



Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter

15th September 2023

Literacy Updates

We are incredibly proud of our Key Stage Two English results last academic year. Taking account of all children who sat the examinations and were assessed, an amazing 100% achieved the expected standard or better in both reading and writing! This is an absolutely remarkable achievement and one which we are thrilled to share with you. The introduction of Little Wandle phonics scheme; the investment in high-quality resources and training to enhance English lessons and the wonderful support from all of you have all contributed to this. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and families for your support and the time that you have invested in learning and we look forward to what this year's results will bring!

We are currently considering how we can further enhance our reading offer and would like to ask if you have any of the 'Recommended Reads' at home that you no longer need and would consider gifting to the school. As well as this, we would like to welcome any adults who would like to volunteer to listen to

readers in school on a regular basis - particularly pupils in Key Stage 2 (7-11 years). If you can help with any of the above, please contact the school office or speak to a member of staff.

Illness

Please click on the link below for guidance regarding illness this winter:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Flute and Recorder Lessons

Flute and Recorder Lessons are available for years 3, 4,5 and 6. Please look out for the postcard that should have come home this week and sign up online.

Class 1 and 'Little Learners'

Preschool

Our 3 newcomers have made a fantastic and smooth transition to preschool and are enjoying all of the activities on offer! We have been very busy compiling our class rules and working on friendships/sharing and accessing all areas of the preschool independently. We have also been enjoying the outdoors

Class 1

We have had a busy first full week back to school and the children have settled back into their classes well, with the new children joining too. On Wednesday afternoon we had our first Forest school session. We went on a listening walk and used all of our senses to describe what was around us. We talked about the seasons and then the children went on to make colour wands. We collected lots of different shaped and different coloured leaves and carefully attached them to our sticks. They all did a super job 😊 Some of the children chose to experiment climbing trees whilst others enjoyed the freedom of play and being able to choose what they wanted to do outdoors.





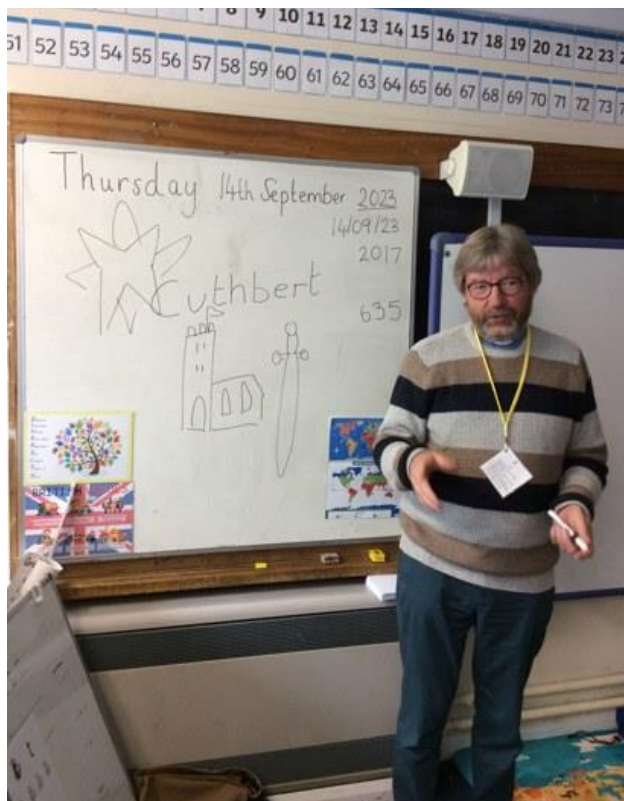












In literacy we have all been reading the story 'Rainbow Fish'. The children have been describing the fish, predicting what happens next, suggesting how Rainbow Fish could be a good friend, learning new vocabulary and discussing key events. Year 1 & 2 have been trying really hard to put their work into sentences with the correct punctuation. We have also been developing our fine motor control too 😊

In maths we have learning about place value. We have been sawing leaves/twigs and natural objects outdoors, counting set numbers of objects and counting a number of objects from a larger group. We have also been practising counting up and down in 1's and recognising numbers.

In history we have started our topic - 'How have children's toys changed since our relatives were little?' We have been finding out about the past and what our toys are like now.

In computing we have been learning about the parts of a PC and using a computer mouse to create a picture, print and save it.

For our R.E lesson this week we had a special visitor, Reverend David. Reverend David came into class to talk to us about St Cuthbert. He told us who he was and why he was so special. We also found out that our own church in the village is named after him. Thank you, Reverend David for visiting us. 😊

In art & design this week, the children have been experimenting making Mars with charcoal. They were given key words such as 'wrinkly' or 'sharp' and they had to illustrate it using charcoal.

We have started our Little Wandle Phonics this week and the children love to take part in these active sessions. Once we have read their phonic book three times in class they bring it home to read fluently. Please support us by listening to your child read each night, 5 minutes makes all the difference.

The children have also been developing their fine motor skills and practising the correct formation of letters and numbers. Well done everyone and keep working hard 😊



1 - We would like to say a HUGE thank you to the FOCS for purchasing this wonderful play equipment for Early Years. We absolutely LOVE it and a very big THANK YOU to Mr Goodman for assembling it 😊

Class 2

Wow! What a busy second week back. Class 2 have settled in perfectly and Year 3 are adapting to life in Key Stage 2 and the increased independence it brings. Year 4 have been excellent role models and friends to help the Year 3 make the transition into KS2. I am **so** proud of you all and I can't wait to see what this year brings!

