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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence for Bears

4th December 2020 – Issue 243

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Headteacher: Mrs Karen Edwards

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's December already! Boy has this strange year flown by. I think we're all looking forward to 2021. The children have continued to make impressive progress since they returned to school in September, testament to their strong learning behaviours, enthusiasm and motivation.



Reception

In Reception, we are so excited about how many sounds we've learned and how many start CVC words we can now recognise and build. We're pretty good at Maths too, counting one more and less of numbers between 5 and 10 and looking at and extending different patterns. We've made dough and loved painting the Gingerbread Men. It was pretty tricky and fiddly because the Gingerbread Men were so small and we had to really use our fine motor skills. We also enjoyed performing our Gingerbread stories to each other and can't wait to record a performance to you all before the end of term. We have our Panto Day and Christmas Jumper Day next Wednesday - we can't wait!



Year 1

We've been learning a Winter story this week and using it to help us write our own story and draw a Winter scene. We've revisited addition and subtraction and have been learning various techniques to add and subtract double-digit numbers. In Science, we're observing, comparing and grouping different materials and are continuing to make our Tudor houses in DT.

Year 2

We really have enjoyed our topic of 'Castles and Dragons' this term, including planning and completing an independent write from a Dragon's point of view. We've been comparing and assessing the suitability of different materials and will use our findings to help us plan the shields we would like to make. We've been working really hard on our Phonics in preparation for our Phonics Screening next week and on identifying the properties of 2D shapes. Mrs E wants to say a big 'Well done' to all the children who have continued their learning at home. You have adjusted really well and produced some great work! Thank you for your efforts and to your parents for theirs too. She would also like to thank Mrs Kingshott, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Powell and Mrs Abraham for all of their hard work in planning the work, teaching via Zoom sessions and commenting on the children's work.

Year 3

Following on from last week, we have edited our mummification text for the museum, and identified stars and wishes to improve our work. We finished our unit on fractions this week and have been looking at the effect of multiplying and dividing by 10 and applying this to finding tenths of numbers. We've now started our unit on Shape and have enjoyed looking at the names and features of some shapes, recognising horizontal and vertical line in shapes and calculating the perimeter of different shapes. Our Tutankhamun masks are really coming

along. We've added a golden colour to the base of our masks and can't wait to decorate them. We're looking forward to performing our Christmas Poem for you all virtually.

Year 4

Our topic 'Under the Canopy' has really inspired us to look at what we can all do to help make a difference to our planet. Studying Human Geography and the effect humans can have on the environment has been really powerful. In English, we've enjoyed writing our diary entries as Edmund, from 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' and found constructing food chains and food webs really interesting in our Science lesson.

Year 5

This week we've continued our biographies about King Arthur. In 5RA we have been researching an aspect of Viking Life and in 5CT we've been learning about the Battle of Hastings. We were really hoping to see the replica of the Bayeux Tapestry at Reading Museum but sadly, even before Lockdown the museum is not open for schools. Perhaps we could visit it with our parents when it re-opens? We've been exploring oxidation and the chemical process that occurs as part of this irreversible change in Science and looking at different strategies to multiply large numbers in Maths.

Year 6

As we've said many times, our First World War topic has really inspired us. This week, we've explored the different designs of WW1 vehicles, focussing on the new technology and creation of tanks. We're comparing the tanks of the central and allied powers and will be using this information to help us design and build our own tanks in the coming weeks. We've been looking at non-chronological reports in English and have started to research unusual and exotic animals to help us to write our own reports. We will also analyse the components of a high quality text and use it to inform our writing as we take on the role of a Zoologist. In Maths, we've looked at the mathematical language used to describe 2D and 3D shapes and how to measure angles within them.



Thank you

Huge thank you to Mr Prasad and Mr Brown for giving up one of their Sundays to collect and deliver an amazing table tennis table to the school. We really appreciate it. Many thanks also to the Carters, Mr Carter Snr and a colleague for donating and erecting the amazing play house in the Reception children's play area, the weekend before last - it's fabulous!

Flu Immunisations

The school nursing team visited this week and successfully vaccinated most of the children in school. They will return on 16th December to vaccinate those children who were absent or self-isolating.

Home Made Crackers

This week, the Eco Council made their own home made Christmas Crackers. If you would like to make your own, Sophie in Year 6 has made a demonstration video, which has been sent via ParentMail today.



Dates for the Diary

Year 2 Phonics Assessments	Week commencing 7 th December
Panto Day and Christmas Jumper Day (Reception)	Wednesday 9 th December
Panto Production in School - Wizard of Oz Christmas Jumper Day (Years 1-3)	Thursday 10 th December
Panto Production in School - Wizard of Oz Christmas Jumper Day (Years 4-6)	Friday 11 th December
School Christmas Dinner - Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3	Tuesday 15 th December
Flu Immunisations - Catchup session	Wednesday 16 th December
School Christmas Dinner - Reception, Year 4-6	Thursday 17 th December
Travel Plan Working Party	Wednesday 16 th December 9.30am
Last Day of Term	Friday 18 th December
Start of Term 3	Monday 4 th January 2021

Kind regards,
Karen Edwards