

NEWS

from the Primary Phase



Friday 21st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As our first half term draws to a close, we have much to celebrate as always. The new school year began with us welcoming our ninth Reception cohort to the St Peter's community. After their 'stay and play' sessions on Monday 5th September, the children were excited for their first official day at 'big school.' It was a joy and privilege to greet them all, looking smart and school-ready in their brand-new uniforms. They settled into their classrooms brilliantly and have coped with the demands of a full school day from the off! I have been so impressed with their listening skills and willingness to share their ideas in our assemblies too. Well done Reception – we are so delighted that you have joined us.



This year, we have also welcomed Mrs Wyatt to our teaching team. Mrs Wyatt is a qualified Art teacher and will be delivering specialist Art lessons to Years 1-6 across each term. Those classes who have already benefited from her input have loved their sessions to date and are growing rapidly in skill and confidence.

Each Monday, we have gathered together in the hall for our weekly Liturgical Prayer time, during which we listen to and reflect upon Sunday's Gospel reading. This half term, we have heard a number of parables told by Jesus and have been able to draw out the spiritual messages for us today. The parables of 'The Lost Sheep' and 'The Prodigal Son' showed us how much we are loved by God, as well as His readiness to forgive our mistakes. We have heard that, with faith, everything is possible! We have reflected on the power of prayer and the importance of thanking God for the blessings we have been given. From the story of 'The Rich Man and Lazarus,' we recognised that God calls us to care for those who have less than we do. This prompted us to act and live out our faith by bringing in contributions for our local Foodbanks. Each family's donations enabled us to send significant quantities of goods to both Hope for Food and the Southbourne Foodbank. A special thank you goes to our team of Year 6 children who gave up their break and lunchtime to sort through the donations and create a wonderful display ahead of our Harvest Festival celebrations; thank you Caitlin, Jade, Nathan, Camila, Kitty, Luke, JJ and Nicol!



It was wonderful to be able to welcome so many parents and carers to our Harvest Festival Celebrations last week. The children were so excited to be able to share the songs, readings, poems and prayers they had prepared. They sung their hearts out and filled our school hall with pure joy – we were incredibly proud of them as always.

Continuing our faith mission to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves, we are supporting the Rotary Shoebox Scheme again this year. Carol, from the Southbourne Rotary Club, came to visit us in school this week to

launch the appeal. She was so impressed with our children's enthusiasm for the campaign and the beautiful manners they demonstrated whilst finding out more about how they could get involved. If you would like to support the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, then leaflets are available from the school office, along with a limited number of shoeboxes. For those of you who would like to get started this half-term, please see the picture below for information regarding suggested contents to include:

Rotary District 1110
A present with love from

Please circle who the shoebox is intended for:
BOY 1-3 4-7 8-11 12-15 GIRL

Rotary
Rotary is a worldwide voluntary organisation of business and professional people who are dedicated to "service above self", helping others throughout the world, promoting all that is good in our society and our aim is for peace the world over.

Rotary has no religious or political affiliations.

There are over one million Rotarians in over 32,000 Clubs in 200 countries worldwide.

If you like having fun and helping other people at the same time, why not find out more about Rotary?

Visit: www.rotary1110.org.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

For disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania

DISTRICT 1110 SHOEBOX SCHEME
(Rotary District 1110 Trust Fund) Reg Charity No 1064463

For more information contact:
LOCAL CONTACT:
TELEPHONE:
FINAL DATE FOR RECEIPT OF SHOEBOXES:

AGE 1 - 3 YEARS (Boy or girl)
CONTENTS - choose from:
Small soft toy, picture book, hat, gloves, socks, soap, hairbrush, flannel, toothbrush and toothpaste, plus any other suitable small items.

AGE 4 - 7 YEARS (Boy or girl)
CONTENTS - choose from:
Educational book and game, simple jigsaw, ball, Lego, crayons and colouring book, hat, gloves, scarf, socks, soap, hairbrush, flannel, toothbrush and toothpaste, toy vehicle, small doll, skipping rope.

AGE 8 - 11 YEARS (Boy or girl)
CONTENTS - choose from:
Educational book and game, jigsaw, ball, card game, felt tip pens, pencils, pencil case, drawing book, hat, gloves, scarf, socks, wide toothed comb, soap, flannel, toothbrush and toothpaste, sports item, skipping rope, hair accessories.

