

# Classroom News

Autumn Term—October 2023

## Reception

The children in Reception have made a fantastic start to school - well done! Everyone has settled well into their new class and are becoming familiar with our school routines. The children have been busy exploring different activities, both inside and outside and are working hard to share and take turns with others.



### Once upon a rhyme

We have been doing lots of learning related to different nursery rhymes. We made Humpty Dumpty collages and used our maths skills to create spiders with 8 legs. We talked about the importance of keeping clean and healthy when looking at Miss Polly had a Dolly and explored mixing colours when painting flames after singing London's Burning.



We were very excited to ride on a real bus and enjoyed entertaining the driver with our singing - The Wheels on the Bus! A big thank you to Damian and our driver Callum at Stagecoach in Nuneaton for making this possible.



Look out on Tapestry to see us sharing some of our singing with you. Maybe you could record your child singing a nursery rhyme for us at home?



## Autumn

We have been looking at changes happening during Autumn. We went for an Autumn walk through our school wooded area and collected natural objects to use in our art and crafts.



## Coats

Now that the colder weather is here, we are practising how to put our coats on and do them up. Please encourage and help your child to do this at home too!



## Other events

### Road safety

We had a visit from Warwick the bear, who came into school to talk to the children about keeping safe when crossing the road. The children found out that they should stop before the kerb, look and listen for traffic and then hold hands with an adult to cross the road safely.



### Balance bikes

Last week we had a daily session using the balance bikes to develop and improve our balance and steering skills. We had lots of fun steering in and out of the cones and even learnt how to glide by lifting our feet up off the floor.



We hope the children enjoy a well earned rest next week and look forward to seeing them back at school for some more great learning after half term!





# Year 1 Newsletter

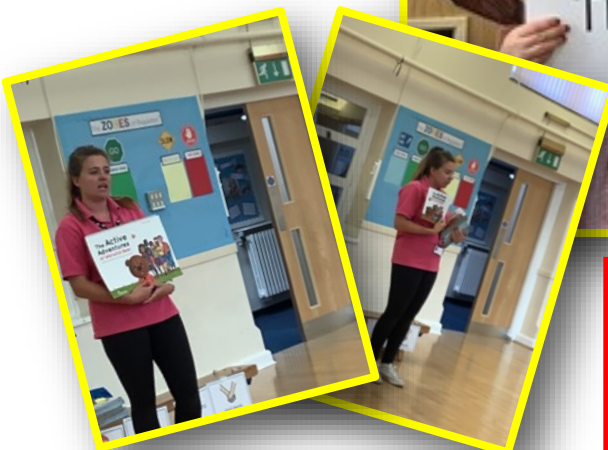


## What a fabulous start to Year One!

The Year One team are extremely proud of all of the children and the ease in which they have settled into their new classes. We have three classes in Year One. Mrs Lowen and the Rabbits, Mrs Fussey and the Owls, then Mrs Varney and Mrs Hancox teach the Squirrels! The children have made a brilliant transition from Reception and appear to be enjoying life in their new classes! They have been busy building up their skills of independence and resourcefulness in their new learning environment.

Over the course of this half term the children have been working in a provision style. Each lesson has a teacher led carpet input and then the children have been selecting activities in the classroom to share with their friends. During the lesson they have been called to work on a focus task in an adult led group. After half term in November, the children will begin working as a whole class.

Take a look at some of our learning over the course of this half term...

