



FOX WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



April
2018

Important Dates

Thursday 5 April

School closes for Easter Holidays

Friday 6 April

Inset Day for Staff

Monday 23 April

School re-opens after Easter Holidays

Friday 25 May

Pupils finish for half term

Welcome

Welcome to Rachael Johnston who has joined us a Pastoral Support Officer.

Welcome to Claire, new TA in Class 9.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who sent in Chocolate for our Easter Raffle. We raised £120. Each class will get a share of this.

PUPIL OF THE HALF TERM

Primary— Lucas for constantly surprising staff with what he can do including number 1—10 without any help.

Secondary— Savannah for Improving her physical mobility in PE and relying less on staff.

We would be grateful if you do not enter the school reception before 8.55 am as the school office can be busy with phone calls and the day to day running of the school. They would be able to give you a warm welcome when you do come in, and at 8.55 am they will be able to focus on doing this.

Our Website address: www.foxwoodschoo.org.uk

Message from Lucinda

This has been another action packed half term and I hope that you enjoy reading some of the highlights within this newsletter—as I type pupils are preparing for yet more fun, learning and chocolate(!) with preparations being made to join in the 'Easter Eggstravaganza' organised by the Friends of Woolston Park. We are fortunate that a group such as this is so keen to work with us and to create exciting and accessible opportunities for our children, and—as always—members of staff not only actively pursue such links but also work hard to maintain and strengthen these through their own commitment and desire to ensure that we are valued and respected within our local community, and that we also give something back to the local community. All of our staff work hard to contribute to the success of such events but a special mention must go to Geta who has put a lot of hard work in behind the scenes to ensure that all children receive an Easter Egg and have the opportunity to be part of this community event. Obviously there is far more to this time of year than just chocolate, and so classes have been exploring how Easter is celebrated around the world and have also had an RE day to learn about the symbolism and meaning of Easter.

This term we have also participated in some events as part of the 'Woolston Learning Village' family - our links with Woolston Sixth Form College (which includes both Fox Wood and Green Lane pupils and staff) and Green Lane School are very important to us as a community and there is great excitement across all three settings that we have finally been handed over the keys for our brand new Café! The Café has been funded by all three settings and will be run by students and staff from Woolston Sixth Form College. However this will be a fantastic resource for all of our pupils and will further enable us to assist pupils in developing the skills and understanding that will equip them for the world beyond the classroom. We look forward to being able to share further details with you in due course!

Finally my thanks to you all for working with us to try and improve attendance and punctuality across school. I appreciate that this has caused some anxiety and is often far from easy, however we will always strive to achieve the very best for every one of our pupils and maximise the learning potential of the full school day. Please continue to support us in achieving this for your child.

The pupils have voted and the new therapy area has been named :

SENSORY KINGDOM

Many of our pupils have accessed the Sensory Kingdom already, experiencing new, varied sensations and practicing their motor planning skills. The ball pool has proved a firm favourite as have the steam roller ramp and the platform swing. 26 pupils have received regular sessions as well as a class group who access it as an Enrichment activity each Tuesday afternoon. The pupils who access the area will be reviewed half termly by Debi Ost our Occupational Therapist (OT).

Amanda Kelly (OT Assistant)

Focused support for our pupils in receipt of pupil premium

As you know, we have Jo and Rita working with our pupils in receipt of Pupil premium and with our gifted and talented pupils. They have both written what they have been working on this half term.

During this half term in Maths focused support I have been working on Measurement with 26 pupils. One of the main focus areas we worked on was Capacity, which a lot of the pupils really enjoyed. We filled up lots of different tubes, jugs, cups etc to see which held the most and least amount of water and ordered them by size from smallest to biggest then biggest to smallest. Using different sized cups and jugs we filled each tube with water to see how many of each it took to fill. Another activity which was a favourite for many pupils was to estimate how many objects were in a container and then to count them to see if they were correct. We used lots of different objects to do this: cubes, counters, pom-poms, bricks etc.