AGE 12 - 15 YEARS (Boy or girl)
CONTENTS - choose from:
Educational book and game, playing cards, geometry set, pens, pencils and case, pencil sharpener, rubber, writing/drawing book, hat, gloves, scarf, socks, wide toothed comb, soap, flannel, toothbrush and toothpaste, washbag, hair accessories, sports item.

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX
● International Customs require items which must be for education, health and hygiene purposes.
● All items must be new or in 'as new' condition.

DO NOT INCLUDE
● Battery powered items
● War related items, Toys, books, guns, knives etc
● Large items of clothing or shoes
● Books of a religious, racial or political nature
● Food of any kind
● Liquids of any kind
● Sweets of any kind
● Medicines
● Large toys
● Sharp items

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

HOW TO MAKE UP YOUR SHOEBOX
Please cover your box with wrapping paper, ensuring the lid is separately wrapped for customs' purposes.

Do not wrap individual items - just place them in your box.
Use an elastic band to secure the box.
Include a Christmas card and maybe a letter or photo if you wish.

Stick the reverse side of this panel to the top of your box, ensuring that you have clearly marked the age group and whether it is intended for a boy or girl.

Please self-tape to the top of the box a donation of £1 towards transportation and administration costs.
Any surplus will be used for the benefit of disadvantaged children worldwide.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT BOXES WHICH ARE LARGER THAN:
33 x 20 x 15 centimetres
13 x 8 x 6 inches

Our wonderful PTA hosted a Cheese and Wine night this week to welcome new members of our school community. It was lovely to hear new ideas and suggestions from other parents and carers. The PTA are busy planning a number of events throughout the school year in order to continue raising vital funds for the benefit of our children. I am very grateful for the work they do and time they give in service of the school. As always, we welcome any new members or offers to support individual events.

There have been a number of enriching and exciting school trips and experiences taking place this half term. Year 3 enjoyed their visit to the New Forest Wildlife Park, where they were able to observe wolves closely! Our Year 5 children looked fabulous on their 'Egyptian Day,' and had a fantastic time at the Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester. Our school community was filled with evacuees yesterday as our Year 6 children found out about the experience of British children during the Second World War. I hope you enjoy reading further news from across the Primary Phase in the pages that follow, including updates from each year group as well as our Forest Schools programme and news from our recent sporting and musical endeavours!

I wish you all a safe and restful half-term break,

Liz Pritchard

EWN@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

Important Reminders

Healthy Eating

An important part of our curriculum is our focus on a balanced diet and the role of exercise in promoting healthy living. Those children who are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are offered a free piece of fruit or veg every morning. If your child is particular about which fruits or veg they eat, then please feel free to provide an alternative in their book bag each day. Although the free fruit or veg scheme ceases for our Key Stage 2 pupils, Years 3-6 are also encouraged to have a snack mid-morning to fuel them up until their lunch. However, we have noticed a wide variety of foods creeping into our morning snack time. **Please can we remind parents that this should be a proper fruit or vegetable snack so that we can ensure we are being fair and consistent across the school.** If your child gets particularly hungry, then this could comprise of more than one piece of fruit.

In addition to this, a number of parents have raised the issue of sweeties being given out each time a child has a birthday. Although this is a lovely gesture, sent with the best of intentions, it can result in children taking home a number of bags of sweets in one week on some occasions. **When it is your child's birthday, their class teacher will**

make a fuss of them – the class will sing happy birthday and they will have the opportunity to share their birthday news. **Hopefully this will help them to feel special without the need for sweets and cakes to come in.** It is also a challenge and concern for us to distribute food items of this nature where so many children have particular, and in some cases extremely severe, allergies.

Before and After School

Please could we ask that you **do not allow your children to play on the playground equipment prior to the start of the school day or at pick-up time.** When we use this equipment during the school day, it is with full adult supervision and in the knowledge that our Paediatric First Aiders are on site. Class teachers have expressed their concern that they have witnessed unsafe play as well as the misuse of school equipment at these times. We are worried that a serious accident could occur.

It is important that we ask you to leave the school site swiftly once we have handed your children back to you at the end of the school day. This allows for the close safeguarding of those children due to remain on site for after school activities or clubs. There have been a number of First Aid incidents occurring on site well beyond the end of the school day and parents expecting that a First Aider will still be on hand to help their child.

Our morning routine is designed to facilitate a calm start to the school day so that the children are arriving in a manner that means they are ready to begin their learning straight away. If they have been playing on (or with) our playtime equipment, this has often not been the case and we are finding that some of our resources are being lost or damaged too. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support with this.

