



# Bitterne Park Primary School

## January 2023 Newsletter

*Inspire, Thrive, Achieve*



Dear Families

Welcome to my first Newsletter of 2023! I do hope that all of our families had a very happy and peaceful Christmas. The children and staff have all returned to school, energised and excited for the New Year! I have, yet again, been touched by the support of our families, dedication of our staff team and care that our children continue to show for each other and for their school family and wider world. This has been brought into sharp focus through their commitment to our focus on ecological awareness, sanctuary and equality. They are truly inspirational!

### Our recent Charity Collections

Last term, across the partnership of schools, the children worked together in House teams to collect dry goods for our local charity food bank, Basics Bank. Thank you so much for all of your generous donations. The charity was very appreciative.

To add to the festivities on our Christmas dinner day, the children and staff partook in the Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Not only did everyone look lovely and festive but the school raised £276.90 for Save the Children, an international charity that works tirelessly to support children to learn, grow and become who they want to be. Thank you for your donations.

### Upcoming Charity Artwork

Charity work doesn't always need to involve donations of items or money, which is why this half term the children are going to be working in their House groups to create an art project using recycled materials. The aim is for each House to create a picture that will then be donated to a local care home for elderly residents, a local library or our local children's hospital. The children have already started working together to come up with an idea and then all the children in each House will contribute something to the picture. Look out for details of what this will be. I can't wait to see the finished pieces and think it is a wonderful way for our children to connect with our community.

### School Council Summit

On Wednesday 11th January 2023, our Year 6 school councilors attended a conference at Holy Family Catholic Primary School. The focus of the meeting was to discuss our upcoming 'passport to primary school' project.

All children spoke confidently and represented Bitterne Park with pride! Well done Year 6 school council!

To find out more about our day, please have a look at our blog on the website:

<https://www.bppslive.net/schoolblog/utq02ans15f6c9axwgi7eywscvp9>

<https://www.bppslive.net/schoolblog/bhpd1mrphm7mitvan32bixipi54f41>



## School of Sanctuary

As part of our continued drive to show our understanding of Sanctuary, the children have been listening to various stories in our collective worship assemblies to explore this in depth. These books, this half term, have included: 'Malala's magic pencil', 'Lubna and Pebble' and 'Island Born'. These texts have helped the children to maintain their understanding of how we are a welcoming school and what we can be doing to support those children who join our school. In addition to this, the children have been continuing to learn more about key influential people, such as Yusra Mardini, who is a refugee themselves but has conquered many things. Ask the children in Year 4 to tell you more about this!



## Eco Project Update

We continue our drive to improve the school grounds. Flower beds have been weeded and bulbs planted. Applications or class votes have taken place for our Eco Champions who will form an Eco Council to ensure the children are at the heart of driving the development of our grounds. Lots of very exciting ideas were put forward when applying we look forward to seeing them blossom.

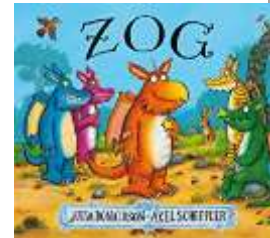
## Curriculum and Enrichment

### Year R

#### English

This term in Literacy we have been learning about rhyming! We have enjoyed reading and writing about Oi Frog! We have learned about frogs on a log, cats on a mat, moles on poles and a dog in a bog. They have enjoyed making up their own rhymes and applying their phonic knowledge.

Over the next two weeks of term, the children will be reading a range of dragon related books, including 'Zog', and they will describe their own dragons and write a recount of a story.



#### Maths

We have enjoyed our number of the week and now we are learning to apply our knowledge in time, adding, subtracting and measurement. We will be learning how to subtract by finding one less practically and will be exploring number bonds to 5.



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/62fe7a66769ee739cb1e3e3f/1660844646917/EYFS+-+Spring+1.pdf>

### Year 1

#### Phonics

WOW - What a week! Our Fun Phonics Workshops have been a huge success. We had lots of parents come and join us as we used Retrieval Rex to recall and explore the first 12 sounds in the Green Phase. Pip and Pap, our Alien friends helped us to learn the sounds and the actions and segment and blend them within a word. We then applied our learning by reading books, including 'The Stray Dog' and 'The Hawk'. We looked at how we can become more accurate with our reading and practiced following with our finger to support the identification of sounds.



