

# Bitterne Park Primary School



## May 2023 Newsletter

*Inspire, Thrive, Achieve*

Dear Parents

We have successfully completed another highly active, yet rewarding half-term packed full of hard work and exciting activities for all of our children! We take immense pride in the exemplary dedication demonstrated by our Year 2 and Year 6 students during their SAT examinations. The Sports Day event on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May was also a tremendous success, and it was heartening to witness a significant number of parents and guardians cheering on the children.

As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming half-term, it appears that better weather conditions are on the horizon. We kindly request parents to ensure that their children apply sunscreen before school and bring sun hats to wear during break and lunchtimes. In warmer periods, children are permitted to wear shorts; however, we would like to clarify that cycling shorts do not conform to our school uniform policy. Nevertheless, should there be a requirement, cycling shorts may be worn underneath a summer dress. Acceptable alternatives are tailored shorts of either black or grey colour and of appropriate length. Additionally, all students must wear black footwear exclusively. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in adhering to our uniform policy and look forward to our final half term of this academic year!

## Curriculum and Enrichment

### Year R

Welcome Ugly Bug Ball! This term in Year R, we have been learning about minibeasts! We have looked at different non-fiction books and gathered information on our favourite little creatures before writing our own fact files. In Art, we designed and painted our own minibeasts after exploring colour mixing and how to make colours light and dark. We then created our own minibeast mural. For the Big Help Out, we have been creating a habitat for the bugs who live in our school environment, using donated wood pallets to make a bug hotel. We have truly had an 'ugly' bug term.

### Year 1

Springtime is a season of rejuvenation and growth and what better way to embrace nature's vibrant spirit than by planting sunflower seeds? In Year 1, a year group filled with curious and enthusiastic young learners, the journey of cultivating sunflowers begins. We have been growing our seeds in bags in our windows to see the seeds starting to germinate. Now our seedlings are getting stronger, we have planted them into the school planters and in the sensory garden. Have a look at the

photographs below to see what we got up to. Join us as we embark on this blooming adventure, nurturing our plants and eagerly awaiting the majestic sunflower blooms.

In History, Year 1 have embarked on a thrilling journey back in time to the age of castles and kingdoms. Fascinated by history, we have been diving into the captivating tales of William the Conqueror and the awe-inspiring castles he built. We have created drama performances, re-enacted the battle of Hastings and, most recently, have been acting in role as the people who worked in and used castles.

## **Year 2**

Get ready, get set, GARDEN! Year 2 have been carrying on with their gardening this half term and have been eager to build on the skills they have already learnt! For the Big Help Out, the children have been learning how to make a micro-pond to be put in the sensory garden using an old fish tank. For next half term, the children will be decorating plant pots for Great Gardening Day, so if you have any spare plastic plant pots at home that you are able to donate, Year 2 would be extremely grateful!

Ouch! Be careful! Oops, we accidentally stepped on a glue stick lid again. Uh oh, the school stationery is fighting back and writing letters to our classes! After reading *The Day the Crayons Quit*, the children have been getting into character and writing as a piece of stationery in the classroom, using features such as contractions and chatty language to get into character. Year 2 have loved writing as glue sticks, rubbers, whiteboard pens (and many more items of classroom stationery!).

## **Year 3**

Tick-tock... What's that sound? It's a clock! Year 3 have been working extremely hard this week learning how to tell the time. We have been doing a range of activities including constructing a giant clock on the playground! Even when our learning started to get a bit tricky looking at 5 and 1 minute intervals, the children persevered and are now time telling experts!

What do plants need to grow? What is adaptation? Why do some plants need to adapt to their climate? Year 3 can tell you! This week, we have been learning all about how different types of plants survive. We found it so interesting to compare and contrast different plants to see how they have adapted to their climate. Did you know that a cactus has a thick, waxy layer to reduce water loss by evaporation? Want to find out more? Just ask one of the amazing Year 3's!

## **Year 4**

It has been a brilliant half term in Year 4! After a successful first topic exploring money, maths has gone from strength to strength! The children have been fantastic at finding area and perimeter through a range of different contexts! We look forward to revisiting these concepts next half term as well as moving onto time!

In writing, the children have amazed us with their compassionate, persuasive writing all about the current refugee crisis. When reading their speeches aloud, the children have spoken confidently,

clearly and with emotion in their voices. We are incredibly proud of the empathy and love that the children have brought to our Sanctuary-centred topic.

## **Year 5**

### Mathematical Measuring Madness

This week, Year 5 have been exploring different methods and resources used for measuring this half term. They've weighed, poured, estimated, compared, calculated and tested a range of measurement types. It has been interesting to understand the meaning of key vocabulary including kilo and centi, and how we can use this when converting between different units. In our lessons, we have investigated the concept of measurement, which has involved forming a strong real life awareness of the weight, length and capacity of different items.

