Books, Candles, New Toys, Craft sets etc.

If you are after any good quality second hand uniform, the PTA will be running a second hand uniform sale in the central area at the forthcoming parent evenings.

One final date for the diary. The next Bag to School event is on 3rd December, so have a sort out of any unwanted clothes, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, textiles etc. The school gets paid on weight of the collection, so please start having a sort through of those cupboards.

Many thanks,

Your PTA Committee

