



Parents Newsletter

Autumn Term – October 2020

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**Head of School
October 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are already at half term. I hope you enjoy looking at the pictures and messages from our classes. In spite of the restrictions we are working under they have been getting up to some amazing things. I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for working so hard to make things as normal as possible for the pupils.

One of the things we have all had to learn over the past few months is how to have online meetings and calls. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in a virtual meeting this term. I know for some people this is more convenient so I hope it is something we can continue to offer going forward. We are looking at ways of producing a virtual Christmas performance – more details to follow after half term.

I would also like to thank you for being so supportive and keeping your children at home when they are unwell. A number of pupils and families have been tested for Covid-19, but were thankfully negative. We appreciate your vigilance.

Our curriculum offer has been a bit limited this half term due to restrictions, but we are looking at ways of increasing the range of activities pupils have access to while working within our bubbles. Swimming is something we are hoping to make available for some pupils.

I hope some of you have taken the opportunity to look at our revamped curriculum area on the website – if you haven't please do so. You will find a link to each class's topic webs with details of the activities your child will be doing (there may currently be some limitations due to Covid-19 restrictions). We would love to have your feedback about how helpful you have found this information and if there is anything more you would like.

As always I would like to thank you for your continued support, have a lovely half term.

Yours sincerely

Julia McIntosh





EY

In Early Years we are settling in well and really engaging in Attention Autism with our friends and adults.



1KS

In 1KS we have been busy settling into school and our class routine. We enjoy having a social snack time together around the table.



1SW

In our first half term we have been looking at ourselves and people who help us. We have enjoyed our attention autism sessions to help rebuild our concentration and to work on our turn taking.

We have loved exploring our gross and fine motor skills which have given us opportunities for tipping, pouring, climbing, jumping, balancing. Next half term we are exploring colours and shapes!





1AM

Wow start of the term!!! It has been a wonderful term settling down and meeting our friends after a long time! We have really had fun this week doing what pupils like the most!



2ML

2ML have had the topic Rags to Riches this half term. We read the story Little Red Riding Hood and are currently reading Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have dressed up in costumes and acted out the stories. They coloured pictures of Little Red and made beanstalks and castles in the clouds. We are also growing beans in clear plastic wallets so that we can see them grow their roots and shoots. We started learning to play games that Little Red and Jack might have played a long time ago. What's the time Mr Wolf and find the hidden toy (hunt the thimble). We also played a bean game pretending to be jumping beans, broad beans, chilli beans and jelly beans. In maths they measured how tall a beanstalk could be measuring with cubes and they used their senses to smell and taste different crisp flavours in science.





2CW

Class 2CW have had an excellent half term! We started the year in a temporary classroom, but have since moved into our brand new classroom, which is huge! The pupils accepted all the changes at the start of the year brilliantly!

Our topic for this term has been Greek Myths, and so far we have learned about Icarus & Daedalus, Theseus & the Minotaur, and the story of Medusa! We particularly enjoyed making Greek pots out of clay, and hunting for Gareth the Minotaur!

We are all looking forward to learning about more myths and monsters from Ancient Greece after half term!



2DG

What a fantastic return to school it has been for 2DG and what an amazing half term! We are missing our classmate William, but we know he has been working hard at home and enjoying updates with his friends via video calls. The time has flown by as we have had so much fun learning about the story of Oliver Twist. The class have especially enjoyed acting out the story and characters of the Oliver, and singing and dancing to the musical songs too! Please Sir I want some more!





2DH

This half term 2DH have been thinking carefully about things in our daily lives that are the same and things that have changed. Sometimes change is hard! We have found creative ways of explaining and understanding these changes. For example, in the photo Tommie made an excellent LEGO model of our school which has been split into bubbles due to the COVID 19 pandemic.



2SG

Class 2SG have settled back into school so well since the summer. On top of all of the change in their worlds they have all adapted extremely well to a new classroom, in a different building to before. Everyone has come back happy and keen to learn and explore. One of our topics has been about 'crazy creatures' and we focused a lot on sea life. We have engaged in stories, created crafts and enjoyed a lot of sensory play around the topic. We still continue to do our Literacy and Maths structured teaching tasks in the morning and more creative work activities in the afternoon.





