

Autumn Term 1— Newsletter

Friday 15th October 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy start to our school year and I would just like to say a big thank you to parents for supporting the school by being on time when bringing and collecting your children from school. 2021 has been another challenging year for us all, but all of the children have coped very well with returning back to school and are working very hard to catch up on the time they have lost in class over the last 18 months or so. We are all very proud of them!

As we enter Autumn and the weather gets colder and wetter, can I please ask that you make sure your child(ren) have a warm coat and suitable footwear when coming to school. We will be taking them outside for some fresh air everyday unless it is raining very heavily. This is especially important at the moment so that children do not spend all day in their classrooms. Please also remember that you must keep your child at home if they are unwell. If they have a fever, are coughing or have a loss of taste or smell, you must take them for a Covid Test. If your child has been sick, they must not come to school for 48 hours.

On behalf of all the staff and governors of our school, we hope you all have a lovely half term holiday and we will see back in school on Monday 25th October 2021.

Best Wishes, Mrs Bailey



School Meals

As the weather is getting a little cooler now, parents may want their child to have a school dinner. The cost of a school dinner is £2.30 and we have already recently sent home a copy of our new, exciting menu, which is also available for you to view on the school website. If you would like to change your child's meal arrangements, please contact a member of the office team. If your child has school meals, you are able to help your child to select their meal choice using the School Gateway app up until 8.00am each day. Alternatively, your child can make his/her own choice when he arrives in school. You can find the School Gateway app in the iStore (Apple phones) or the Play Store (Android phones). If you need any help downloading and installing this app, please speak to a member of the office team.

What is a healthy school meal?

A healthy school meal will contain one or more portions of **vegetables** or salad as an accompaniment every day with at least three different fruits and three different vegetables each week. There is an emphasis on wholegrain foods in place of refined carbohydrates and making water the drink of choice.





Essential Information for school

Could parents/carers please ensure that the school office has your most up to date contact numbers and addresses to ensure that we can keep in contact with you, especially if your child is ill.

A very warm welcome to Harper— Our new School Therapy Dog



The children will be able to benefit from her both educationally and emotionally, increasing their understanding of responsibility and developing empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. We hope the children can take great enjoyment from interactions with her. Many of the children across school currently enjoy saying hello to her from afar and watching her chase her ball or just watch her when she is out on one of her walks!

We have developed a risk assessment and a policy that outlines how we will care for and manage Harper and her activities in school. These can be viewed on our Therapy Dog page on the school website.



Although Harper will not be visiting classes just yet, she will be undertaking some small tasks to get her used to the children. Please ensure that any dog allergies are reported to the office together with the usual medical evidence to support this. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that there are no further allergies to report in relation to Harper. If your child has a fear of dogs, please could you also let the school office know.

Nursery

The children in Nursery have all settled amazingly well and are really enjoying their time in school! The children have been busy in their role play kitchen this term and have been making Mrs Mistry many cups of tea and slices of cake as well as starting to practice their scissor skills to cut patterns into paper. The outdoor area has also been incredibly popular as children are starting to notice and explore the changes in the weather, particularly the heavy rain whilst enjoying colour mixing and jumping in the puddles. It has also been a delight to end our first half term with a trip to the Botanical Gardens learning all about Autumn!



Reception



The Reception classes have had a fantastic start to the year with children settling in well and new friendships forming. We have spent a lot of time learning all about 'Ourselves' and talking about our families and who we live with. The children really enjoyed taking part in our circle times, waiting for their turn to talk and carefully listening to each other. We have also introduced our first 'sight words' and have learnt 14 words already! Something that has made the teachers very proud. In Maths we have been enjoying looking at patterns and making these using different objects! We have also used potato printing to make colour and shape patterns and even used some natural objects from a nature walk to create repeated patterns. It has been a very busy but fun half term and we are all looking forward to learning about 'The three little pigs' after the half term holiday!