All of the pupils have really enjoyed the Maths sessions and have made progress. **Jo**

In Literacy Focused Support this half term, I have been working with 26 different pupils, concentrating on our speaking and listening skills, along with reading. Some of the areas we have been concentrating on are:-

- Matching the symbol to the correct object
- Communicating yes/no (using sign & symbols)
- Following 2 step instructions
- Responding appropriately to staff requests

The children have particularly enjoyed our reading sessions, where some have group reads with their friends, they then get to discuss the story, if they liked it or not and write their own book review. We have also been looking at poems and rhymes and are in the process of creating their own which they are very enthusiastic about. **Rita**

Class 10 and 11 enjoyed a trip to Knowsley Safari Park to support their themes this term learning about rainforests and wildlife conservation. Both classes were excited to go and see some of the animals they have been learning about and to find out more information about their food, habitat and to see the animals up close (very close indeed). Although the weather was a bit wet and everyone got soggy, it did not dampen anyone's spirits and it was a wonderful day. The main attractions of the day were the sea lion show where Roger and Arthur (sea lions) wowed everyone with their tricks of jumping out of the water and balancing a ball on their nose. Class 10 did a great job of listening to the sea lion trainer and learning about the differences between sea lions and seals. The giraffe house was another success and everyone was excited to see the giraffes eating their dinner. The cheeky meerkats were sheltering from the rain but came and stood at the other side of the window staring back at us. Everyone enjoyed their day and the staff were very impressed with the classes and how interested they were looking at the animals.



This half term we have offered an after school Art Club to 3 classes in school. The children have enjoyed painting and collage activities and created Easter cards to take home. All pupils in school have now been offered at least one after school club since September, a big thank you to the staff concerned for supporting the clubs and to parents/carers for collecting children promptly.



In February we sent out a mid year progress review for all pupils, we hope you found this useful. An end of year progress review will come out with the annual reports.

We plan to change our annual reports this year and would be grateful to hear from you - what is important for you as a parent to know from us? Thank you for any suggestions in advance!

Thanks Lianne Buchanan, Assistant Head

Arts Week 26th February – 2nd March.

Our theme for this year's Arts week has been 'Chinese new year'. Our pupils have enjoyed a number of exciting activities involving tasting different foods such as noodles, soy sauce, peppers, onions, ginger, garlic and prawn crackers. All classes have enjoyed learning the story about how each year came to be named after different animals. We enjoyed learning the story through drama and it was lovely to have Margaret in with plenty of props and costumes to make the story come alive!

On Wednesday, all pupils got to stroke and pet the 'PAT dog' as this year is 'the year of the dog'. The dog's name was 'Raffy' and he was very friendly and gentle.

There has been a number of craft boxes circulating the school and pupils have been busy making collages, 3D animals, having a go at Chinese writing, willow patterns and most importantly preparing for the 'Chinese lantern competition'. On Friday we had a lantern parade to celebrate all our hard work and end a really great week! Well done everyone!

Finally, Congratulations to class 6 and class 9 for winning the competition with their excellent lantern designs!



Our **Early Years** classes have been learning all about 'Dinosaurs' this half term. We have had a wonderful time and enjoyed lots of different activities such as- making volcanoes, making dinosaur eggs from papier mache and doing a dinosaur hunt. We also had a brief visit from a giant dinosaur which we really enjoyed. You can see what we have been up to on our school Facebook page.

We are continuing to build links with local schools- Meadowside School have been to visit Class 1 during Autism Awareness Week. We had a lovely time and enjoyed spending time with our friends. This term as Early Years Lead Teacher, I have set up an EYFS SEN moderation group with other local special schools and provisions. This has proved to be popular and the group continues to grow. I have also visited another school to see their provision within the Early Years and share some ideas of good practice.

Year 7 government funding – Maths and English focus

The government allocate an amount of money for all Year 7 aged pupils in England, to be used on advancing pupils' skills and knowledge in Maths and English. We received the funding in school in February. The Maths and English subject leaders planned and put into place a programme for these subjects, which has been delivered and monitored by the subject leaders as well as our two intervention Teaching Assistants, Rita and Joanne. The students have very much enjoyed their small group and one to one teaching sessions. The English intervention has focused on phonics through both reading and writing and the Maths has spanned all three areas of learning:- Number, Geometry and Measurement and we have used the Numicon system.

