

Newsletter - October Half Term 2021

Thank you to all who have supported events this week:

The fantastic Cake Sale, organized by FORS and supported by so many raised £280 this afternoon, resulting in £80 being sent to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Funds raised by FORS for our school are hugely appreciated, particularly as we have missed the larger fund-raising events of the last couple of years and would like to replace our oldest sets of laptops as soon as we can.

The Book Fair, organized by Mrs Jones was particularly popular and reached a total of £1115 in takings, which has given the school a commission of over £600 to be spent on books, which will be shared between all our classes to the benefit of many.

Our teachers were pleased to meet so many of you over School Cloud during the two parent/teacher evenings. We are looking at safe and convenient ways we can share some of your children's work during the next half term, Covid issues permitting.

Details of Christmas events will be sent out in the first week after half term, reflecting national, county and local guidance regarding larger gatherings and assessing the current risks in the best ways we can to keep everyone safe, particularly as we approach a time highly valued by us all involving special times with families and friends. It is highly likely we will film children in their class or phase groups to share with you. Plans for a show involving all of key stage two children singing together, with traditional leads by year 6 pupils, have been moved to the Summer Term.

In our traditional way each phase of the school have looked back over their half term of activities and learning:



At last, the egg box rocket in our **Early Years** Classroom area is ready for blast off!

Thank you for all the contributions.

Miss Millen will be organising a competition to guess the number of boxes it took to build it.

The children have had a very busy half term and have all worked extremely hard to learn all the new class routines as they settled in well at Roselands.

They have revisited phase 1 Phonics and have been playing listening and rhyming games. The children are all practising orally blending and using their robot arms to segment words too. In Maths they have looked at repeating patterns and comparing height, length, weight and capacity and using lots of new mathematical language. The children have enjoyed their PE lessons in the hall with Mr. Williams; learning to use all the different apparatus safely.

The Reception children have collected their own lunches in the Dining Room each day and been supported by year 6 helpers who have joined them to eat together at their dinner tables.

Children in **Key Stage One (Cedar, Elm and Hazel)** have also settled well into their new rooms and class groups, meeting new friends and getting to know their class teaches and adults who work with them. All the children are developing their confidence in completing their daily routines independently.

In themed work they have been learning about the UK and enjoyed linking their knowledge to some of their English lessons based on Floella Benjamin's experience when coming to England.

The children met a poet (Simon Mole) virtually and created some interesting poems based on their dream day. They also learnt a poem and Hazel class' performance of it will be put on the website for all to see shortly, reflecting World Poetry Day.

After half term the children will be learning about The Great Fire of London and are looking forward to their visit to The National Gallery where they will be looking at the real art of some very famous artists.

Year 2 children have started to learn the recorder and after half term they will all be learning songs for their Christmas production that we will video for you.

All in key stage one continue to enjoy being in our grounds, taking part in outdoor learning in the good autumn weather and after half term they will need to have boots in school on the days they go onto the field or in the wooded copse. We will let you know the days the children need to bring boots or a change of footwear in to school. Due to the lack of space we are not able to store these in class all the time.

Our **Lower Key Stage 2 classes (Laurel, Maple and Pine)** have been busy with a range of activities across the phase. In English they have looked at 'And Tango Makes Three', 'Coming Home' and instruction writing linked to art activities. Writing activities have focused on developing sentence structure and use of vocabulary. Whole class reading sessions have looked in detail at the book 'Stone Age Boy' and the children have been developing their echo reading and text marking. In addition, Lower Key Stage 2 have also been investigating place value and mental strategies for addition and subtraction.

Theme work has explored the Stone Age preparing for their Stone Age Day Trip on the 10th November to Celtic Harmony. They have created some beautiful paintings based on Stonehenge and recreated the structure in miniature.

Science lessons have included looking at the topic of States of Matter and they have studied the water cycle where water changes state. In computing the children have looked at online safety and learned about blogging. Finally, in PE lessons the children have been developing their knowledge of hockey and learning how to dribble and safely tackle with a ball and hockey stick.

On Thursday morning, LKS2 participated in a live science lesson arranged by the National History Museum. The Deadly 60: Museum Escape was led by Steve Backshall and looked at how fossils are made and the different types including body, trace and poo fossils! They worked on a range of activities to solve the challenges set.

Children in **Upper Key Stage 2 (Sycamore, Willow and Yew)** have engaged brilliantly with Floella Benjamin's autobiography 'Coming to England'. They have learnt lots of lovely new vocabulary and written some fantastic descriptions of their bedrooms, having used a description of Floella's home for inspiration. Linked to this and to finish off our focus during Black History Month, the children will be learning about the Windrush generation, after half term. All pupils took part in the online poetry lesson, on National Poetry Day, led by Simon Mole, with great enthusiasm and the poems they wrote for their Home Learning were absolutely amazing; we are creating a display to show off their skills!

Recently, in maths lessons, the children have worked hard to understand, learn and apply tests of divisibility and associated vocabulary such as factor, prime and multiples. Our science theme of forces will continue next half term; if they haven't yet, all children will be planning, making and testing a parachute! Having learnt lots about Ancient Greece already, we are looking forward to our Greek Day on the 8th November, which will be very practical and creative. Please make sure that you have contributed to the event, via MCAS, and support your child with an appropriate, simple costume to wear on the day as it creates a great atmosphere for all to work in.

Robotics this half term, led by Mr Higham from The John Warner School, has been a great success and although he will be no longer working with us in our curriculum time, the Robotics Club, for those who have signed up, will start on the 7th November.

We wish to say a huge thank you and well done to all of the children who have helped with jobs in school, especially the lunchtime monitors who have shown great maturity, kindness and been excellent role models helping the new children to settle in and supported the younger children and the dinner ladies during our busy lunchtimes.

Many clubs are now running again and we are pleased to see so many embracing the opportunities of different sports and activities, whilst we appreciate we cannot meet all the requests at once. Some clubs have been split over weeks or terms so as many as possible have a chance to enjoy them:

Clubs are now running, across different ages, for:

Rugby, netball, football, art and gardening. They will be added to after half term for coding, robotics, orchestra and choir.

Instrumental lessons continue and some will begin to form clubs for ensembles as their staff identify they are ready to learn to play in groups.

We wish everyone a restful, safe and happy Half Term Holiday.

School re-opens on Tuesday 2nd November, after the staff compete their INSET training day on the Monday.

Jane Carson

We have been asked to share the details of easy to use, practical name tags.

PLEASE NAME SWEATSHIRTS, COATS, INSTRUMENT CASES, WATER BOTTLES And everything that can be put down !

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