3TS

3TS have had a great start to the year. We have enjoyed getting to know one another and starting our topic of Knights and Castles. There has been lots of fun and laughter alongside our learning. We now know about different types of castles, where they were built and why; the purpose and parts of a suit of armour; we have created our own helmet portraits, swords, coats of armour and jousting knights too. We have also practised our Archery skills – we are AMAZING at Archery in class 3TS!



3SB

This term Class 3SB have learnt all about the medieval period. Our focus text is *Sword in the Stone*, where we have done lots of fabulous work, such as sequencing, role play and sentence building.

During creativity we have made jousting knights, castles and shields. We made these using everyday objects. The students took particular pride in their castles. Working in groups of 2, the children displayed their imaginations through their junk models.

Next term we will be investigating Robin Hood and his Merry Men.





3DW

Class 3DW have been learning about great explorers this term. We have enjoyed looking at adventures that the characters in the movie UP went on, explored some facts about Neil Armstrong and Amelia Earhart and started looking at planets and the solar system. As a class team, we are all really proud of the way that our pupils have settled into their new class and help and support each other. Pupils have also enjoyed creating a puppet play to perform to their peers, based around the theme of Jack and the beanstalk. We will be continuing to work on discovering great explorers as the term progresses up to Christmas. Have a lovely Half term break.



3LC

Class 3LC have had an excellent half term back after the long break. One of the class even said 'we are a team'. This is wonderful to see and the class has shown this by playing with, helping and supporting their peers when needed.

The class has worked hard on our World War 2 topic and the students have enjoyed various experiences including 'being an evacuee'. They were particularly touched by the story of the young Jewish teenager, Anne Frank. One student has also been fortunate enough to have experienced an Anne Frank memorial. This is a link to the Anne Frank story we watched over several weeks in class: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAIRFyR6NyQ> Kasper has particularly enjoyed a wide range of sensory sessions over this half term.

We have worked hard on improving everyone's wellbeing this half term and most of the students made their own playdough. Here are Colby and Olivia getting their hands stuck in to make their playdough.





4MuL

Class 4MuL have had a good start to the year. We have been enjoying getting back to our normal lessons of English, Maths, Science and PE. We have also started work on our accreditations and have enjoyed making snort and farts in science. We have learnt about how our body works and have been really creative this term making things like graffiti boards and benches.



4TD

The class have enjoyed the opportunity to return back to lessons and routine as they settled in to the terms main topic of "Safety in the Home and Community." In particular there has been a focus around first aid response when dealing with casualties, along with general safety measures to consider when living at home and when out in the community.

The class have also enjoyed our weekly gardening sessions which makes up part of the new ASDAN module.

The weekly timetabled lesson of the woodland areas has brought a new dynamic to the curriculum and provided pupils with challenges and creative sessions. Noticably was when the class created their own stick person!

In Literacy the focus has been around a text called "King Kevin" which addresses gangs and bullying in a school environment. The text brought about great reflection and discussion from pupils.

Have a great half term break.





P16MG

Students in Post 16 have made the most of the good weather this half term and we have been getting outside as much as possible. We have been using the space in the sensory garden, outside gym equipment and the poly tunnel for horticulture. A particular favourite has been Pilates with Beth.



P16SB

P16SB have had a successful start to the new school year. We have enjoyed outdoor activities such as Forest schools, horticulture and sports. We have also taken part in creativity sessions and relaxed with Mindfulness. All the students have settled well into their new class and routines. The students' really enjoyed working together building paper aeroplanes and estimating whose would travel the furthest. It was wonderful to see all the students smiling and laughing.





P16RG

P16RG students have settled really well into the new academic year. The students have been getting to know one another better through a variety of activities such as a Show & Tell session and an All About Me project in PSHE. We have been busy tidying up and tending to the Sensory Garden in Horticulture, practising money skills in Numeracy, creating a story based on a mysterious picture in Literacy, learning about nature in Forest Schools and practising our Makaton signing with regular sessions amongst other things.



P16VC

We have settled really well into our new routines and timetable, spending time working on communication and Maths skills in class but balancing this with a range of activities outdoors.

We have been exploring the tastes and textures of different foods in life skills, harvesting our vegetables in horticulture and working on our balance and hand/eye co-ordination in PE.

We have also been enjoying time in the wooded area combining creative tasks with practical skills and learning about different trees and mini-beasts. In art we have been exploring the different techniques and materials that would be used by professional artists.

During these challenging times there has also been room for relaxation and reflection with students being guided through a Mindfulness course and time given over to sensory activities.