For those not familiar with Numicon, it is a teaching resource designed to help children visualise numbers. From this visual picture they can see and demonstrate their understanding of numbers and relationships between them. The different coloured Numicon shapes represent different numbers and it is a multi-sensory approach, which the pupils enjoy.

New equipment and resources have been purchased with the specific pupils in mind and all pupils have made good progress in their B Squared assessments as a result of the opportunity.

SOCIAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL (SMSC) DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

This half-term, I have worked specifically on reviewing and improving our provision for Spiritual Development. The main way we have done this is through looking at Collective Worship, particularly class based collective worship as opposed to assemblies etc. An audit of collective worship was undertaken with staff and I then ran a training session for teachers. Together with our SMSC team, we have ordered and put together a collective worship box for each class to provide them with the necessary resources. In addition to this, class teams have completed an SMSC audit for the themes that they have covered in their curriculum this year so far. This will enable us to look at the curriculum overall, identify our strengths in terms of SMSC provision and also identify if there are any areas that we need to further develop and improve.

Andrew Poskitt

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day was on March 1st but as we had our Arts week we celebrated the day on Thursday 8 March. All students (and staff!) were encouraged to come into school dressed as a book character and bring in their favourite book to share with their class mates.

As an activity, classes were tasked with making a 'story bucket.' Classes decided on a text or a theme and made multisensory resources to support the telling of the text. We made lots of lovely story buckets – Peter Pan, Harry Potter, Whatever Next!, a pamper day sensory story bucket and Polar, Bear Polar Bear What do you Hear? to name a few. We had great fun – and all students received a £1 book token to redeem against a World Book Day book.



Fox Wood continues to work hard to achieve the **Crest Star Award**. As a school we follow the British Science Association scheme to a 'hands on' science experience. Pupils are as involved in each investigation as appropriate to them and their learning and will complete a number of activities, tasks and investigations to receive stamps and certificates once the award is complete. Pupils have enjoyed the investigations as it involves making predictions, choosing different materials/equipment to use, carrying out a fair test and evaluating the results. Some of the investigations we have worked on this year so far have been; Kite Calamity, Bridge Blunders, Fantastic Fingerprints, Dinosaur Detectives and Tea bag Trouble.



Help / Support

I have received information about Contact, for families with disabled children. Their phone number is free on 0800 808 3555, or they can be e-mailed on: info@contact.org.uk.

Contact provides support, advice and information for families with disabled children, no matter what their condition or disability. In the North West, they carry out our service through a team of home-based workers and volunteers. Working at a local and regional level, they say they have up-to-date information on local services and support for families with disabled children. Their North West Team offers: Help to find out what's available locally, Workshops, events and opportunities to meet other families with disabled children

Hello, I'm **Rachael Johnston**, the new **Pastoral Support Officer** at Fox Wood. I have had a lovely welcome by staff and pupils, and have enjoyed spending time with each class.

My background is working in schools as a 1:1 teaching assistant and I have had the opportunity to work as a Support Worker, alongside studying at university. I was very lucky to be part of a National Scheme working with the Disability Minister to advise on ensuring carers were involved with care and the transition process.

I hope to be able to bring my experience from those roles to benefit all at Fox Wood. I will get to know your child and I hope to get to know as many of you as possible as school and home to work together.

I have sent a letter out arranging a Friends of Fox Wood coffee morning on Monday 30th April 9.15 till 11, even if you can only attend for 10 minutes please pop along. You will be able to talk to me at School events should you be unable to make it.

Top tip - Did you know you can apply for an additional black bin if your child is using continence products?

Rachael Johnston Pastoral Support Officer Fox Wood School 01925 811534

Please note my usual working hours are Monday - Friday 9.30am till 2.00pm

Other Notices - Dinner Money—Just a reminder that Dinner Money has increased to £2.30 per day, (£11.50 per week) This is still payable on the Friday for the following week and must be paid on a weekly basis or termly in advance. Any monies sent into school must be in a sealed envelope with the pupil's name, the amount, and what the money is for, written clearly. School cannot take responsibility for any loose cash.