Year 1

The Year One children went on a trip to the Leicester Museums and Galleries where they learnt about toys from the past and toys of today. The children also learned about playground games of the past as well as rhymes to play along with. They looked at the different materials used overtime to make toys. They had lots of fun playing with these toys and experiencing new games. The children's behaviour was exemplary and they were fantastic ambassadors for their school. In English they have been writing an innovated ending to the story- Kipper's Toy Box and next week they will be writing a diary entry from the view point of Kipper's feelings in this story. In Maths the children have been improving their number sense with numbers up to 30, looking at partitioning, odd and even numbers, sequencing, writing and representing these numbers with various manipulatives. In P.E. they have been improving their ball skills and learning about the importance of warming up, cooling down and having an awareness of their heartbeat during and after exercise. In R.E. they have been looking at the festival of Harvest and what it means to share and be thankful.



Year 2

What an amazing start to the year we have had in Year 2! In science the we have thoroughly enjoyed carrying out experiments including the 'bread' experiment which has allowed the children to observe the changes in the bread after touching it with 'clean' and 'dirty' hands and learning the importance of hygiene. In English lessons the children have learnt about the story 'Dogger'. They have innovated the story and the children have also been improving /extending their sentences by using adjectives and conjunctions. They have all created their own endings to the story and we have thoroughly enjoyed reading them to each other. In class, we have been learning Phase 5 sounds in phonics to prepare for their Phonics Screening Check in November. Please support your children by listening to them read daily, it really does make a huge difference. Throughout all the subjects we have been practicing our oracy skills by using sentence stems, talking with our partners and using an appropriate tone of voice. What a busy term we have had and we look forward to next term!



Year 3

This half term Year 3 have settled well into Key Stage 2. We have learnt about the Stone Age and enjoyed a Stone Age workshop. We made pre-historic pots, stamped a coin, created cave paintings and dressed up as Stone Age people. We have also been learning about predators in Science and enjoyed our trip to The Bird on the Hand Sanctuary where we got to meet and hold different birds. In English, we have explored speech punctuation and we have also written a non-chronological report on a pre-historic animal. In maths, we have been practising place value, addition and subtraction and in PE we have practised our ball skills in a variety of different ways. Well done Year 3!

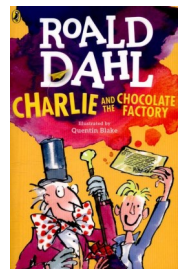


Year 4



Year 4 have had a great start to the year and have been working really hard! This term we have been looking at the Anglo-Saxons. Year 4 children have explored the effects of the Roman withdrawal and the chronology and geography of subsequent invasions. Children have further studied the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in detail, examining their reasons for invading, their settlements and their everyday life.

In English, Year 4 have used author Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory as their inspiration for their English unit of work this half-term. This particular book is perhaps Roald Dahl's best-known story out of the many wonderful books he has written and was published in 1964. The story features the adventures of young Charlie Bucket inside the chocolate factory of eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka. Next term we will be looking forward to a trip to the Jorvik Viking Centre where the children will have a theme-park style ride experience and state-of-the art galleries showcasing unique collections of Viking artefacts!



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic start to the year. They have shown us that we definitely have some budding archaeologists and historians in our midst! The children have been studying artefacts from the period of the Shang Dynasty to discover what their life was like .

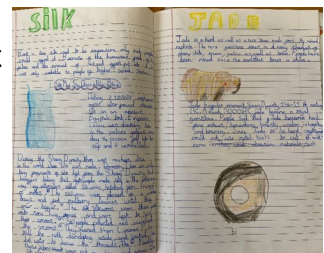


Earlier in the term, we enjoyed a fantastic, interactive Parliament Assembly delivered by Malcolm Smith, the Education Liaison Officer for the government. We learnt how someone becomes an MP and even how a law is made in Britain.



