



NEWSLETTER



We have been really busy over the last month. Read on to find out what we have been up to!

What do the children say they've enjoyed learning about?

In Key Stage 1, Oliver from Goldfinch Class said:

'I liked making my clay pot because it was fun to do score and slip. I learnt that the Great Fire of London started on Sunday and lasted until Thursday.'

In upper Key Stage 2, Lowrie from Red Kite Class says:

'I've enjoyed English because I am loving the lessons based on the Grimm Tales book – especially when I read to the class. Some of the stories are quite gruesome! We also studied a film called The Lighthouse and we did hot seating, where we pretended to be different characters from the story. It was really funny because the Year 6s fully jumped into their roles!

In maths, I have loved long division – it was tricky at first but then I got it!

In French, we have learnt about hair and eye colour – it was so fun to learn all the words and try and pronounce them correctly.

Science has been interesting too. I am looking forward to doing even more art and history next term.

Outside of the classroom, OPAL play has been great because we don't have to do the same thing each playtime...there are so many amazing things to choose from, so it fully engages our creativity – I particularly love the water play and dressing up



In Foundation Stage, Effie in Pipit Class says:

"I have learnt lots of new things – I have learnt lots of new sounds and I can read some words"

"I have made lots of new friends – I like playing in the role play area with my friends"

"Outside I like playing in the tents and dressing up" (OPAL)

"I have enjoyed reading new stories – we read Supertato and evil pea escaped into our classroom – he taped the vegetables up, put stickers on them.'

In lower Key Stage 2, Keeley in Merlin Class says:

'I have enjoyed P.E. because we learn different sports - especially hockey!

I have enjoyed French because I have learnt lots of French words and a song about cats.

I liked making a tree in forest schools.

I like choir because we are learning to sing Christmas songs.

I like doing rainbow spellings because it helps me learn my spelling list.

I have enjoyed going on the chrome books and doing Scratch activities.

I like doing science especially looking at the colour experiment to find what colours are made of- it was the best fun.

I like playing in Opal play - dressing up is so funny!

I like English because of writing all the stories and poems.

I love maths and all the adding and subtraction and times tables on TTRS.'



Headteacher's Tea Party!

At the end of each half term, two children from each class are chosen for consistently following the Golden Rules and they have a tea party with Mrs Svenson.



Forest School

The first block of Forest School has now finished with children from Robins, Kingfishers, Goldfinches, Puffins, Buzzards and Red Kites all enjoying sessions in our constantly evolving site. Now it is the turn of Wagtails, Pipits, Merlins, Harriers, Kestrels and Sparrowhawks children.

Forest school is a child led experience where they can do as much or as little as they want. They choose their activities and go at their own speed. We offer inspirational craft ideas to spark the imagination and let the children explore the possibilities, with support if they ask for it.

The sessions have introduced the children to wood working tools such as bow saws, hack saws, hand drills, brace drills and vegetable peelers for whittling. The year 6's have also learned how to use woodworking knives safely. Fires have been lit using fire steels and the children have enjoyed cooking popcorn and marshmallows whilst telling stories. For many, the mud kitchen has been an opportunity to get messy and use their wonderful imaginations. We have also had some fantastic dens made of pallets, tarps, rope and tree branches.

Forest school encourages independence and resilience through praise and the children get an amazing sense of achievement when they succeed at tasks they found challenging. Using the fire steel effectively and tying knots are tricky activities for many, but we have already witnessed some very happy children when persistence has been rewarded.

Please do make sure the children have warm waterproof clothing and footwear as we head into winter so we can avoid wet feet and shivering children!

Can you help?! We are looking for the following items for our Forest School:

- * Wheels - old bike wheels or pram wheels for construction of go-carts
- * Buttons for Christmas crafts
- * Foam or rubber mats to line the floor of the tent and make it warmer for sitting on.
- Large shrub or tree branches or prunings we can use for dens and crafts



Outdoor Play And Learning (OPAL)

Over the past two weeks, the children have been enjoying their playtimes with a range of new equipment to play with. The children have particularly enjoyed the fancy dress area and Year 6 have said this is their favourite part! As well as this, we have a water construction area, a calm and quiet corner and a boating area.

More information will follow soon, including the opportunity to donate more items as well as a time for parents to join us. Thank you for those who gave up their time during half term to help create exciting new playtimes for the children. 😊



Bonnie the Therapy Dog!

Last Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome a very special visitor to school - Bonnie the Therapy dog!

Bonnie is a trained PAWS therapy dog and she and her human, Karen, will be working to deliver animal assisted intervention with some of our pupils.

We were all very excited to meet Bonnie as she did a tour of the school to say hello to everyone and look forward to welcoming her in the coming weeks.



Remembrance

We held a special assembly on 11th November to remember all of those who have fought at war. We held a 2 minute silence, listened to The Last Post being played and had a special prayer.



Children in Need

Well done to all children who came to school in mufti and spotty outfits on Friday, donating money to Children in Need.

We raised £254.10! Thank you!



Gardening

Our raised flowerbeds have been ready to go since our last community day and Puffin Class children have now planted some bulbs. We were incredibly pleased to see so many insects making their homes in the soil. We have a few more to plant but are so looking forward to seeing the pop of colour break through after winter.



Eco-Councillors

The eco-councillors were really excited to receive their badges. There are 3 areas of focus for the councillors to get their teeth stuck into this year.

These areas will be energy saving, nature and biodiversity and food and farming. Our first focus will be on energy saving. We will be looking at reducing our energy consumption and educating the rest of the school on the simple things we can all do to help.



Pupil Leaders

School Council Update

In our last meeting just before half term the school council were asked for ideas for non-sporting lunchtime clubs, as a result there will be some more lunchtime clubs available for children.

They were also asked how we can involve parents more in our learning and a consequence of this is the up-coming Christmas

craft sessions (as per email sent to parents on 5th November with details on how to book a place).

Well done school council at making sure the student voice is heard and acted upon!