Playtime Routines

Now that we are a full Primary Phase, and no longer operating under the restrictions of COVID regulations, we have been able to review and develop our playtime routines.

Our youngest children (Reception and Year 1) have their morning playtime first, running 10:00 – 10:15am. All other year groups (Years 2 – 6) have their morning break 10:20am – 10:35am. Each year group has their own designated space on our playground to enjoy, meaning that our children are able to mix with peers from across their cohort in a spacious area and play together safely.

Each year group's space on the playground is monitored by members of staff from their year group team and staff now all wear high vis jackets. This means that there are always familiar, trusted adults close at hand and easily identifiable. Please remind your child/ren of this and encourage them to speak to an adult if they have any difficulties at playtime – it is much better to address these as and when they occur and it will not be the case that they could not find anyone to help them.



At lunchtime, our Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 children eat first and then enjoy half an hour on the playground, again within their designated space. Years 2, 4 and 6 play first before making their way into the dining hall. The dining hall is a busy place, with seven year groups to get through the hotplate and 420 children in total sitting down to enjoy their lunch and social time over the lunch hour. Our Caterlink team serve those children who are having a school lunch, listening carefully to the children's wishes within the meal that you have selected. We have a wonderful team of Dining Rooms Assistants who ensure that our systems and routines run smoothly. They also support our children brilliantly and look out for the deserving recipients of our 'Lunchtime Awards' which are given out during our weekly Achievement Assemblies. In addition to this, each year group is supervised by a member of staff from their year group team so that, once again, there are always familiar, trusted adults close at hand to help them.

Parking

We continue to receive a high number of concerns from our local community regarding the impact of school-related parking on residents and on the safety of our children. Petersfield Road, Cheriton Avenue and Bartlett Drive are being particularly affected, with parking at school drop-off and collection times causing bottle necks and hazards. **If you live within walking, cycling or scooting distance of the school, then please consider leaving your car at home.** At our morning drop-off time, there are many other parking options available to us. Other roads in the surrounding area do

not have parking restrictions until after 11am, including Warnford Road, Durrington Road, Meon Road, Colemore Road, and Ovington Avenue. There are also numerous streets available further afield if you are willing and able to park a slightly greater distance from the school and walk (or scoot) in from there. **If everyone can do their bit to alleviate some of the pressure on Petersfield Road, Cheriton Avenue and Bartlett Drive, then I hope that we can reduce the chances of a terrible accident occurring.** It is great to see that a number of families have taken up cycling to school this year and that our bike racks and scooter pods are so well-used.

Absence Requests

There has been a significant increase in the number of parent requests for absence from school. The total number of unauthorised absences requested between September and December is already at 86 days. Please remember that in order for children to learn effectively and make good progress in school, it is essential that they attend regularly and consistently.

Diary Dates

Friday 21 st October	Staff Training Day - School closed to all children
Monday 24 th - Friday 28 th October	Half-Term Week
Friday 4 th November	PTA Cake Sale - Reception Classes
Monday 14 th November	Virtual Parents' Evening, 3:15pm - 6:30pm
Wednesday 16 th November	Virtual Parents' Evening, 3:15pm - 6:30pm
Thursday 17 th November	Virtual Parents' Evening, 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday 17 th November	Year 4 Trip to Fort Nelson
Friday 18 th November	PTA Quiz Night, 7pm
Wednesday 23 rd November	Year 2 Trip to Marwell Zoo
Thursday 1 st December	PTA Cake Sale - Year 1
Friday 2 nd December	Staff Training Day - School closed to all children
Wednesday 7 th December	Panto - Bournemouth Pavilion - Whole Primary Phase
Thursday 8 th December	Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 8 th December	PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 12 th December	Flu Immunisations Available
Monday 12 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity, 1:30pm and 6:30pm
Tuesday 13 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity, 9:30am and 6:30pm
Wednesday 14 th December	Year 3 and 4 Nativity, 1:30pm and 6:30pm
Thursday 15 th December	Year 5 and 6 Nativity, 1:30pm and 6:30pm
Friday 16 th December	School Closes for Christmas Break
SPRING TERM 2023	
Monday 2 nd January	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 3 rd January	Spring Term Commences

Reception News



Reception have had a wonderful start to the year. We have been getting to know our new friends in the class and building on these relationships. Our topic has been 'All About Me.' We have talked about how we are the same and how we are different and celebrated the joy in our uniqueness. We have looked carefully at what makes us unique and have noticed so much about what makes us, us. Time looking in the mirror to really examine our face has been amazing. Sometimes we don't notice the small things like the colour of our eyes!

