



'What we learn with pleasure we never forget'



Spring Term 1 - Newsletter 3

Welcome back to the start of Spring term 2018! We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and we wish you a happy New Year!

The purpose of this half termly newsletter is to inform you about key pieces of information that will help you to further support your child and to be fully involved with their learning. We have lots of exciting and inspiring activities planned for this half term and we have included some key dates for your diary.

It's hard to believe that we are already a third of the way through the academic year and the Spring term shows no signs of slowing down! We hope you enjoyed all the share events, productions and workshops that were on offer during the Autumn term. The feedback from these was very positive and we continue to value all the comments we receive. There will be lots more share events this term which we hope you will find both beneficial and enjoyable. We will also be holding our termly parents evenings this term too.

Thank you for continuing to use the feedback slip to make suggestions on how you feel we can improve. We will continue to action as many of these as practically possible. Parents suggestions from last half term included:

- Selling donated pre-owned school uniforms at the end of each academic year. We can action this suggestion and more information will follow during the Summer term.
- Another suggestion focused on the impact of children losing special time when they make a bad choice. Losing special time is often only one of the consequences for that pupil, especially if it is a more serious incident, and more robust consequences often follow. Please note, we will be reviewing our positive behavior policy this term and this parent suggestion will be discussed during the review process.
- Finally, a suggestion was made asking if it would be possible to leave the children unattended on the playground from 8:45am. Unfortunately this is not possible as there is only one teacher on duty between 8:45am- 9:00am. Early morning meeting and preparation time is essential for teachers, particularly those setting up for the younger children.

Thank you for your suggestions, please keep them coming!



Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent Questionnaire. We had a fabulous response with a total of 125 questionnaires returned to school. We have included the 12 Ofsted questions below, both in totals and percentages. We have already used this information to update our school SEF (Self Evaluation Form) and this will also feed into our new School Development Plan. Your feedback & comments really do make a difference!

Ofsted Questions:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Answers
My child is happy at this school.	70.7% 87	25.2% 31	1.5% 2	2.4% 3	-	123
My child feels safe at this school.	68.8% 84	30.3% 37	-	0.8% 1	-	122
My child makes good progress at this school.	55.2% 68	40.6% 50	2.4% 3	1.5% 2	-	123
My child is well looked after at this school.	59.3% 73	38.2% 47	2.4% 3	-	-	123
My child is taught well at this school.	57.7% 71	37.3% 46	4.0% 5	-	-	123
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	45.9% 56	42.6% 52	4.9% 6	6.5% 8	-	122
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	52.4% 64	37.7% 46	7.3% 9	2.4% 3	-	122
This school deals effectively with bullying.	38.0% 46	24.7% 30	34.7% 42	2.4% 3	-	121
This school is well led and managed.	54.5% 66	38.8% 47	7.4% 9	-	-	121
This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	50.4% 61	33.0% 40	14.8% 18	1.6% 2	-	121
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	42.5% 51	44.1% 53	1.6% 2	10.8% 13	0.8% 1	120
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Yes			No		-
	97.6% 122			2.4% 3		125

Please note that some questionnaires didn't have every question ticked, hence why the totals at the end of each of the questions differ.

The results are very pleasing with the vast majority of responses either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the questions. Overall, **97.6%** would recommend our school to another parent which is a real credit to the success of the school. Other positive responses where parents agreed include: the children feeling safe- **99.2%**, children looked after well- **97.6%**, my child is taught well- **96%**, and my child is making good progress- **96.1%** are all some of key strengths of the school. As you can see there are also many others too!

We are always are looking to improve and the three areas, from the questionnaire, that we wish to further investigate are:

- **My child receives appropriate homework for their age- 6.5% disagreed.**
- **The school effectively deals with bullying- 34.7% didn't know (please note- most responses said that, as parents, they haven't had to deal with any bullying incidents but they just don't know what the school does if a concern is raised) & 2.4% disagreed.**
- **I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress- 10.8% disagreed.**

If you have any further comments about how we can improve any of these areas please do speak to your child's class teacher or speak to Mr Axon, Mr Rose or Mrs Hughes. In the meantime, we will be working hard to improve these areas.

Our Curriculum



Nursery Learning

This half term, our theme will be "People Who Help Us." We will be thinking about those who support us at home to begin with and talking about the ways in which various adults in our lives help us. We will move on to think about others in the wider community who also help us and, in the Nursery, the focus will be on people such as the health visitor, the nurse, the doctor, the paramedic or the dentist. As part of this learning, we will think about keeping ourselves healthy with exercise, getting a good night's rest and eating well. There will also be an exciting dressing up day when we learn about a special nurse called Florence Nightingale.