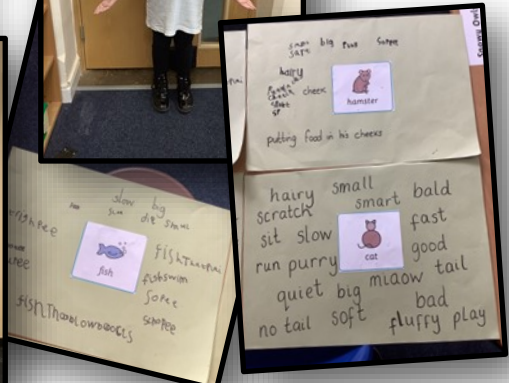
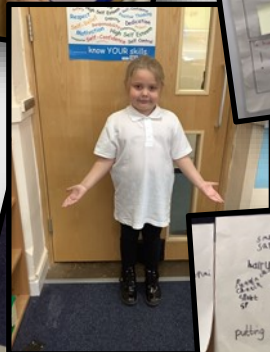
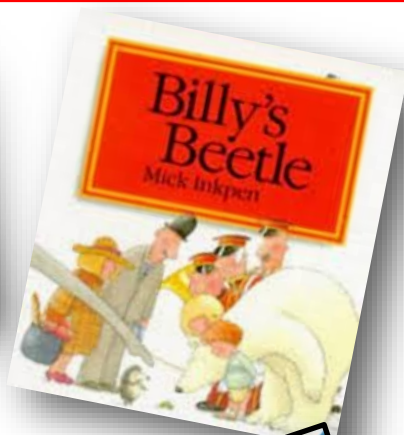


We had a visit from the Road Safety Team and Warwick Bear. The Children learnt about how to cross the road safely. Here is Road safety Alice on her visit several weeks ago.

# English



In English we have explored three exciting texts. The first was "We're Going on a Lion Hunt" by David Axtell. Then followed "Dogs" by Emily Gravett, and finally "Billy's Beetle" by Mick Inkpen. Both texts have inspired some excellent learning. The children have focused a lot on acquiring language skills, and have worked hard to learn the stories and be able to retell them orally. It is great fun to "talk" a story. The children combine words and actions and it makes us fantastic story tellers!



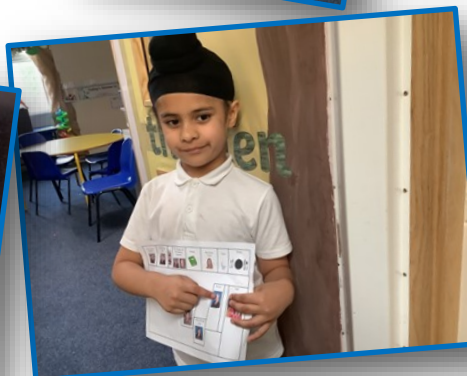
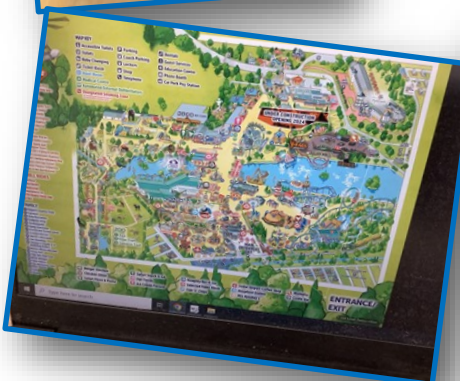


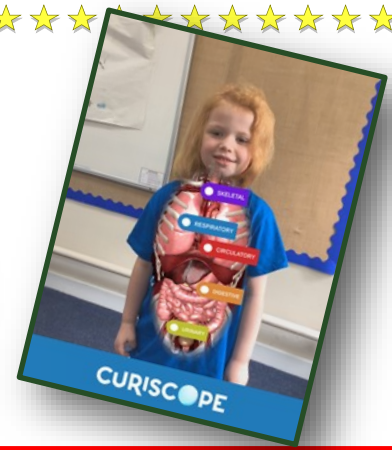


# Topic



Our topic this half term has been My World and Me. The children have been sharing information about themselves during circle time, including telling us about special family and friends, their likes and dislikes and pets. We have considered how we have changed and developed over time, from a baby to a toddler to the present day. Our Year One children have made their own Topic book covers! They practised skills of shading, and pressing down lightly and then more firmly to create different textures with their pencils before creating a self-portrait to be proud of. We have also been learning all about maps and the symbols we might see on a map. We have been finding out why maps are useful and using them to travel around school. The children have also made their own map of the classroom and tried to include a key to help others read their map. It was exciting when we launched Google Earth and found our school. To conclude our topic we went for a walk around the local area identifying physical and human features...





## Science



Our Science topic this half term has been My Body. And Senses.