We have had lots of discussions about our families too. The children have chatted away so happily about their families on our communication phones - setting up house in our home corners and creating their homes with the small world.

We love to paint in reception and have introduced primary and secondary colours through mixing which has been messy fun. See if your child can say which colour yellow and red makes, or blue and yellow!

Autumn is such a fantastic season and we have enjoyed going on Autumn walks on our field, collecting leaves and acorns. Thank you to all the parents who have embraced the request to go on an Autumn walk and have sent in some beautifully coloured Autumn leaves and conkers. We have used these natural materials in our maths lessons to create patterns and to count onto our 5 frames. We have even created our own Autumn trees inspired by the artist Kandinsky, cutting out different sized circles to create an eye-catching picture. Using scissors is a tricky skill to master and we are working on being experts with this tool! Outside, we have been increasing our fine motor control by using tweezers to extract pumpkin seeds. Wonderful fun!



We have begun to build upon our knowledge and love of God and have looked at all that God has created in the world. As a finale to this unit, we have said thank you to God for all He has created. This has to have been the best day at school so far as it spread pure joy and appreciation amongst all of the children and staff. We have loved to see the joy and grace with which the children are taking on their class worship at such a young age. Well done, Reception!

We have also begun to read! Yay! Every child has embraced our phonics with excitement and purpose. They love the mnemonics for each phoneme and have been buoyed by the repetition in lessons alongside new learning. Reading practise has started and it is so wonderful that our children are able to have small group reading 3 times a week. We have seen such progress already.

In maths, we have been looking at lots of mathematical language that will set us up for understanding mathematical concepts. We have been playing with capacity, length and height and talking about more, less and the same. Noticing amounts has been fundamental to our learning and the use of 5 and 10 frames has also added so much mathematical understanding to our youngest learners. If you are personally interested in how we teach maths, in particular, subitising please see Karen Wilding's video: [What is subitising and WHY is it so important in young children's maths? - YouTube](#). Karen does a number of free courses over the year if you are interested as a parent.

All of the children have worked incredibly hard this half term and we wish you all a very restful break,

The Reception Team

Year 1 News

What a wonderful start we have had to year 1! Our topic book this half term is 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey. The book explores the adventures of a toy superhero. The children loved bringing in and talking about their favourite toys as well as writing about their real-life superhero. Thank you so much for your support in sending things in this half term – it has really helped to create an exciting learning atmosphere.

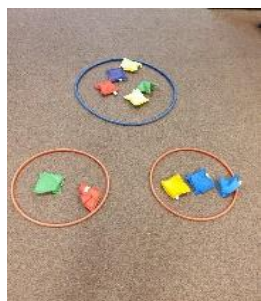
Throughout our Literacy work, we have really focussed on practising using finger spaces, full stops and capital letters. From thought-bubbles in comics to labelling our new evil vegetable characters, there have been lots of opportunities for the children to demonstrate their learning!



An exciting job for staff this half term has been implementing our new phonics scheme, Little Wandle. Firstly, thank you so much for attending the workshop and supporting us in our teething issues during this transition time. Year 1 are really getting into the swing of our reading and phonics lessons and we have now learnt our first four phase 5 sounds (ay, ea, ou, oy). It has been amazing to see the children already trying to use these sounds in their daily learning and even whilst choosing. Please remember that phonics homework is set on Purple Mash each week for you to work on our current words and sounds – recapping these daily at home will have a huge impact on the long-term retention of phonic knowledge.

In RE this half term, the children have been looking at our school mission statement and learning about the story of Creation. We have learnt about the different ways that we can praise God and have written our own psalms in response to this. We thought carefully about ways in which we can thank God for his creation including giving food to charity – we were very excited to be able to live out this mission during our harvest celebration.

Linking to our work on bringing positivity into God's world, we have studied two real-life super heroes - Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We have discussed how life for our amazing nurses and NHS staff has changed over the years compared to their Victorian counter parts.



During our maths lessons, there has been a mission to explore everything there is about numbers 1 – 10. We have discussed ordering a group of numbers within 10 from smallest to largest as well as comparing 2 numbers using our cheeky crocodiles < and >. This week, the children have been introduced to a part-part-whole model. This is where we explore how to break up a number into 2 parts, for example: four could be split into 2 + 2, 1 + 3 or 4 + 0. The children had a blast using hoops and bean bags to create their own part-part-whole models. This model will support us as we learn about addition over the coming weeks.