As many of the children have pets, we will also be looking at how vets are the doctors of the animal world. Towards the end of the half term, with the days beginning to lengthen, we may be able to become "Spring Detectives" too!

We will continue to build on our social skills and learning to be good communicators. Daily maths and phonics sessions will continue to develop the children's skills in these areas alongside appropriate home learning tasks to help enhance this. We will practise the correct formation of the letters we learn in phonics as well as writing our names and continue to try really hard to hold our pencil correctly.

Reception Learning

We hope you had a great Christmas and wish you a happy new year! This half term we are learning about 'People who help us'. We are beginning with helpers at school then we'll learn about emergency services and people who help in the community. If you know of any visitors that would come in to talk about their job with the children, please let us know.

In Literacy, we are continuing to embed the sounds which we know to learn to correctly read and spell them in words. We will be doing lots of writing linked to our topic, such as thank you cards, crime scene reports, instructions to put out a fire and writing a letter home.

In Maths, we are deepening our understanding of addition and problem solving as well as looking at collecting data, money and capacity. We will be linking the maths to our topic in lots of exciting ways!

As Historians we are going to investigate the Great Fire of London so please talk to your child about this if you can. We hope you continue to enjoy the Maths and Play Bags and you can see the progress that your child is making.

Please see our curriculum map to find out more about what your child is learning. As always, please do not hesitate to ask any questions if you have them.



Year 1 Learning

Welcome back Butterflies and Frogs! Our topic this term is called 'From Farm to Fork'. We will be kick starting our topic with a special day exploring the weird and wonderful world of inventions.

We will be covering a range of curriculum areas this half term, including science (looking at ourselves as humans, our needs and the senses), geography (exploring the seasonal weather of the UK and how it compares with the rest of the world), ICT (online-safety and coding) and D.T (designing and constructing a machine to be used in a factory).

In Literacy we will be reading extracts from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and using this as inspiration for a descriptive piece of writing and also for an explanation text. We will also continue to build on our knowledge of phonics by focusing on the phase 5 sounds. In Maths we will start by recapping and extending our knowledge of number and place value and then move onto learning about 2D shapes, time and volume and capacity.

Please continue to read with your child as much as you can and to complete their weekly home learning tasks. If you have any questions about these please don't hesitate to come and ask us.

Year 2 Learning

Now that we have completed our 'Hooray for Heroes' topic, the children in Year 2 have reflected on how much they have learnt in this first term and what their highlights have been. We have been amazing, busy Ladybirds and Bees! We loved learning about the experiences of a soldier in World War One via some "Top Secret" information that arrived at the school!

We will start the spring term with a short 3-week topic called "Making me the best I can be!" We will be encouraging the children to aim high in all aspects of their life. We will investigate our favourite inspirational people and discuss which learning heroes will help us achieve our future goals. We will be linking science and literacy to create an explanation text on how to keep healthy.

For the rest of the spring term our topic is "Stormy Seas". We will learn, tell and innovate the Storm Whale story by Benji Davies. We will write fictional recounts about a storm based on our knowledge of the local 1953/2013 floods. In computing, we will be making stop-motion-animations of the Grace Darling story.

As mathematicians, we will learn strategies to add and subtract numbers. We will learn the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and learn to use them to solve problems. We will also be going on a school trip towards the end of the term and more details about this will follow shortly.



Year 3 Learning

After a busy Autumn term, Year 3 are looking forward to the New Year when as Geographers and Historians we will be finding out about where our families came from. This is our introduction to our Spring Term theme 'Space Invaders'. As Historians we will be finding out about the people who lived in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age and later on about the Roman invaders. We will be comparing life in Ancient Britain to our lives today by exploring how they built their houses, what tools they used, what they ate and their everyday lives.

As storytellers we will be discovering how to write a newspaper report and about how to write a character description. Remember to keep reading regularly, at least four times a week, as we will be starting our new Reading Challenge in the New Year. As mathematicians we will continue to develop our problem solving using the addition and subtraction skills we learnt last term as well as focusing on multiplication and division. So keep practising your times tables especially your 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and ten times tables.

In PE we will be continuing our daily run as well as doing weekly gymnastics and games lessons. Don't forget to make sure you bring in both indoor and outdoor PE kit as we will be doing both. As artists we will be making clay figurines in the style of Celtic and Roman statuettes as well as exploring the tools originally used for and doing our own cave paintings. We will also be making our own breakfast cereals and designing the packaging.

Our busy term ends with a trip to a Hands on History site in Tunstall Forest, where we spend the day living as if we were Romano Britons.

