

The summer term is starting and we hope for lovely warm sunny days for the children to learn and grow in. We have lots of important and exciting events and occasions ahead of us between now and the end of July.

Class Updates...

Year R Bumble Bees



Highlights in Bumble Bees during last half-term.

We have worked hard to become more confident in many areas of the Early Years curriculum and we are particularly pleased with the progress the children have made in reading. We have gained confidence in story writing through learning stories by heart and particularly enjoyed those we learnt with Mr Jenkin. We also enjoyed finding out about Cornwall and learning the Floral Dance.

We have found out much more about 3D shapes and have loved using the new Lego the PTA bought us. Our favourite visitor this half term was PC Kreffer who told us all about being a policeman and we enjoyed meeting Mr Williams who answered our questions on video as he does all his work when we are not at school, as if by magic!

What is going on in Bumble Bees during this half-term?

We are planning to investigate 'All Creatures Great and Small' making observations of animals (and plants that animals use). We will be looking at creatures in our own environment, in other parts of the world and on our farm visit (24th June). We plan to have weeks on Pets, Dinosaurs, Mammals, Farm animals and Minibeasts. We have ordered butterflies to hatch as the chicks were too far away to be delivered!

We have introduced 'Morning Jobs' which we do in five colour groups, this ensures we start learning as soon as possible before we do Phonics and then go into Child Initiated learning.

In Literacy we are working on reading words we can't sound out, improving our vocabulary, writing sentences independently and being able to read what we have written we will write rhymes, descriptions, messages, and recounts. We will complete phase 4 of phonics shortly and begin phase 5.

In Maths we are going to gain confidence in the use of the language of money and time, we plan to order items by length, weight and capacity.

Miss Sharley from Fareham College is with us for three more weeks and Mr Snowdon and Miss Brockman will be back for another few weeks from Winchester University. All extra adults really improve what we can offer, don't forget if you can come in either to spend time in class or to help with preparation or administration tasks do let us know.

Year 1 Ladybirds



Highlights in Ladybirds during last half-term.

Ladybird class enjoyed the 'Great Fire of London Show', the celebration to show case all they had learnt during the spring term. They were very excited to be a part of the fire dance and express the movement of the fire in September 1666. The children were very enthusiastic when learning how to create animations, they showed incredible patience, creativity and understanding of the events.

Spring 2 ended with Ladybirds performing the Easter story, this was a highlight for the children as it brought the story to life, gave them an opportunity to apply their play writing skills and they gained a better understanding.

What will Ladybirds be learning during this half-term?

This half term the children will be thinking about the school grounds and beginning to use map skills to show how the school grounds looked 10 years ago, now and in 10 years' time. This will help us to think about how Whiteley has changed and how it could look in 10 years' time. We will also be learning about plants/trees, grouping them and identifying parts of them.

We will be spending time considering our special places and special toys/objects with English and R.E. Sometimes we will get creative with producing sculptures, recreating sculptors work and our own. Finally we will be learning about healthy eating and creating a health dish to make and try in school.

Year 2 Butterflies



Highlights in Butterflies during last half-term.

Spring 2 was eventful and full of fantastic learning. We started off the half term reminding ourselves of the Golden Rules and the expectation for Year 2 as we were half way through the year. We were very busy historians, researching 12 famous people from the past. During our research we found out about nurses, queens, inventors and politicians.

Each group of people were important for what they did in their own right but who was the MOST important? We held a class debate where we used what we had learnt about each person to narrow down our choices to 4. These 4 people were judged to be the most important of the 12 for various reasons. The portraits and reasons are displayed in the corridor outside our classroom.

Continuing our project on 'Portraits' we created our own portraits in different styles, some of which looked very strange. Learning about how people used to be portrayed in paintings and portraits helped us to understand that there is more to just a photograph.

Our learning on beliefs was shared during the Easter Worship Celebration. The children all realised everyone is allowed their own thoughts and that the things we believe in are very personal. We learnt how to be respectful and mindful of this during the discussions.

What will Butterflies be learning during this half-term?

The start of the Summer Term is going to link with the last where the children are going to be researching their own choice of important people. Presenting facts, pictures, information etc. to share with the class and school. Being a short half term we will be working hard to make use of every possible minute.

We are hoping that our PE sessions will be outside from now on (weather permitting). Please make sure the children come ready on a Monday morning with suitable PE kit – jogging bottoms maybe a good idea until it warms up.

Mrs. Riley's Jury Service

We want to inform parents of the children in Butterflies that Mrs. Riley has been called up to undertake Jury Service for two weeks commencing on the 11th May 2015.

During this fortnight Mrs. Jo Copestake, who is a trained teacher, will be teaching the class, with Mrs. Helen Adair supporting as an LSA in both the mornings and the afternoons. This will provide consistency and familiarity for the children and yourselves as parents.

We are confident that this cover plan will work well for the children's learning and for the smooth running of the class.

New staff

We are pleased to announce that a new class teacher has been chosen for the Year 3 class starting in September. Her name is Miss Francesca Pretty. She has experience of working in other schools and also this academic year has been seconded by the Local Authority to support other schools with English. She has had the opportunity to meet the children in Butterflies class already, and has joined the rest of the staff for INSET days.