Year 1 have been super Scientists this half-term, carrying out some exciting investigations. We have explored which materials would be best for Traction Man's new diving suit. As well as this, we investigated absorption to find the perfect material for a new Evil Dish Cloth. We heard some great adjectives to describe what happened to the cloth when emerged in water!

Once again, we would like to say a big thank you to you all for supporting home learning during this half term. It has been lovely to see so many children sharing with us what they have been practising at home. Just a reminder the weekly homework in Year 1 is:

- Reading daily (minimum 3 times a week) with your ebook and 'share with me' book.
- 1 Mathletics lesson
- Re-cap as often as possible of our Little Wandle sounds and words (found on purple mash).

Please could you ensure that you are making comments about your child's reading in their yellow reading record – we collect reading records in each Thursday.

Many thanks, The Year 1 Team.

P.S. Next half term, we will be making crafts with papier-mâché. Any spare newspapers you have to donate would be greatly appreciated!

Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic first half term! We have been so proud of how hard they are all working and how engaged they have been in our first topic, All At Sea. In Literacy, we have been learning about the tragic events of the SS Forfarshire and Grace Darling's brave rescue of the survivors. The children have been able to write a recount of the events as well as take on the role of Grace Darling and write a diary entry in the role of a survivor.

The children have also engaged in our Power of Reading text, The Secret of Black Rock, by Joe Todd-Stanton and have absolutely loved listening to Erin's adventures. We were so impressed with how well they did in their independent write when recounting the adventures of Erin Pike.

During Science, the children have been investigating materials and their properties. We have been working scientifically by using our observation and classifying skills. During these lessons, we have looked at different materials such as sand, fabric, metal, wood and paper and discovering why these materials are suitable for the object they are made out of. We then moved on to researching life boats and created our own. Thank you for your generous donations of the resources the children needed!



We ended our topic this week with a visit from the RNLI who spoke to us about the roles and responsibilities of sea rescues today. The children have also created their own lighthouses in Design and Technology where they designed, made and evaluated their models.

In RE, the children have been thinking about Creation and have listened to the stories of Noah and Jonah. From this learning, we have recognised different ways of how to look after God's creation. Some of the children suggested that doing a litter pick would demonstrate this. We then carried this out on our school field.



Thank you for a brilliant first half term, Year 2. We are looking forward to learning new and exciting things together throughout the year.

Miss Pepper and Miss Morris

Year 3 News



Wow! What a busy first half term it has been for everyone in Year 3. Much of our literacy work this term has been based on 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett, and has allowed the children to explore kenning poetry, non-chronological reports as well as alternative endings to stories. The children have enjoyed using sentence strips to create and extend sentences using co-ordinating conjunctions. This has enabled us to write some super sentences about wolves!

In art, our children have received specialist taught lessons in the art room and have explored using different types of pencil lead to create shading densities. We then used our new skill-set to create a drawing of a wolf!

I am sure that the highlight for all of us during our topic, was our school trip to the New Forest Wildlife Park. For many children, the experience of being on a coach together was a big event, and to then be topped off with seeing real-life wolves was the icing on the cake!

To begin our science unit, Animals Including Humans, the children were challenged to create a skeleton using resources found in our outside areas. We then learnt the name and purpose of some of the most important bones in our bodies and labelled this information on a more detailed pasta skeleton! Following this, we investigated the question, 'Do people with the longest femur jump the furthest?' We thought carefully about ways in which we could make our test fair and recorded our results in a table using standard units of measurement.



Moving our arms, feeling our biceps and triceps contracting and relaxing, was a revelation to many children, with many oohs as the biceps contracted and bulged. As we focussed on a balanced diet, the children learnt about the 5 main food groups, and you may notice them moving food around their plates as they think about what proportions of these food groups should be on them!



In computing, the children have learnt how branching databases work, whilst also thinking about how they are used within our daily lives. By identifying attributes of objects such as colour or physical features, the children created their own branching databases on JIT5 (an online learning platform). The children really enjoyed these activities, and helped each other develop resilience, as they worked their way through their databases, debugging them when they didn't work in the way that they had intended.

