



Bitterne Park Primary School

February 2023 Newsletter



Inspire, Thrive, Achieve

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a really great half term and I am glad to see the daylight increasing as we move through towards Spring. We have a busy half term ahead with some special events such as our 'Living Eggs' in Year 2, Year 4 Music Concert, Year 5 Bikeability and Swimming, as well as World Book Day, which will take place in school on Friday, 3rd March with the children and staff being able to dress up as their favourite book character.

Special Visitor (Chris Packham)

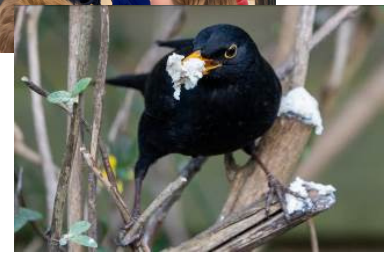
We were very lucky to have Chris Packham visit our school on Wednesday 1st February to kindly donate some of his books and bird feeders to us, as his old primary school.

We welcomed Mr Packham with open arms and invited him on a tour of our school, which he willingly accepted. Some of our Year 5 children showed him around and shared all our fantastic ECO learning and our amazing school grounds with him.

Mr Packham was blown away and has offered to come back and help us to turn part of our grounds into a sanctuary for native plants and wildlife. We very much look forward to his return!



Mr Packham also gave the school bird feed which unfortunately contained peanut butter. We passed this on to Mr Reeves and he was fortunate to capture this blackbird enjoying the feast!



Tea, coffee and biscuits morning drop-in – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE



Thank you to those who attended our first coffee morning. The next one will be on **Friday, 3rd March** and will be held in the KS1 hall (please enter via Manor Farm Road). We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and cup of coffee or tea with a member of the senior team. We do have an open-door policy, but hope that this regular slot will enable more of our families to come in and share any positive or development items that you may have.... or just pop in to say hello!

ECO Warriors

Our ECO Warriors have been meeting regularly to think about how we can continue to improve our school grounds. They have been discussing which RSPB wildlife challenges they would like our school to take part in and have worked together to design this fantastic creation in our entrance corridor,



showcasing our desire to care for and protect our local environment. We can't wait to see the tree blossom during the Spring term.

School of Sanctuary

We had some great news at the end of last half term – our school has been re-accredited as a School of Sanctuary! This is down to the hard work and dedication from the children, our staff and the wider school community, so thank you for everything that you do towards making our school a welcoming place for all.



Some of our child Sanctuary Ambassadors spoke with confidence to a panel of experts about how our school is a welcoming and safe place for new arrivals, sharing aspects of their learning and the wider school efforts.

Feedback from the Schools of Sanctuary Coordinator included:

We feel confident that the school has fully met the minimum criteria and will continue to develop their sanctuary work over the coming years. We were particularly impressed by the school's literacy schemes of work, which helps students to use a range of different sanctuary-related books to slowly advance and deepen their understanding of complex issues. We also very much enjoyed hearing about how the wider community had engaged in the schools' sanctuary efforts, such as parents volunteering to support new families and parents' testimonies about the importance of the schools' sanctuary efforts on their children's understanding of sanctuary issues.

This was very much demonstrated in our conversation with students who responded to (often challenging!) questions with compassion and thoughtfulness, which evidenced how they had already critically engaged with a range of sanctuary related issues before. As one student said 'sanctuary is more than a roof over someone's head and food to eat'. Students spoke passionately about the importance of being welcome and how everyone was responsible for welcoming and supporting new arrivals, whilst recognising how new arrivals enrich the school and wider community. One comment that particularly stood out was 'we value that we are all different, and recognise that we are all special and bring something different [to school]' - we literally couldn't have said it better ourselves. We were hugely impressed by a group of very articulate and engaged students.

We are very much looking forward to continuing to ensure that our school is a happy, safe and welcoming place for those seeking sanctuary.

Big Schools' Birdwatch

All classes have spent some time in the school grounds bird watching and have submitted their results to the RSPB. The children were very excited to see the robins hopping around! More information can be found here: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>



Big Schools' Birdwatch

The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

PTFA News

At the end of the half term, we had another very successful cake sale, run by our lovely PTFA. This raised £449.45 for the school, so thank you to everyone who kindly donated cakes and to all of those who supported in the running of the event. We look forward to the upcoming discos and film club!



