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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

28th January 2022 – Issue 287

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Headteacher: Mrs Karen Edwards

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're really starting to settle back into this Spring term and despite the ongoing concerns we've faced with staff being absent for Covid-related reasons, the children are making the most of the wonderful mix of rich learning experiences. Their resilience, perseverance and positivity is uplifting.

Reception

In Reception, we've had so much fun this week. We've been exploring how dinosaurs lived and sorting the different kinds based on their diets. We made some amazing musical instruments out of junk modelling and rice, including our shakers, and used our phonics and dinosaur knowledge to write dinosaur facts. We're really enjoying our PE lessons with Performance Sports on Wednesdays, as well as our Spanish, Yoga and outdoor learning. We looked at the number 7 in Maths, how it is represented and how we form our number bonds. Haven't we been busy?!

Year 1

We love our Space topic and have learned so much about our Solar System already! We've been reading non-fiction space-themed texts with a concentration on Jill Murphy's 'Whatever Next?' story. We used this to start planning and writing our own 'Out Of This World Ideas!' story and Mrs Edwards says she can't wait to read them. In Maths, we've been looking at multiplication, in terms of 'sets of' and arrays. When we used cubes, it really helped us to calculate and solve different multiplication problems. In IT, we've been practising our logging in skills, accessing Google Classroom and starting to use Dance Mat Typing too!

Year 2

We started the week by using what we learnt about money last week to take part in some shopping role play activities where we had to decide what items we would buy, how much they would cost and what change we should receive. It was fun taking turns at being the shopkeeper and shopping! By today, we were investigating arrays, and how we can use them to help us solve multiplication calculations. In English, we've been building on our character descriptions work by investigating setting descriptions. We created a setting description for Willy Wonka's Chocolate Room and then challenged Mrs Edwards and Mrs Fallon to draw pictures based on our descriptions. Science was amazing! We investigated microbes, particularly fungi, bacteria and viruses and used playdough to create our own microbes!



Year 3

This week, we've been spending some time developing our reading and comprehension skills. We used the text 'The Stone Age Tales - The Great Cave' by Terry Deary and made predictions about the story using the clues on the first page and exploring what the main character, Willow, is like. We then used our inference skills to think about his thoughts and feelings. In topic, we have fun learning how Stone Age people were hunter gatherers

and role played being hunter gatherers on the playground. We also really enjoyed developing our coding skills in IT, using code.org and writing code to build a Star Wars Galaxy.

Year 4

This week in English, we began a unit of work on diary writing. This unit links with our new Guided Reading text 'The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe' and we will be writing out diary entries from the perspectives of one of the children from the story. Before we start this though, we're making sure that we have a really good understanding of the key features of diaries. Our Art has also been inspired by our Guided Reading text and we loved creating a 3D piece of art and with a wardrobe door that opens to reveal a collage using clippings from nature to create a magical world behind the door! In Science, we've been investigating gases and carried out an investigation comparing the weight of different gases and observing how they behave. Many thanks to Will, from Rowan Class who has been bringing in the most amazing Science picture book called 'Matter Matters' by Super Science. It really is interesting and models the scientific concepts we've been learning!



Year 5

Our English work this week, has continued to link really closely to our theme 'To Infinity And Beyond'. We've been researching the moon landings and writing diary entries based on them. We were able to choose the person that we wanted to be when we wrote our entries, such as an astronaut, family member, NASA worker in the Control Room, spectator or even a child watching the TV. In Art, we've continued to use chalks and pastels to create pictures in the style of Peter Thorpe and in Science we've been explaining the effects of water resistance on moving objects. We enjoyed completing a mini investigation into streamlined shapes using Plasticine falling through water.