Year 4 Learning

This half term, Year 4 will be focussing their attention on the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. Lots of exciting learning will take place including our Anglo Saxon themed day where the children will practise their cooking and clay modelling skills. In addition, they will make a herb pouch and share kennings and riddles like the Anglo Saxons and Vikings would have done.

Literacy in Year 4 will be taught through storytelling and will include learning about newspaper reports and poetry. These will be linked to the Anglo Saxon theme and will follow on from an exciting archaeological start to the topic. Year 4 are very lucky to have the Marina Theatre visiting them at the school to hone their storytelling and playwriting skills. More details about this will follow.

In Maths, the children will learn about shape and time as well as recapping their learning about division from last term. We hope that we can conduct some of this learning outside so please make sure your child is equipped for this with a coat and a change of outdoor shoes. Additionally, Times Table Rock Stars will continue in class and we encourage the use of the website outside of school to boost times table knowledge too.



Year 5 Learning

This half term, we will be looking forward to our new topic of 'Democracy', learning about how our country is run as well as changes in leadership in other countries over time. Our sparkling start will involve artwork and research into the life of the Ancient Greeks. We are also excited for our trip to London, where we will get the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and the Science Museum!

In Maths, we will complete our learning about division and then focus our learning on the subject of fractions, decimals and percentages. As well as the revision into addition and subtraction, this topic of maths will last for the entire Spring term.

In Literacy, which will be closely linked to our topic work, we will be exploring the beliefs of the Ancient Greeks and will be learning to write mythical stories. We will also be learning to write poetry, based on the structure of the famous poem 'The Highwayman'.

Year 6 Learning

This half term's topic is entitled "Tomb Raiders!" and most learning is based around the theme of Ancient Egypt. Children will learn about Ancient Egyptian beliefs and practices, and will write a comical instruction text about how to mummify a dead pharaoh. We will also be writing a story based in Ancient Egypt, looking at healthy life choices. Science learning this half term links well to Ancient Egyptian studies, as it focuses on human biology and children will be learning about the digestive and circulatory systems, as well as the effects of exercise, diet and drugs on the body.

In RE this half term we will be learning about Buddhism, particularly focusing on symbols and religious expression and learning how the triple refuges helps Buddhists in their journey through life.

In continuing to develop their artistic skills, children will be using oil pastels to create a fresco inspired by Gustav Klimt and the inside of Ancient Egyptian temples. The Tomb Raiders topic is continued in the second half of the Spring term as well, and we eagerly anticipate some partnership work with Pakefield High School, as their science department provides us with a Murder Mystery Morning.

School Value

This term's value is: **Integrity**

All the adults are secretly watching the children this term to try and catch them making good choices even when they think no one is looking! **Integrity Tokens** are awarded and given out in assembly. **Please join in!** If you see a child behaving with integrity on the way to or from school call into the office and fill in a token. We want our children to always be the best they can be!

School Museum and Curiosity Corner

We have a thriving museum run by a 'Museum Team' of Year 6 pupils and a lovely 'Curiosity Corner' full of interesting, puzzling and intriguing objects. The children love spending time in both areas. If you have any artefacts for the museum or any old puzzles or interesting items that might encourage curiosity in our children [a key learning skill] we would be very grateful. Please drop any donations into the office.

Science Week 19th-23rd March



We have lots of exciting things planned for this week (details to follow) around this year's theme of exploration. However, to raise our children's aspiration and to help them see how Science works in the world around them, we would love to invite into school anyone whose work is linked to Science, so they can talk to the children. Please contact the office if you can help us and Mrs Whyte (our Science leader) will get back to you.

FRIENDS

We would like to say a massive 'Thank You' to the FRIENDS who worked so hard to organise and run our Christmas Fair. On Thursday 11th January, our 'Storytelling Circle' is being installed. This was paid for with funds raised by the FRIENDS. Look out for the date of our next meeting. Thank you to the whole school community for supporting fundraising events.

Pilates

Please join the adults only class on Tuesday evenings. 5.30—6.30pm in the school hall. It's fun and it's good for you!!

Clubs

Last term we ran 33 different clubs including Rookie lifeguards, gardening, choir, badminton and basketball. Exciting new opportunities this term: zumba, coding, engineering and football as well as many other sporting, musical and art clubs.

Over to you...

As part of our continual reflective practice, we are always striving to improve the quality of our learning provision that we offer the children. Parent partnership plays a key role in this. Therefore if you have any ideas of changes and improvements please complete the form below and return it to school. All suggestions will be considered, and where possible, implemented across the school. Thank you for your support with this.

Parent Suggestion Form

A large dashed blue rectangular box intended for parents to write their suggestions.

This authority is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Mr. Axon, Mrs Carruthers and Mrs Easter are responsible for safeguarding at Carlton Colville Primary