



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 4

15 October 2021

A glimpse of normal

The last 4 weeks or so have been a tantalising glimpse at what normal is again but we're back on the rollercoaster of COVID testing and 'have they got it? Haven't they got it?' this week it seems.

We have had one positive case in school but lots of other sniffles and sickness. If you are a parent who has had a poorly child, thank you for checking in with us and bearing with in our slightly slower decision making process. I hope that information on page 2 of this newsletter outlines what should happen if your child is feeling unwell and provide a little clarity about the current COVID Government guidance.

Thank you to all who have managed to undertake the online parent's evenings. For the most part, they were smoother than ever before but we hope to be able to offer a blend of face to face and virtual ones in February.

The first FOSS meeting of the year was held this week with a great turnout and lots of new ideas which is very exciting for the future. We are so close to the total needed to completely revamp the adventure playground so please do continue to support them moving forwards.

Children have begun their responsibilities in school in earnest this week. The garden gang have worked so hard to really revamp the polytunnel and it's looking great. Bronze ambassadors are providing excellent games at lunchtime, peer mentors are on hand to help with friendships and fall outs and the librarians have begun to learn their new roles. Our Pre-School buddies were excellent at supporting the little ones with their sponsored ride too.

Emma Jefferies
Headteacher



THIS is what it's all about!

Our Year 6 children were truly a joy to take on residential last week. They surpassed all of our expectations and threw themselves into every single activity with all the resourcefulness and resilience they knew how to muster (and they found more along the way!). We waded through rivers, scrambled down gorges, got hailed upon at the top of a mountain, disappeared down caves, swam under a waterfall, tramped up a mountain, climbed in a quarry as well as cooked for ourselves, cleaned and generally absolutely thrived!



Coming Up!

Each week in the newsletter, we post the most important dates for the forthcoming term.

OCTOBER		
Tues 19 th	6pm - 8pm	Pre-School Open evening DATE CHANGED
Mon 18 th	All day	Dress down day - come casual in return for chocolate.
Wed 20 th	All day	Bronze Ambassador training
Thurs 21 st	TBC	FOSS Pumpkin Party
Fri 22 nd	9am	Clatford sharing assembly & last day!
OCTOBER HALF TERM		
Mon 1 st Nov	All day	INSET day - no school for children
Sat 6 th	10-12	Pre-School open morning
Fri 12 th	All day	Children in Need

SPORT

We are lucky that we have such great spaces outside for PE and try to make use of this as much as possible and are rarely defeated by the weather. With this in mind we ask you to think about packing some extra bits and pieces in PE bags ready for after half term.

FOR AFTER HALF TERM:

Please check that your child has jogging bottoms and a spare jumper/school hoody/fleece for PE, extra socks are also useful for those damp mornings. Please also double check that everything extra is **clearly named** so that we can locate them when they inevitably go missing.

As PE is a part of our school curriculum we expect all children who are well enough to be in school to be well enough to fully join in with PE and being correctly and warmly dressed will mean that this will be possible.

Musician of the week

Our Amazon Music account is choc full of our musician of the week collection and we're adding to it this week with:

BTS

BTS are a South Korean pop band (think Gangnam Style but a bit better!). We're thinking particularly about pitch and how the voices of the band work in harmony to produce some funky tunes like:

Butter - Dynamite - Permission - DNA

Years 5 & 6 will also begin their Young Voices preparation next week – we have 16 songs to learn before 14th January when we'll be singing at the O2 Arena.

REGULAR UPDATES



Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

Safeguarding

As always, we began our term with some e-safety learning. We make this a regular habit so that we can drip feed the safe behaviors needed to explore the web and use it to the best of its functionality. We really want children to develop safe online habits.

Our top five hints to help your child be safe online are:

1. Have **regular conversations** about what they've seen or heard.
2. Make sure Youtube is **filtered correctly** to prevent adverts and continuous video play where you have no control over what's coming on next
3. **Set limits.** How long can they play or watch content for? What time does it have to be turned off (at least 1hr before bed)? Where will phones/devices be stored?
4. **Do checks** – sit with your child and look through any games or videos or social media they've been on – make this a regular thing so they do it even when teenagers!
5. **Check in on online gaming.** We've had incidents of children being contacted in online gaming platforms by strangers – don't let this happen to your child.

Reading

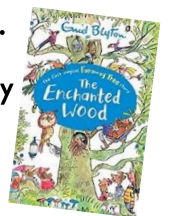
An important part of developing strong reading habits is hearing a story read aloud. We commit 15mins at the end of every day to sharing a story with the children.

These are the class reads for this half term – talk to your child about the story and author – do they enjoy it? Do they like the style? What do they know about the main character?



S&W are reading **Cinderella** next week as part of their growing bank of fairy tales which they have been reading this half term.

Redbridge are reading **The Enchanted Wood** by Enid Blyton and really enjoying the whimsical story and chapters!



Horsebridge are reading **Fantastic Mr Fox** and will be exploring more Roald Dahl after half term too.

Mottisfont are reading **'The Wild Way Home'** by Sophie Kirtley and enjoying the drama of an unusual story that's much like Stig of the Dump.



Clatford are reading **'The Last Wild'** by Piers Torday. Kester, the main character is extraordinary but doesn't really know that yet!



REDBRIDGE

Year 1/2

by Theo & Thea

We've been learning about all the minibeasts in Forest School and have been making a bug hotel in Forest School.

In topic, we have been learning about the United Kingdom – that's called Geography because it's about places. We've learnt about Scotland, England and Wales and this week we learned about Northern Ireland.