We introduced our pace pea and how to use it to support us with our reading:

1. Read it the first time, focusing on blending and pointing with each finger to recognise the sounds.
2. Re-read a little quicker, looking at the digraphs and Earth words that are used.
3. Re-read the whole sentence with accuracy.

We ended with an exciting task - to create our own stray dog and we decorated it using tissue paper, paper plates and colourful pens.

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:

|                           |   |                         |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Computing</a> | <a href="#">Maths: Multiplication and Division and Measures</a> | <a href="#">PSHE</a>    |
| <a href="#">English</a>   | <a href="#">Music</a>   | <a href="#">RE</a>      |
| <a href="#">Geography</a> | <a href="#">PE</a>  | <a href="#">Science</a> |

## Curriculum and Enrichment

### Year 2

#### Writing

ZZZZZZZZZZ... Don't panic, it isn't the Year 2's that are asleep! It is Moz the Monster under the bed! Since finding out this information, the Year 2 children have been really excited to use their writing skills to build up tension and keep the reader in suspense. So far, the children have been practicing their descriptive writing and have explored how to use adjectives for effect.

Over the next two weeks, we will be reading 'How to catch a star' and creating our own star catchers. Will we be able to persuade the reader to want to buy it?

#### RE

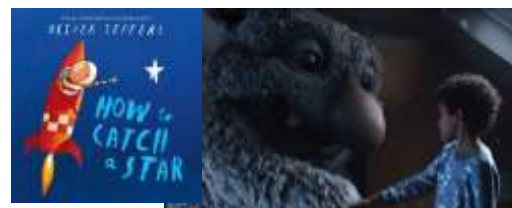
"Some people are worth melting for." - Olaf



Year 2 have been exploring what special means and applying this to a special moment, place, person or object. We have also been considering how each of us are special in our own way. We have related our own ideas to religions such as Christianity and Hinduism and will end our unit of work over the next couple of weeks by thinking about how key influential figures in society are special and what they have said or done to show this.

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:

|                           |  |                         |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Computing</a> | <a href="#">Maths: Multiplication and Division and Money</a> | <a href="#">PSHE</a>    |
| <a href="#">English</a>   | <a href="#">Music</a>  | <a href="#">RE</a>      |
| <a href="#">Geography</a> | <a href="#">PE</a>   | <a href="#">Science</a> |

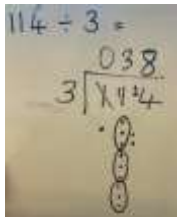


## Year 3

### Maths

In maths this term, we have been exploring multiplication. We have been using number lines to show repeated addition and secure this understanding before we move into the use of grid method to multiply larger numbers!

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to apply our times tables knowledge to solve division problems using the bus stop method.



### Writing

In writing, we have been enjoying Dahl's 'Fantastic Mr Fox'! We have loved exploring the evil farmers and have created our own farmer in this style for our character description! During the next couple of weeks, we will be putting ourselves in the farmer's shoes and writing in the first person.

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:

|                           |  |                      |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <a href="#">Computing</a> | <a href="#">Maths: Multiplication and Division</a> | <a href="#">PE</a>   |
| <a href="#">English</a>   | <a href="#">MFL</a>                                | <a href="#">PSHE</a> |
| <a href="#">History</a>   | <a href="#">Music</a>                              | <a href="#">RE</a>   |
|                           | <a href="#">Science</a>                            |                      |

## Curriculum and Enrichment

### Year 4

#### Gardening Galore

Year 4 spent time planting flower bulbs in the gardening beds on the playground. The children's fingers definitely turned green after they had to remove the weeds that had been growing over the last couple of months! Spades were then used to dig a 10cm trench to place the bulbs in. We can't wait to see what the flowers will look like in Spring!

#### History

The Year 4 children have also really been enjoying learning about the Vikings and finding out about the push and pull factors for why the Vikings invaded.



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:

|                           |  |                      |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <a href="#">Computing</a> | <a href="#">Maths: Multiplication and Division</a> | <a href="#">PE</a>   |
| <a href="#">English</a>   | <a href="#">MFL</a>                                | <a href="#">PSHE</a> |
| <a href="#">History</a>   | <a href="#">Music</a>                              | <a href="#">RE</a>   |
|                           | <a href="#">Science</a>                            |                      |

## Year 5

### English

During Year 5's English lessons, they have been focusing on the story of 'Way of the Wolf' by Bear Grylls. This has inspired the children to discover the wonderful world of Alaska and describe it using figurative language linked to their senses. The children's writing has been fantastic and they have put a great deal of effort into publishing it too!