House Competitions

Knowledge – Flags

Our knowledge competition this half term was all about flags of the UK and the wider world. The children spent time in their house teams researching and finding out everything they could, before taking part in heats and then the final competition against the other houses. The results were as follows:

1st – Dragons
2nd – Unicorns

Joint 3rd – Phoenix and Centaurs

Charity – Collaborative Art Piece

Our focus this term has been citizenship and community. House teams have been working together to create a collaborative piece of artwork to brighten up the world around us. Centaurs are creating jelly fish out of recycled material, Phoenixes are creating a starry scene from recycled materials, Dragons are creating junk – art dragon using recycled materials and Unicorns are creating a collage from recycled newspapers reflecting on love of reading. These will be donated to a local care home in the area, Southampton Hospital Children’s ward and our local library to spread joy, colour and happiness!

In order for this to be possible, we need children to bring in some of the materials to support this:

Phoenix: paper straws and any coloured/patterned paper

Centaurs: coloured plastic bags in a range of colours

Dragons: recyclable materials and fabric in reds, oranges and yellows.

Unicorns: newspapers and magazines

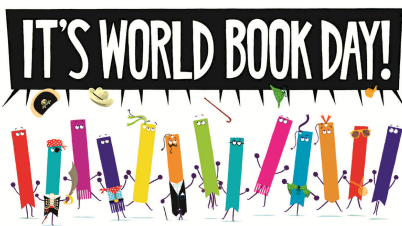
Sports – Orienteering

This was a great opportunity to exercise not just bodies, but also minds in PE. Organised by Mr Norton and his team, the children completed a range of challenges showing their reading skills and logic. Teamwork was vital in this sport.

1st – Phoenix
2nd – Centaurs

3rd – Unicorns
4th – Dragons

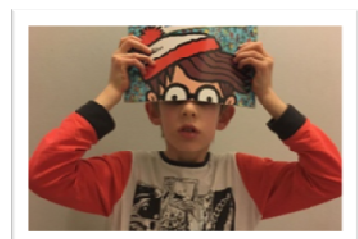
World Book Day



We will be celebrating World Book Day at school on **Friday, 3rd March**. (*Please note this date has changed from Thursday, 2nd March*). To add to the day’s enjoyment, all the children will have the opportunity to dress up if they wish as their favourite book character for the day. If your child chooses to dress up please bear in mind that your child will be wearing their costume for the whole day, so costumes will need to be practical and comfortable.

We also ask that pupils bring in a £1 donation for BookTrust, the UK’s largest children’s reading charity. They ensure that books reach children across the country and have previously donated reading material to Year R pupils at our school.

As part of our ‘World Book Day’ celebrations, we are asking all children to take part in our partnership “Bookface” competition! All children need to do is choose a book cover to create a photo that blurs the lines of reality - by replacing the book’s cover with a part of themselves! There will be a prize for the winning entries across the partnership. All entries will be printed and used as part of a school display. Please email your child’s photo in to bookface@hollyfamilylive.net by **Wednesday 1st March**. Don’t forget to state your child’s name and school in the email – all entries to be sent to this email address.



Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

English

In Year R, we have enjoyed learning all about dragons! We learned how to write our first stories and we now have outstanding 'That's not my dragon.' stories using creative adjectives. The children have enjoyed reading 'Zog' and retelling the story using props and costumes. We learned about the Lunar New Year and the different characters from the Zodiac story. The dragon was our favourite!

Maths

We have been learning about money. We had a special visit from HSBC and went on a treasure hunt, learned the names of the different coins and a special dance. We continued our learning this term exploring all the coins and how much things cost in our Pet Shop role play.

To find out more about our learning, please use these links to the Year R curriculum page on our website:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fe504e009fb30bb9cc92c0/t/62fe7a6b8c77e107e155e5ca/1660844651546/EYFS+-+Spring+2.pdf>

Year 1

Wow, we've done so much since the last newsletter and it has been a busy half term filled with hard work. The children have continued to show their tremendous knowledge and it has been fantastic.

DT

Winding, sliding and spinning around and around...no, the children have not been dancing! They have been creating their own working mechanisms in Design Technology. The children have been using recycled materials to create their own toy, which functions using a mechanism. This could be a pop-up book, a rotating toy or a toy which you pull and push. The children have learnt all about these different mechanisms and have practised creating them before designing their final piece of work. These toys will be the next biggest must have item so make sure you grab yours quickly as these awesome new toys will be flying off the shelf in no time!

English

Are you a penguin professor? Do you know everything about our feathered friends? Are you a wizard for the waddling wonders? Well, the Year 1 children are! We have been collecting all our knowledge on penguins in our writing and we have all designed a fact file to pass our knowledge onto you! Our team of child experts have been researching over the whole of the last half term, so you can trust our facts have been checked and are 100% accurate. P-p-p-perfect.