After exploring 3-digit numbers, by using practical maths equipment, and identifying what each digit was worth, the children quickly became confident at representing a number pictorially, using base 10 and place value counters. Number bonds have been central to our work in maths, where we have been learning to use an empty number line, to add on 1s, 10s and 100s to a 3-digit number. Many children are now regularly using Mathletics to complete weekly homework activities to help consolidate class activities. Well done to those children who have managed to gain Mathletics certificates! TTRockstars is also helping the children to get faster at their times tables, and it has been great to see momentum growing and more children completing their daily five-minute TTRockstars homework.



Through the teaching of the 'Creation' unit within R.E, children have learnt about Jesus being baptised, and how we are called to help look after God's creation. As a class, the children shared their experiences of baptism. We thought carefully about the symbols of baptism as well as the role of Godparents. Children listened to the scripture of how Jesus called his first disciples, and then discussed how the disciples would have felt when this happened.

Spanish lessons have taught us how to greet new people and to ask each other how they are feeling. Our knowledge of the numbers and colours are regularly recapped, and mini -games have been played for consolidation.

Now half-term is here, it gives us all time to reflect on how much has been achieved in a relatively short time. Moving from Year 2 to Year 3 is always a big change. We hope that you all have a good break and get a chance to be out and about, and that the children have time to play!

Best wishes, The Year 3 Team

Year 4 News

Year 4 have had a wonderful start to the year settling into our new routines and enjoying being back with our friends. We kicked off the term with our 'Australia' topic, exploring all things Australian including Aboriginal dreamtime and also dot art.



We then read our first text of the half term, Rainbow Serpent, an Aboriginal myth explaining how the earth was created. Before rewriting it, the children got creative and turned the myth into a drama performance using props to help them retell the key events. We focussed on using intonation and expression in our voices. We then created our own myths focusing on exciting vocabulary choices and a range of sentence openers to engage the reader. To draw our topic to a close, we conducted our own research on Australia presenting our most exciting facts to the rest of the class and then writing an information text, using organisational features such as: a title, subheadings and paragraphs.

This term in science, we have been exploring living things. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to explore our local environment and we thoroughly enjoyed hunting for living things on our field. The children were then able to identify why certain creatures might be where they were found. Throughout the topic of Australia, we have built on our scientific understanding of living things, adaptation and their classification, applying this to the climate of Australia.

In Geography, we have been exploring the different hemispheres of our planet and how this impacts the climate, the day light hours, as well as comparing the different time zones in relation to Australia and the United Kingdom. To support our grid referencing skills, we have also looked at different landmarks in Australia, telling each other the location of these using co-ordinates on a map.



In maths, we have been introduced to 4-digit numbers and are becoming increasingly confident in adding and subtracting them using the column method. We have enjoyed going outside to practice our methods on the playground using chalk too! We have also been working hard on our fluency and quick recall of times table facts. The children have been getting very competitive already about their 'Rock Status' on Times Table Rock Stars.

In RE, we have been focusing on our big question 'How are we made in the image and likeness of God?' unpicking parts of our creation story and exploring the qualities that God gave us to be more like him. We have been using this to consider how we can be good stewards in protecting and caring for our planet the way God intended.

Thank you for all your support so far in Year 4. We are looking forward to another fabulous half term after the break!

The Year 4 Team x

Year 5 News

At the start of Year 5, we introduced our new topic, Awful Egyptians, in which the children spent their first day decoding the Egyptian writing method of hieroglyphics, building pyramids and learning about what it was like to live in the Egyptian times! In more recent weeks, the children have been looking into Howard Carter's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun and were extremely excited to have the opportunity to crawl through our very own St Peter's version that popped up overnight! It was such a joy to see Year 5 so keen to get hands-on with their learning and this really helped to bring their subsequent newspaper articles to life!



Year 5 have been working really hard to earn themselves enough silver cards to partake in our topic day – it is safe to say that they have smashed this goal. We had a wonderful day of topic-based activities, including: decoding a hieroglyphic treasure hunt, creating mummies using clay and toilet roll as well as retelling Egyptian tales with the use of props in our story sacks. We were particularly impressed with the effort that had been put into creating authentic Egyptian costumes - they all looked amazing and we thank you for going to such trouble.



In science, we have been undertaking some exciting experiments linked to our theme and have even mummified our own tomatoes! The children spent time learning about the Egyptian mummification process and understanding how natron was used as a preservative to stop a pharaoh's body from decaying. They then went on to make their own natron and used this to mummify a tomato. We will see after 70 days whether our tomatoes have managed to be preserved or whether they have gone rotten and mouldy!