We made green crowns for Northern Ireland – we put pictures of rainbows, a four leafed clover for luck and a flag.

Right now in maths we're learning TT Rocks Stars (Year 2s) so that we get good at our times tables. Year 1s have been learning how to write their numbers from 10 to 20, these are called the 'teen' numbers.

Twenty ends in 'ty' so it's not a teen number!

Some people get this mixed up! Teen numbers have a '1' they have '1 ten'.

HORSEBRIDGE

Year 2/3

by JJ & Niamh

Do you know what a verb is?

It's a doing word like 'running' or 'patting' so that we can make our Katie goes to Wales stories interesting. We're writing about Katie sneaking off and doing something exciting and we have to choose the good verbs – in my story she's trying to find the dragon (JJ!).

We've been learning about the United Kingdom, which is Geography, and we're learning about Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. Some of us have been to Wales camping or to London on days out. We've been learning also about collages in art

with tissue paper to make dragons or lions or Lochness monster.

In maths, we're getting really good at our 2 times tables and we're practicing home too – this will make me a super learner!

SPRAT & WINKLE

This week we've been inspired by Miss Palk's forthcoming wedding and have had our very own wedding of scarecrows as well as a wedding reception of our own!

We've done some amazing writing – it was so good that Mrs Jefferies chose to share some in assembly on Wednesday and everyone was super impressed! Today we met two soldiers who came to share their food from different cultures – some of it was very spicy!

MOTTISFONT

Year 4/5

by Jimmy, James & Freddie

This week in literacy we were writing poems based on the 'Moth' poem in the "Lost Spells" book. It's freestyle poetry so we're not supposed to make it rhyme – if we made it rhyme, it would be harder for us!

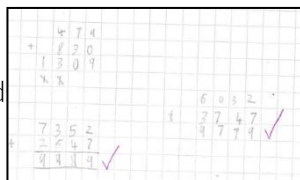
*Paper thin wings
materialize out of the
moth's smooth long body
Like a piece of paper, the
graceful moth glides
swiftly through the air
Piercing black voids
watching the world*

By Freddie

*Moths are insects of life,
The colour of beauty,
How they fly is
astonishing
Fluttering
Glittering
Bronze
Phenomenal*

By James

In maths we're learning how to add numbers that are bigger than we're used to using a special method with hundreds, tens and ones columns to help us not get mixed up.



CLATFORD

Year 5/6

by Skye & Oscar

In literacy we've concluded our own mockumentary and most of us have recorded them so that we can see if we have been successful in sounding like David Attenborough. We wrote the script ourselves – it'll appear on the website soon!

We've been preparing for our sharing assembly by creating a dance; we've had to use partner work and independently which requires a lot of concentration! You have to be in sync with people which means we have to do it at the same time. Our Year 6 dance is based on our experiences in Wales so we've managed to create dance moves for canoeing, climbing, walking the mountain and waterfall walking. In DT, we've been learning to hand sew samplers getting ready to make our final products of recycled clothes.

PARENT ARE INVITED TO OUR SHARING ASSEMBLY NEXT FRIDAY AT 9AM.

In other news...

Willow art

Whilst Year 6 were tramping about the Brecon Beacons, Years R, 1, 2 & 3 had the privilege of working with a natural willow artist.

Jacquie Rolls worked with our younger children to create fish, dragonflies and weave an amazing willow structure in Katie's corner on the playground.

Staff had a go the week before and were surprised how tricky it was but our youngest children showed better resilience and really worked hard to create a product they were proud of. They are displayed in all the beds and borders on the playground and along the Old London Road boundary too.



Fudge the school dog

Fudge will return to school this week after being spayed. She's been in this week to welcome children at the gate but please help us to help Fudge – 6 children all around and gathered close is very intimidating.

Children have been shown how to greet her today again by an outstretched back of the hand – please encourage them to do this when you say goodbye.

Panto update

Thank you so much to all 94 of you who answered my 1 question survey this week. It was an overwhelming 'yes' for the panto visit with 96% of you saying to go ahead. We have booked seats and coaches and will communicate next month the small charge for the transport. Many thanks to FOSS for agreeing to pay for the panto itself and thank you to you all for helping to raise money to make this possible.

All children in the main school will go this year – it's too loud and a little scary sometimes for our pre-schoolers who will instead be entertained at their own Christmas party.

Pumpkin party

We can't wait for the pumpkin party & disco but need to remind all parents that children **MUST** be accompanied by a named adult who will look after them. This is a FOSS event and they do not act in 'loco parentis' like we do in school time.

!!!Dress down day on Monday!!!

We know that the chocolate tombola is the most loved stall at the pumpkin party so we're holding a dress down day on Monday so long as you bring something chocolatey in payment!



School photos

Have you ordered your child's photos yet? If they were absent when we first took them, Judy came back this week and has managed to catch them for their individual shots.

Do order in time for Christmas presents! 20% of the sales comes to school which is brilliant!

Labelled uniform

We have sooooo many jumpers and coats in our lost property that are brand new seemingly but not labelled so we can't easily return them to their rightful owner. Over half term, please refresh any labels or pen markings that identify your child's uniform as theirs.

We know how costly uniform is and we want you to have best value.

Help! My child is poorly.

If your child has a cough (tickly or hearty!), loss of taste, smell or high temperature, please keep them at home and seek a PCR test. Despite recent press, LFT tests are not seeming that effective at present.

If they have been sick, please keep them at home for 48hrs from the time they were last sick.

If they have a cold, sniffle, tummy ache or headache, please send them into school. They have missed so much learning time already, we don't want them to miss more and these things usually pass when they get with friends. If they don't, we'll ring you – don't worry!