The learning has been phenomenal from last term and we can't wait to tell you more about what we will be looking at in the future when we will be following in the tiny footsteps a mouse in the deep, dark woods. To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)
[English](#)
[Geography](#)

[Maths: Fractions](#)
[Music](#)
[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)
[RE](#)
[Science](#)

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year 2

English

3....2....1...blast off! Have you ever experienced space? Have you ever wondered how to blast off into the glorious galaxies beyond? Well, Year 2 enjoyed an immersive space experience that was out of this world! Not only did they speak to a real astronaut, but they also learnt so many exciting facts that helped them with their writing. The children were challenged to write a persuasive advert for their very own star catcher that would blow their teacher's socks off! From Snatcher Catcher 3000 to Galactic Grabber 205, the children were super creative in designing their one-of-a-kind invention.

History

From one invention to the next, hop into our time machine to travel back to the 1800's to a place of revolutionary change. SQUEAKKK, hold on.. what was that?

"Welcome to Scutari hospital, I am Vlad the Flea and this is my rodent friend Loxton. This used to be our dream home..until that day!" Year 2 are excited to go on an adventure back in time, with Vlad to understand the impact of the 'Lady with the Lamp', Florence Nightingale, and the significant person she was.



To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[Maths: Money and Fractions](#)

[PSHE](#)

[English](#)

[Music](#)

[RE](#)

[Geography](#)

[PE](#)

[Science](#)

Year 3

History



Mummies, sarcophaguses, hieroglyphics... Can you guess what we have been learning about? That's right, Ancient Egypt! We began by travelling back in time to the Valley of the Kings as part of Howard Carter's archaeological team. We explored a range of different sources from Ancient Egypt and made inferences about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. Not only this, we also applied our chronology skills and created a human timeline that went all around the hall, including key events like our births, the Great Fire of London and the Crimean War. This helped us to understand just how long ago the Ancient Egyptian period was. We love the Ancient Egyptians!

Science

Ouch! An apple just fell on my head! Why did this happen? Well, Year 3 have been learning all about forces and magnets! We became scientists and conducted many investigations into contact and non-contact forces. These included measuring the strength of different magnets and exploring friction on different surfaces. We used lots of specialist equipment such as Newton metres, super magnets and compasses. We proved our understanding of forces and magnets by designing games!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)

[MFL](#)

[RE](#)

[English](#)

[Music](#)

[Science](#)

[History](#)

[PE](#)

[Maths: Fractions and Money](#)

[PSHE](#)

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year 4

Last half term, year 4 were very busy!

History

Last half term, Year 4 jumped aboard their longships to sail across a fantastic half term all about The Vikings! Have you ever noticed the statue of Alfred the Great when visiting Winchester? Year 4 now have a super knowledge all about Alfred's role during the Viking period of history and why he earned his title! A standout lesson was our comparison of Viking women throughout history. Did Shield Maidens exist? Year 4 have formed some fantastic opinions based on archaeological evidence!

Science

Testing.. testing.. are you ready to hear about our sound topic? The children created scientific models detailing the inner workings of the ear. We now have a greater knowledge surrounding vibrations, sound waves and pitch! This has linked nicely to our music lessons as we excitedly prepare for our upcoming concert this half term! Please remember to add this date to your diaries!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)
[English](#)
[History](#)

[Maths: Statistics, Fractions,
Decimals and Measures](#)
[MFL](#)
[Music](#)

[PE](#)
[PSHE](#)
[RE](#)
[Science](#)

Year 5

Science:

During science we have been busy diving with dolphins, travelling with turtles, slithering with salamanders and flying with falcons. Welcome to Year 5s edition of 'Deadly 60' where we became the next Steve Backshall. We took to the skies, seas and land to explore and compare the life cycles of different amazing animals from across the globe. Did you know most species of crocodiles are attentive parents, who care for their young after they hatch? Not only have we been learning about animals, we have also been investigating the fascinating life cycles of different species of plants.