Year 6

This week, we've been exploring the spiritual and social beliefs and traditions of some of the more widespread native American tribes. We learnt how the native people held strong beliefs about the importance of nature and the traditional rituals that persist in their culture to this day. We've continued to create portraits of native American tribes people using different techniques to blend and shade, using oil and chalk pastels and have been very pleased with all the wonderful comments other pupils, staff and visitors have made about them. In English, we've been exploring how to make varied and descriptive complex sentences by making use of a range of different clause types. We then used these in our writing to create traditional fables. Ms Rogers has started a Mah Jongg club and Triston from Year 5, who has recently joined the school from Hong Kong, has been teaching us the basic rules!



Non-Uniform Day - Fundraiser for 'Me2'

Thank you for all your support with encouraging your children to come to school today dressed how they would dress when doing their favourite hobby. The money raised will be donated to a Wokingham Charity called 'Me2' which gives disabled children a chance to have a go at their favourite hobbies. There's still time to donate if you haven't already and a Just Giving page has been set up to collect your online donations:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/non-uniformhobbyday>

Big Garden Birdwatch

The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch long weekend is here! Just spend one hour between **Friday 28th and Sunday 30th January** counting the birds and help monitor how birds are faring. Wherever you are, whatever you see, it counts. You can print off simple bird identification sheets and get the kids to help you from the comfort of your home. - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/?from=homepage>

Happy bird spotting!

The Eco Councillors.

Balmore Park Surgery - Patient Participation Group

Are you an adult patient, or carer of a patient, of Balmore Park Surgery and interested in how the practice provides services and care to the community? If so, they would like to hear from you.

The group is made of Balmore Park patients that work with the GPs and staff at the practice to improve local services and the quality of care. They meet monthly (currently by Zoom) usually on the first Thursday of the month. A staff member or GP attends alternate meetings. They aim to:

- improve communication with patients
- make sure the practice is accountable and responsive to patient needs
- promote health and wellbeing (e.g. holding talks)
- support the practice where appropriate (e.g. helping as marshalls at 'flu clinics)
- review information about the number of complaints, and any common complaints made to the surgery and make sure the practice is paying attention to them (this is done on a no-names basis)
- help the practice and local people communicate. Their members are involved in local groups so they hear local views and can share information in both directions.

When the practice is inspected by the Care Quality Commission it is standard practice for the PPG chair, and possibly other members, to be asked for their views. If you have any general issues you'd like to raise, or suggestions to help us reach and represent patients from our whole community, please get in touch. Please note: we don't deal with clinical issues or personal patient complaints, these should be directed to the Practice Manager. If you are interested in joining the group, or finding out more about us, please email the Chair at balmoreparkppg@gmail.com.

Twitter

The school has a Twitter Feed - please follow [@AtHeadteacher](https://twitter.com/AtHeadteacher) for updates!

Parent Consultations

Dates have been set for Parent Consultations in March, please see below. Further details will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Dates for the Diary

Year 3 Parent Invitation - Books	Wednesday 2 nd February 2.40-3.00pm
Year 5 Parent Invitation - Books	Thursday 3 rd February 8.45-9.15am
Heights & Weights - Reception (School Nursing Team)	Tuesday 8 th February
Longridge Meeting for Parents (Current Year 3)	Wednesday 9 th February - 4.45-5.45pm
Year 6 Parent Invitation - Books	Thursday 10 th February 8.45-9.15am
Half Term	Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February
Virtual Reality Experience - Years 1 & 2	Tuesday 1 st March
Winchester Science Centre - Year 5	Monday 7 th March
Winchester Science Centre - Year 1 (Details to follow)	Tuesday 8 th March
Earth Trust Visit - Year 3	Tuesday 22 nd March

Parent Consultations All classes EXCEPT Elm, Hawthorn, Rowan & Maple	Tuesday 22 nd March 4.40-7.30pm
Parent Consultations ONLY Elm, Hawthorn, Rowan and Maple	Thursday 24 th March 4.40-7.30pm
Parent Consultations ALL Classes	Tuesday 29 th March 3.40-6.00pm
Additional INSET Day (Queen's Platinum Jubilee)	Monday 6 th June

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Edwards