### French



In French, Year 5 have had the exciting opportunity to celebrate and understand the traditional French holiday 'La Fete des Rois' (feast of the kings). The children thoroughly enjoyed participating in the steps of sharing 'La Galette des Rois'.

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|                           |  |                      |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <a href="#">Computing</a> | <a href="#">Maths: Multiplication and Division</a> | <a href="#">PE</a>   |
| <a href="#">English</a>   | <a href="#">MFL</a>                                | <a href="#">PSHE</a> |
| <a href="#">History</a>   | <a href="#">Music</a>                              | <a href="#">RE</a>   |
|                           | <a href="#">Science</a>                            |                      |

## Year 6

### English: Upon the Heath...

In writing, we have been using high-level vocabulary and figurative language to describe Macbeth's meeting of the three witches upon the heath. We have focussed on building tension through the gradual approach of a storm and how the characters respond to the gathering, menacing weather.



Some of us have written from a different perspective: an observer on the heath - perhaps a raven or an ancient tree. We will build the setting description to a climax, whereupon the three ghastly witches are revealed and meet Macbeth, sharing with him their deadly prophecy. A key focus in our final section will be to create a careful balance of action, description and dialogue. This will enable us to characterise these beings in a variety of ways.

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:

|                           |  |                         |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Computing</a> | <a href="#">Maths: Multiplication and Division</a> | <a href="#">PE</a>      |
| <a href="#">English</a>   | <a href="#">MFL</a>                                | <a href="#">PSHE</a>    |
| <a href="#">History</a>   | <a href="#">Music</a>                              | <a href="#">RE</a>      |
|                           |  | <a href="#">Science</a> |

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023, as Skern requires payment at this time.



## REMINDERS



### Lateness

We appreciate the commitment from the vast majority of our parents who ensure their children arrive promptly for registration and collect them promptly at the end of the day. This substantially reduces stress and anxiety for the children. We also appreciate that on occasion traffic and extenuating circumstances mean that lateness is unavoidable. Should you need to make alternative arrangements for the collection of your child at the end of the day please ensure you telephone the school office before 3.00pm. Our admin team are unable to leave the office after this time unless in an emergency.

## Leave of Absence from School

Penalty notices will be issued for family holidays taken in term time or for 5 unauthorised days off over half a term. A penalty notice means a cost of £60 per parent per child if paid in the first two weeks, then £120 per parent per child for the next 4 weeks. The parents may then be taken to court – this will lead to a find and court costs.

## Children cycling to school

Please make sure your children wear cycle helmets and have lights on their bikes. As the evenings are still dark, please discuss with them the importance of returning home promptly.



## P.E. Kit reminder



We go out and about when it is cold so please ensure your child has a suitable P.E kit in school at all times and check their P.E shoes fit them comfortably. Joggers are very useful to keep those muscles warm! As with all uniform clear name labels are important so that any lost items can be returned to their owners. Please remember to take your child's P.E kit home at the end of each half term to wash ready for the next half term.

## School packed lunches

Children having a packed lunch are encouraged to bring a healthy lunch box. Please do not include sweets and chocolate. The amount you put in your child's lunch box should be what they would usually eat for a sandwich type lunch. Please name your child's lunch box! And remember we are a NUT FREE school.



## School Photographers

Tempest photography will be in school on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March to take class, Yr R, Y6 and School Council photos. Proofs will be sent home later in the term, via the children, so parents can place an order if they wish. We need to supply Tempest 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 Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at the latest.

## Dates for your Diary

- 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February – Spring half-term
- Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March – World Book Day
- Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March - Class Photographs
- Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March – Open Class
- Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 Mobile Planetarium (in school)
- w/c 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 Bikeability
- w/c 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 swimming for 3 weeks
- Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2 Duckling kits arriving
- Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Year 5 Black Hole Poetry session (in school)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April – Easter holidays
- Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day bank holiday
- Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May – King's Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May – Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May – Sports day and family picnic
- Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – half term
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July – break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September – Pupils return to school



Have a wonderful term!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. G. G. G. G.' in a cursive style.

Executive Headteacher