Year 5 have also been helping their community and environment by thinking of ways to encourage different species of birds into our natural spaces. Some of the children are excited to be decorating the outside of different bird boxes that have been donated by our local community. These will then be put up on our great gardening day later in the year. We hope our efforts will enable us to see some beautiful wildlife.

## **Year 6**

### History - A long, long, long time ago.

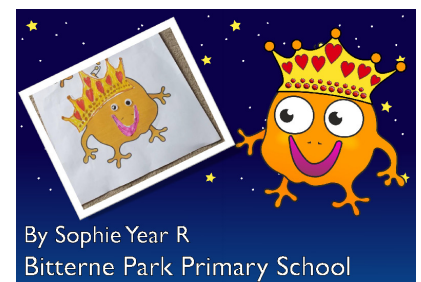
In History, Year 6 have been delving into the world of Ancient Civilisations. Initially, we analysed timelines and discovered exactly how long ago some of these civilisations existed (over 7000 years ago for some!). Once we understood just how ancient was ancient, we began to explore a variety of sources in order to infer as much about these groups of people as we could. Where did they live? Why did they live there? What kind of lives did they lead? This week, our learning will move on to evaluating these sources further and deciding just how reliable each of them are.

### Fiver Challenge

Year 6 have been getting very excited about this year's Fiver Challenge, establishing ground-breaking new ventures ready for the business world! From profitable products to bold brands to marvellous marketing, just how far can we take our £5? Look out for our stalls on the playground at the end of the school days.

## **Pip and Pap Coronation Winner**

Congratulations to Sophie (OB Year R) for the winning entry of our Pip and Pap Coronation Competition. Sophie will receive one of our Pip and Pap books as her prize.



## House Competitions

### Sports Day

Thank you to those who came to cheer our children on, it was so lovely to have so many parents supporting the children! We all gathered in our school houses to begin a day full of sports, starting with a variety of activities before moving on to the races. These included relay, sprinting and long-distance races. Everybody had a wonderful time, followed by a picnic on the school field.

1<sup>st</sup> – Unicorns

2<sup>nd</sup> – Phoenix

3<sup>rd</sup> – Centaurs

4<sup>th</sup> – Dragons

### Sponsored Walk

Once again our walking shoes were on and we were ready to go, this time the sun was shining even brighter on our morning walk. We came back stronger and ready to go this week!

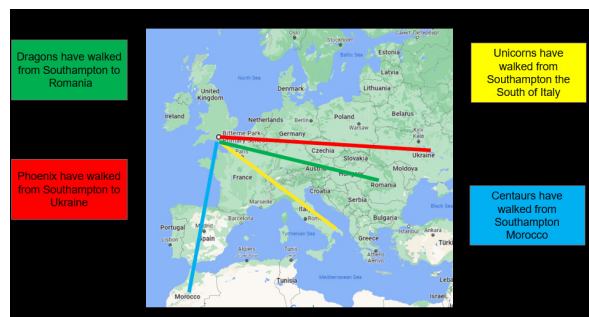
Please find below the results:

House	Total laps travelled	Miles
Unicorns	1444	288.8
Centaurs	1848	369.6
Phoenix	1742	348.4
Dragons	1531	306.2
Total as a School	6565	1313

Well done to the winning house.... CENTAURS!

Look at the map to see how far we have travelled across the world together as a team.

Thank you to all those that sponsored us on this journey. We have raised a total of £672.80.



### School Council

On Wednesday 17th May, our year 4 school councillors were invited to attend the 801st annual Mayor Making Ceremony. The whole experience was fascinating! The children listened to entertaining speeches from current councillors and heard wonderful performances from local bands and choirs. We were incredibly grateful to attend such a historical, important celebration which was made even better by a lovely picnic in the sunshine afterwards!

### Sanctuary Ambassadors

Our Sanctuary Ambassadors have been working alongside our School Councillors collecting pupil voice ideas linked to our upcoming Summer Fete. The children have been tasked with asking their

classes about the different stalls that they would like at this event and there have been some brilliant ideas to contribute to the planning of this fantastic event!

## After school clubs

After school schools will continue to run after the half term. The last week of clubs will be the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you for your continued support.

## Attendance

Thank you too 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 95.95%. If your child is too ill to attend school please contact the school office each morning that they are away from school so that we can correctly record the reason and so that we don't worry. Any absence from school without an explanation will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and will be investigated.

## Dates for your diary



- w/c 5<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 Multiplication Tables check
- w/c 12<sup>th</sup> June – Phonics Week
- 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, 9<sup>th</sup> June – Great Gardening Day
- Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Fiver Challenge Fete
- Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Residential to Skern Lodge
- Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> July – Year R and Year 4 Work Share – 2.30pm onwards
- Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July – Year 1 and Year 5 Work Share – 2.30pm onwards
- Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July – Year 2 and Year 6 Work Share – 2.30pm onwards
- Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July – Year 3 Work Share – 2.30pm onwards
- 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
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Have a wonderful break

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerida Montague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerida Montague

**Executive Headteacher**