Towards the end of our first half term together, Year 5 hosted Mary and Susan from the Christchurch Food Festival Education Trust who led an exciting, Egyptian based, cookery demonstration and tasting. We were all very pleased to hear that lots of the children enjoyed dishes that they were apprehensive about trying – the Egyptian Fish Tagine was a clear favourite! We can't wait to hear that you have helped cook some of the delicious dishes for your families!



To further enrich our learning, this week, we visited the Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester. It was great for the children to be able to further build on their existing knowledge of the Egyptians and see a range of artefacts and replicas of mummies. They represented the school brilliantly and it was lovely to draw our Egyptian theme to an exciting end.

We wanted to take the time to say a huge thank you for making our trips and topic days possible this half term. We couldn't do it without you and we are extremely grateful to have such a supportive parent community that prioritises every learning opportunity.

Have a fabulous, restful half term.

The Year 5 Team.

Year 6 News

This half term, children in Year 6 have been learning about the First World War through our Power of Reading text, *War Horse*, by Michael Morpurgo. The story itself is written from the perspective of Joey who is transformed from a farm horse to a cavalry mount. Children in Year 6 have enjoyed following Joey's journey and the difficulties he faces along the way. In Literacy, we have used the text as inspiration for our own descriptive paragraphs, focussing on Joey's charge into battle. To do this, we have been considering how to build tension and atmosphere into our writing through the use of rhetorical questions and appropriate cliff-hangers. To add detail and interest, we have also been focussing on our use of relative clauses and direct speech, ensuring these are both punctuated accurately.

In history, we have been fascinated by the events of the First World War and the impact this had on the wider world. We started our topic by learning about the four main causes of the First World War: militarism, alliances, imperialism and nationalism. Using a range of primary sources, we identified the challenges soldiers faced whilst living and working in the trenches by studying letters and written testimonies. The Battle of the Somme was arguably one of the most significant turning points of the war and also one of the deadliest battles in British history. The children in Year 6 were truly shocked by the offensive strategy and number of fatalities and were keen to identify how communities across the world have remembered those who fought. In particular, we discussed the poppy's symbolism as well as the significance of the cenotaph as a memorial and the two-minute silence we still observe today. This has led to us creating our own war-themed silhouette artwork which will be displayed in wooden frames we are constructing in DT. After half-term, we hope to sell these frames to raise money for the Royal British Legion.



To end our topic, we learnt about the Armistice and subsequent Treaty of Versailles, considering how this may have contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War. To learn what life was like for civilians during the war, we enjoyed taking part in our very own 'Evacuee Day.' We considered how evacuees would have felt when separated from their families as well as discussing the importance of the Home Front in fighting the war. As part of this, we learnt about the Dig for Victory campaign as well as the Make do and Mend pamphlets which were distributed due to shortages and the need for rationing. Year 6 replicated this by practising their skills of finger knitting in order to create woollen bookmarks and bracelets.



In Science, Year 6 have been learning about the human circulatory system and the impact of exercise and lifestyle on the way our bodies function. Year 6 enjoyed making their own smoothies to represent different blood cells as well as planning their own investigation to identify the effects of exercise on our heart rate. Year 6 were also fortunate enough to take part in a healthy eating workshop delivered by the AFCB Community Sports Trust where we learnt about different food groups and the need for a balanced diet.

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the school year – we have been truly impressed with their enthusiasm and engagement across all areas of the curriculum.

We hope you have a wonderful half term holiday.
The Year 6 Team.

Music News

It has been a really busy half term of wonderful music making! Peripatetic instrumental and singing lessons are now up and running, with 110 children taking up these opportunities! Lessons are now completely full for piano, drums, ukulele and singing. There are a few spaces remaining for violin (years 3-6) and brass (year 6). Please contact Mrs Byles directly if you would like to enquire about lessons on these instruments – lbs@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

It has been wonderful to resume our music extra-curricular activities too. These are free of charge, and take place in the music room from 12:00 – 12:30pm:

Orchestra – Years 5 and 6 – Monday

Choir – Years 5 and 6 – Wednesday

Choir – Years 3 and 4 – Thursday

The choirs are busy rehearsing for a number of Christmas performances. Letters will be coming out about each individual performance, but dates to note are:

Weds 9th Nov – BSMA Carols rehearsal – Year 6 choir only – 1:30pm – 4:00pm (late pick up from Iford)