English:

English has been an exciting expedition. We've been using a variety of figurative language to immerse the reader in an action narrative based on the book, 'Way of the Wolf' by Bear Grylls . Heart skipping, jaw dropping and pulse racing, our writing has been action packed and full of adventure. Our character, Beck, has faced many dangerous obstacles that he has had to overcome including: raging rivers, rumbling avalanches and horrifying predators.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)
[English](#)
[History](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and
Percentages](#)
[MFL](#)
[Music](#)

[PE](#)
[PSHE](#)
[RE](#)
[Science](#)

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year 6

Writing: Scenes of tension, mystery and betrayal have unfolded upon Year 6 during our Spring 1 writing unit. After watching an outstanding performance of Macbeth by the Young Shakespeare Company, Year 6 immersed themselves in the key events of the dark and twisted tale. We explored rich texts, tense video clips and intriguing images to stimulate our creativity. Our first writing outcome was a rich setting description of an incoming storm upon the sodden heathland in which Macbeth and Banquo are returning home from war. During their travels, the duo were taunted by 3 mysterious figures lurking in the shadows. To follow on from this, we then created a second writing outcome of Macbeth's monologue prior to committing the unforgivable murder of King Duncan.

Maths: As ever, Year 6 have continued developing and consolidating their arithmetic skills, focusing heavily on the four operations and fractions, decimals and percentages. The children are making fantastic progress with these skills and are demonstrating clear levels of grit, resilience and determination. To supplement their arithmetic skills, we also explored the topic of perimeter, area and volume in Spring 1. We have learnt how to calculate these and compared how the skills are similar and different.

Science: Year 6's minds have been **blown** this half term when learning all about Evolution, Adaptation and Inheritance. We have explored Darwin's Theory of Evolution to develop an understanding of how living things adapt to survive and thrive depending on their life-style and environment (Survival of the Fittest). To ensure that learning is relevant and relatable, the children reflect upon the genes and features that they have inherited from their families. This information was then presented scientifically through graphs, charts and diagrams - as well as being fun to collect!

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

[Computing](#)
[English](#)
[History](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Measures and Shape](#)
[MFL](#)
[Music](#)

[PE](#)
[PSHE](#)
[RE](#)
[Science](#)

Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge

Year 6 are becoming very excited about the residential to Skern Lodge in July. Many parents are paying in regular instalments and I would like to thank you for ensuring these are up to date. Full payment needs to be made by 19th May 2023, as Skern requires payment at this time.



REMINDERS

Class Photographs



Fraser photography will be in school on Monday, 6th March to take Class photos, whole Year R and Year 6 and well as School Council. Proofs will be sent home so parents can place an order online if they wish. We need to supply Fraser with class lists in advance of the day so they can keep a record of photos taken and ensure orders are printed correctly and matched with the relevant children. If you do not wish us to provide the photographers with your child's details please let us know in writing, via the school office, by Wednesday, 1st March at the latest.



Dogs must **not** be brought onto school premises. This includes the playground and the area in front of school just inside the gates. This is a Health & Safety requirement so we would appreciate your full support.

Vacancy

We have a vacancy in school for a lunchtime supervisor - 5 hours per week (1hr each day, 12.30-1.30pm).

The post holder will be required to work as part of a friendly and co-operative team. If you are interested in applying for this position please contact Mrs Vaughan in the school office for an application form and job description.

Attendance

Thank you to all those families who work hard to ensure their children are in school every day. Our school target is 97.6% and currently our attendance is at 95.70%. Sadly, we still have a group of children who do not come to school enough. Please ensure if your child is ill that you call school to let us know... we worry if our children do not attend.



Online Payments

A reminder you can register online to make payments for dinners and school trips. Please check out our website (www.bpps.live.net) on the Tucasi link. A letter can be obtained from the school office to register online, which includes a step-by-step guide to sign in. We are unable to accept cash, debit or credit cards as a method of payment.

You will need a Scopy account to sign up for the upcoming parents' evenings. A reminder containing your individual link was sent home last week so please do make sure you sign up as soon as possible.

Dates for your Diary



- Friday, 3rd March – Coffee Morning
- Friday, 3rd March – World Book Day
- Monday, 6th March - Class Photographs
- Tuesday, 7th March – Open Class
- Tuesday, 7th March – Stem Glider Workshop (in school)
- w/c 13th March – Year 5 Bikeability
- w/c 13th March – Year 5 swimming for 3 weeks
- Monday, 20th March – Year 2 Duckling kits arriving
- Friday, 24th March – Year 4 Music Concert (more details to follow)
- Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March – Parents Evening
- Friday 24th March – Singing Club ‘Alice the Musical’ performance 4:00pm
- 3rd April – 14th April – Easter holidays
- Wednesday, 19th April – Year 2 trip to Marwell Zoo
- Monday, 1st May – May Day bank holiday
- Monday, 8th May – King’s Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9th May – Friday, 12th May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Friday, 19th May – Sports day and family picnic
- Thursday, 25th May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26th May – Inset Day
- 29th May – 2nd June – half term
- Tuesday, 6th June – 13th June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Friday, 21st July – break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school

Have a great half term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Martineau'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Headteacher