Year 3 and 4 is where I started my teaching career at Cotherstone 6 years ago and it truly is a place of magic and wonder. Whilst reading our literacy text 'Journey' I caught a glimpse of the truly amazing mind of a 7/8 year old and the excitement each page being turned brings...

We have made an excellent start to our Place Value unit in maths with Year 3 focusing on numbers to 100 and Year 4 numbers to 1000. They have shown an excellent mastery understanding of what each number represents and have enjoyed doing lots of practical maths using representations like place value counters and base 10 blocks to help to represent these numbers and partition them using part whole models. We have done LOTS of outdoor learning in maths and, thanks to FOCS for our beautiful equipment and parent contributions, Mrs B has very kindly created an outdoor learning trolley which has helped us to represent numbers outdoors this week! Maths homework this week will be consolidating the work we have been doing in class.

In literacy we have been reading 'Journey', a beautifully illustrated wordless book where a lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure and danger abound. With her red crayon in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny! We used magnifying glasses to infer what the girl might be like as a character and Class 2 worked out that they thought she must want to travel because her room had a hot air balloon lamp, a world map, boats on her bed etc. We have focused a lot on expanded noun phrases to help our description of the settings we encounter within the story. To do this Class 2 used a pyramid to build their sentences from a single noun, then an expanded noun phrase using adjectives before, finally, using 'with' to add additional detail. Their descriptions were magnificent! I'm excited for them to see the next couple of pages...

Our topic this half term in history is The Romans, for our first lesson we went outdoors and recreated three of the invasion attempts on Britain, the first two (unsuccessful) attempts by Julius Caesar and then finally the attempt by Emperor Claudius. We also talked about Caligula who well-known for his attempt- you could ask them about him! To do this Class 2 thought carefully about what they would need for their piece of drama for the invasions and what areas of the outdoor area they could utilise best. They decided they would need some Roman shields so we created them and then decided that the pirate ship was a perfect place to stage the invasions as the Romans arrived on the shores of Kent. They acted out the scene using Benji, Jo and Harry as each Roman Emperor and held signs up with the accurate dates 54BC, 55BC and AD43. Some children were Romans and some were Celts and they used the bridge to represent the River Thames in London. Finally at the end of the piece we had Elodie as Boudicca! It was truly fantastic what they came up with and a fantastic way to introduce the topic. In our Reading lessons we've been looking at a Roman Emperor Horrible Histories Song called Who's bad? This truly tells the story of just how bad some of the Roman Emperors could be!

Finally, in science we have started our Biology topic and this week's lesson was all about the digestive system. We began by reading a fantastic story called 'Amy gets eaten' which is a piece of sweetcorn

called Amy's journey through a digestive system! We then labelled the parts of the digestive system using our new knowledge and worked out their functions. At the end, Class 2 carried out their first investigation of the year by recreating a digestive system model using tights, orange juice, a plastic bag, biscuits and cups to represent the small intestine, stomach acid, stomach, food and so on... this reinforced exactly how the digestive system works and our budding scientists can tell you all about the journey of a piece of food!

Class 2 brought their class newsletter home this week which outlines PE days, homework expectations and what we will be getting up to at school from now until half-term. This was also sent out by email and is on the website to keep you all up to date with all the fun and learning we will be doing over the next 6 weeks. Miss Thomas 😊



Awards

Class 1: Stars of the Week: All of Class 1 for settling into school routine so well

Class 2: Star of the Week: Alvinamarie and Mia for settling into Cotherstone School so well! Presentation - Holly

Class 3: Star of the Week: Oliver for his great place value work Presentation: Billy



This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Anna: For making a great start to lunchtimes at Cotherstone

Isla S: For being a great role model to her younger classmates during lunchtimes

Elodie: For her kindness toward the new starters in Reception

Oakley: For his mature and kind attitude

Class 1: See homework book

Class 2: Spellings - please see instructions in the homework book for spellings. Reading- please see your Reading Record. Maths - Place Value consolidation work

Class 3: Maths: Place value. Science: Circuit prediction question. Spellings

After School Club

This term's activities in club are as follows:

Mondays: Arts and Crafts

Tuesday: Outdoor Learning

Wednesday: Football Club

Thursday: Baking Club (*Please ensure they bring a container with them so that they can bring their baked goods home, thank you.*)

Class 1 parents: If you are planning to attend Miss Lee's Little Wandle meeting on Thursday, and intend to make use of the after school club while you are there, please ensure you book your child into club by Wednesday, to enable Evie and Derrick to plan and source plenty of ingredients for Baking Club.

Friends of Cotherstone School

Bag 2 School

Friends of Cotherstone School are holding another Bag 2 School collection on 22nd September to raise funds for the school. We'd be hugely grateful for any clothes or textiles that anyone would like to donate to be weighed in. Please see the letter attached to today's email for more information. Collections can be arranged by contacting Rachel on 07990 687636. Thank you!



Dates for your diary

18th September: Key stage 2 swimming starts

22nd September: Friends of Cotherstone School Bag2School collection

Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Gibson and the Cotherstone Team