Tues 22nd Nov – BSMA Carols rehearsal – Year 6 choir only – 8:30am – 12:00pm (early drop off at the Pavilion)

Tues 22nd Nov – BSMA Carols concert – Year 6 choir only – 6:30pm – 8:15pm (drop off/pick up at the Pavilion)

Weds 23rd Nov – Laguna Hotel Tinsel and Turkey Carols – Years 3, 4 and 5 choir – afternoon (transport provided)

Thurs 1st Dec – Advent Service – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 choir – 6:30pm – 8:15pm (Our Lady Queen Of Peace Church)

Year 5 have been loving their First Access Brass lessons with Mr Bacon this term. All Year 5 children are having the opportunity in class to learn either the cornet, trumpet or trombone. These lessons will continue until Christmas, but will now be on **Thursdays**, so please ensure children have their instruments in school on Thursdays.



Sport News



Eight boys from year 6 recently took part in the Bournemouth schools' football tournament at Littledown. We completed our group stage with 3 wins and 1 defeat, managing to beat Muscliff, St James and Bethany, before losing 1-0 in a tight match against Epiphany. This saw us finish second in our group and move into the later round of fixtures. We found this stage of the competition more challenging, but the boys continued to show excellent effort and determination and were a credit to the school throughout. Well done to Elliot, Jack, J-J, Oliver, Max, Luke, Igor and Max S.



The year 5 football team started with a 1-0 defeat to a very strong St James but managed to beat St Lukes and St Walburga's both 2-1, seeing us finish second in the group once again. The following fixtures saw us play St Marks, Stourfield and Park, which saw us unbeaten with 2 draws and 1 victory to finish the day strongly. The boys were a credit to St Peter's and they should all be proud of their achievements. Well done to Fionn, Jacob, Ollie, Theo B, Theo E, Thomas G, Thomas L, Liam, Kasper and J-K.



Eight children from year 6 have recently undertaken 'Bronze Ambassador' training, a scheme designed to empower potential young sport leaders with the skills they need to lead playtime sessions back at school with our younger children. They learnt a variety of playground games, the different skills set that a leader requires, how to use communication to improve their sessions and developed a plan to bring back to school that they would be able to implement. Igor, Jack, Sophie, Luke, Amelie, Faye, Emmie and Nathan proved themselves to be excellent leaders throughout!

Forest School News

As we started this half term, summer sunshine shone on our field and bees and other insects were busy pollinating plants. We welcomed groups from RKH, 1JD and 2KP.

Our first session saw us all enjoy a new nature scavenger hunt game in which teams picked a card that would ask them to find something and bring it back to exchange for a token. It could be something specific like a yellow flower, or more thought-provoking like "something pointy". The children all really enjoyed this challenge and found a variety of interesting items!

Subsequent weeks lead to the children enjoying traditional Forest School favourite activities such as bug hunting, balancing on the slack-line and tree-rubbing. Lots of children enjoyed making their own clay goblins and then many had a go at making somewhere for them to live.

As we became aware of the first signs of autumn, lots of children really enjoyed den building and there were many fantastic creations made with our branches, tarps and ropes.

Years 1 and 2 also enjoyed campfire cooking and made their own Forest School doughnuts, using flour, water, brown sugar and a bit of oil. A simple recipe, but so yummy! This was the first time we have tried cooking them at Forest School, but it definitely won't be our last!

We all celebrated our last sessions with marshmallows toasted on the campfire, to accompany our usual hot chocolates and reflection around the Fire Circle. A very fulfilling half term of Forest School that was enjoyed by all!

We hope you all enjoy the half term holiday and why not try a nature walk to spot the colourful autumn leaves on the trees? It is very good for your mental health!

Mr Motte- Forest School Leader



Bikeability

We have commenced a new programme for Bikeability. This half term, Level 1 training has been offered to our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 children. A total of 65 children successfully completed their training - well done to all who took part.

In the Spring Term we will be offering further training for those children who have already completed their Level 1 training:

- Level 2 training will be offered to Year 5 and Year 6 children
- Level 3 training will be offered to those Year 6 children who have completed Level 2 training.

If there is a demand we will look to offer further Level 1 training in the Summer term.



News from Our Community

Congratulations to Taylor (6RA) who has been chosen to take part in the Pavilion Pantomime this year! We are tremendously proud of Taylor and look forward to hopefully seeing her on stage when we all journey to enjoy 'Beauty and the Beast' on Wednesday 7th December!