We have great fun learning all about body parts and playing a team game called Body Bingo. All groups showed good collaboration skills. We used an app called Virtuali-Tee to take a peek inside our bodies... it was a Wow moment! The children can name their five senses and considered why the sense of touch is so important to a blind person. We tasted apple and lemon and thought of describing words such as "sour" and "sweet", "delicious" and "disgusting". We discovered that it is our taste buds that help us to taste and affects what we like to eat and that this is different from person to person. We have used our bodies to move in lots of different ways, both in Science and P.E. We have explored the items we need to help keep us clean and the importance of being clean for our overall health. To conclude our unit of learning, the children investigated if height and feet size correlate. Does the tallest person on our table have the largest feet?





# Maths



Year 1

The children have been working hard on developing their understanding of place value to ten as well as addition and subtraction. We have used practical objects such as counters, cubes, beads, ten frames and part-part whole diagrams to complete most of their maths this half term. With a strong focus on maths language the children have worked in small groups to explore concepts in a concrete, hands on way, at the same time using vocabulary such as “greater than, less than, more than, fewer, first, then, now..”. Some of the ways in which we have represented and compared numbers can be seen below. We have also used the ipads to support maths learning.



## In conclusion...

Well done to all of our Owls, Rabbits and Squirrels! What a super half term we have shared! We are already looking forward to the start of our next half term where our topic will change to Seasons. We begin the term with a visit from the Firefighters on Tuesday 7th November to support our P.H.S.E curriculum. In the meantime, have a wonderful half term break. Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs L.Fussey (Year One Team Leader)





# Year 2

What an amazing start to life in Year 2 for Foxes, Badgers and Deers! The children have all made a wonderful transition to life in Year 2.

It has been fantastic to see the children grow in confidence this half term, developing their independence and resilience. The children in all three classes are excellent role models to the younger children in school demonstrating our school manners by being kind, being safe and being fair.

As mathematicians, we have been investigating numbers and working hard to develop our understanding of place value. The children have been using sentence stems to explain what they know about 2 digit numbers, identifying which number is greater than or less than and creating fact families.



During the first half of this term we have been using the story Lost and Found to develop adventurous adjectives to describe settings in hot and cold places. We made our own settings using collage materials and talked about what we could see, hear and feel there. The children in Year 2 also used drama and role play to bring our second text of the term to life - Meerkat Mail!





# Asia Day

To bring our learning to life in our topic lessons we had a special theme day with a focus on the country of China. We made our own Chinese lanterns, tasted Chinese food and built our very own Great Wall of China. We had an amazing day!



## Antarctica and Asia

Our topic has been based on Geography this half term. The children have loved learning about the seven continents of the world, with a particular focus on Antarctica and Asia. The children have sorted human and physical features of the two continents, written fact files about Antarctica and even become travel TV presenters sharing information about China.

We have used a new iPad game called Blooket to gather new information this half term. We have found out so many new facts using it!

Deers and Foxes shared lots of information about their learning. The children spoke clearly and worked really hard to remember their lines. The assemblies were fantastic and the children should be very proud of their performances.







## Mental Health Awareness Day

We spent the day thinking about our mental health by listening to a story called 'The River' which helped us to identify how feelings can change all of the time. During the day we experienced different mindfulness activities, including our favourite 'Rainbow Breathing'. Year 2 have also contributed to a whole school display decorating our handprints. Keep a look out for the finished display in our school entrance hall.



As Scientists, we have been learning all about animals and humans. We have identified the definitions of lots of new scientific vocabulary including life cycle, offspring and reproduce. The children have also identified the different parts of the life cycle of a frog and discussed the gestation periods of a variety of different animals. If that wasn't enough we have also identified what we need to eat a healthy diet and what humans and animals need to survive! The children have also designed healthy lunchboxes and investigated how many times our hearts beat in one minute.



Next half term we have a very exciting new topic to find out all about! Watch this space to find out what it is!

*On behalf of all of the Year Two team, I hope you have a lovely half term.*

*Mrs Carly Evans, Year 2 Team Leader*