Some very lucky children were chosen to visit Belgrave Library earlier this month to meet a real author! Serena Patel spoke to the children about becoming an author and she even read a snippet of her most recent book, which is set in Leicester!

The children listened fantastically well and asked some really sensible questions.





Year 6

Pupils in Year six enjoyed their team building day out at Beaumanor Hall, which involved overcoming many different challenges that promoted team building skills, communication, time management, problem-solving, listening, critical thinking, collaboration and leadership. It was a lovely day and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day. Pupils will be encouraged to try and utilise these skills throughout the year as they face the challenges Year six presents.



Rushey Mead Primary School rewarded for sustainable efforts

The school has also been recognised for our sustainable efforts and for a greener environment by the Leicester City Council and received a mention in their Leicester City Council Newsletter :

More than 20 Leicester schools have been recognised at the annual Eco-Schools and Food for Life celebration event.

Charnwood, Stokes Wood and **Rushey Mead** primary schools received Food for Life awards for their innovative work to change the food culture at school, grow and use their own produce and teach cooking skills. Other schools received their Eco-Schools Green Flag awards.

The Food for Life Award showed that as a school we demonstrated that we are doing fantastic work to provide healthy school meals, great lunchtimes and food education that has a positive impact on both pupils and the wider community.



Pollination Generation Visit to Moira Pocket Garden



On Monday 11th October, the Poli:Gen Club children went to visit Dr Sonal Bhavsar at the Pocket Garden she coordinates to help people with diabetes.

We had a lovely chat with the residents that attend and asked lots of questions, looking around their garden searching for pollinators. Part of the project will be an allocation of £500 pounds to help the community develop their garden. The Poli:Gen Club children helped with ideas with what they could buy.



Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraising

The logo for Macmillan Cancer Support, featuring the word "MACMILLAN" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font above the words "CANCER SUPPORT" in a smaller, bold, white sans-serif font, all set against a solid green rectangular background.

A big thank you to all the parents who contributed to our fundraising efforts for Macmillan Cancer Support by purchasing biscuits for their child. As a result of your generosity and kindness we have raised a fantastic £285.05, which will give support people need to live their lives as fully as they can. From the moment of diagnosis and whenever they are most needed, Macmillan are there to help people find their best way through cancer so those in most need receive the best support possible!

Breakfast Club

If you would like to drop your child to Rushey Mead Primary School early for any reason, the Breakfast Club is now open from 8.00am to 8.40am. The cost of attending Breakfast Club is only £1.50 each day and can be booked using the School Gateway App. Breakfast is important as it kick-starts your metabolism, helping you burn calories throughout the day. Many studies have linked eating breakfast to good health, including better memory and concentration and lower chances of getting diabetes, heart disease and being overweight! Please contact Mrs. Sheerin for further information.



School Attendance Matters!

If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office for **EVERY** day of your child's absence. Please either ring the school office and leave a message on the absence line or report your child's absence via the gateway app. If you do not contact the school, our Attendance Officer will ring you or send you a text. Attendance is monitored on a daily basis and if your child's attendance falls below 92%, he/she will be referred to the Education Welfare Officer, unless there are genuine reasons.

The school gates are open from 8.40am and close at 8.50am. If your child arrives after this time, then you **MUST** take your child to the office to be registered. These procedures are in place to ensure every child is accounted for in the event of an emergency and to ensure the health and safety of your child. Extended holiday will only be granted in exceptional circumstances; it will **NOT** be granted for a family holiday!

Be kind, considerate and respectful to other parents / carers when collecting your child(ren).

Please make sure that you are continuing to respect other parents and carers when collecting your child(ren) at home-time as it is not fair on those parents / carers who have been waiting patiently in line for a long period of time. This can cause ill-feeling between parents and does not set a good example of social behaviour to other parents waiting and even more importantly to children who attend the school and are watching inappropriate language and behaviour being modelled in front of them and cause them embarrassment.

Thank you for your help and continued support and have a wonderful half term holiday!