We are also pleased to inform you that Mrs. Christine Jones will be joining Mrs. Gadd in the office during the mornings during this term. She comes with a great deal of experience of working in a primary school office and has also been a school governor for 7 years. Part of her role with us will be as the new Clerk for our Governing Body.

Fond farewell

At the end of the summer term we will be saying a sad goodbye to Mrs. Jo Copestake. Mrs. Copestake has been a fantastic member of the Cornerstone team since the school opened. As well as her LSA role, she has done a marvellous job organising, innovating and promoting the library. As a trained teacher she has also been invaluable in providing cover at times for classes in school during staff absence. She will be greatly missed by staff and pupils at Cornerstone and we wish her all the best for her new teaching role in September.

Website

Please remember our website is the central source of information for parents and the wider community about our school.

The range of dates for the year are available and are kept up to date. Our Facebook feeds are also linked, so even if you are not on Facebook you can enjoy reading about and seeing what the children have been learning and achieving.

Collective Worship themes

The themes for this half-term are unsurprisingly the four choices for the new Value. These will be taking place in the same week as the Home Learning Discussions, and will allow us to explore the children's ideas and opinions as well. In the final week of this half-term we will be asking the children to consider all four Values and share their thoughts on which one the Governing Body should select.

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CORNERSTONE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Building our Community with Love and Hope

Church School Values

We are part way through our process of thinking about and discussing our current Values of **Love** and **Hope**, and considering the choice of a third Value. This is a crucial process as these are the Values we will promote and encourage your children to live out now and to take with them when they leave Cornerstone in the future.

Thank you for all the wonderful responses to the Home Learning Discussions about **Love** and **Hope**. There will be four more Home Learning Discussions coming out this half-term. These will ask you as a family to talk about and consider the Values of: **Courage, Forgiveness, Trust and Wisdom.**

There will be a further opportunity for parents to share any further thoughts about the four choices for the new Value during the final week of this half-term. This will be a coffee morning on Monday 18 May (9-10) and a coffee evening on Wednesday 20 May (6-7). *We will of course offer tea if people would prefer.*

A selection of the responses from the two Home Learning Discussions that have taken place so far can be seen on our website and on the display in our Reception area.

Home Learning

Thank you for all the time and support you have given your child already this year with their Home Learning. Please do keep supporting your child with daily reading as it will develop their skills and their love of reading. This could be you sharing a book with them rather than your child reading to you, as we recognise children are sometimes too tired at the end of a long day.

We would also appreciate it if you could find 3-5 minutes a few times each week to practice one of the points from the Mental Maths card that your child's teacher has shared with you. Playing games or activities involving these skills can make this a fun family time as well as helping your child master this crucial key knowledge

Growth Mindset

As part of our drive to help the children develop the mindset that everything is learnable, that everyone can learn and improve at whatever they set their mind to we have created a new display in the Hall. It includes pictures to help us all think and phrases we want to encourage the children to use.



Family Fun Run Fridays

We hope you have seen the letter that came out recently about this enjoyable and positive school community weekly event.

It will 'run' from 8.30-8.45 and 3.15-3.30 every Friday and is a fantastic way to promote exercise with the children and the fun of doing this socially in a group. Some of the children from Butterflies class have designed tables for us to track how many laps we complete each time as a community and for your child (and yourself if you wish) to keep an ongoing record of their achievements.

Cornerstone PTA

Thank you again to the wonderful and hardworking PTA,

If you have not been involved yet and would be interested in helping in whatever capacity is suitable for you please talk to Claire Nichols (Chair) or Richard Faulkner (Vice-Chair).

The main event coming up this term is the Summer Fair. Following feedback from parents last year this will take place on Saturday 27th June.

Ground Force Day

Many thanks to Lisa Morey (Jilli in Bumble Bees mum) who has kindly organised for 10 colleagues of hers from Lloyds Bank to come into school on Tuesday 12 May to undertake a Ground Force day with us. Thanks to those parents who have also volunteered to come in that day.

Our aim is for the adults to work alongside groups of children at: clearing the copse, sowing some wild flower seeds and weeding the beds around the school. We are sure it will be a wonderful school community day and we are hoping the sun will shine down on our endeavours.

Building works

We are pleased to inform you that after negotiations with the Local Authority the building of the three final classrooms will be taking place this summer. There may be some work being undertaken before the end of term, which we are sure will be fascinating for the children to watch. The Health and Safety requirements of this building projects are a high priority for both us at school and for the Local Authority. The aim is for the work to be completed by September, however it may be the middle or end of September.

This additional space will be crucial for us next year, as without it there would have not have been additional space for group work or practical work outside of the main classrooms. It would have also meant that "Time Out" would have shared the Hall with after school clubs, which would have been difficult to manage.

After-school Open Library

Just a reminder that every Tuesday after school Mrs. Copestake opens up the school library for you to come and browse, share and change books with your children. It is a lovely opportunity to help the children develop their pleasure for books and reading.

School development Plan

Just a reminder that the key priorities for this academic year are accessible on our school website. Progress towards these priorities are shared regularly with the governors and our Local Authority Inspector.

School heating system

We are also very pleased to inform you that the issues with our heating system have finally been resolved. We would like to thank JSA, who are the company who have spent many days on different occasions locating and fixing the problems.

End of year reports

The teachers will be starting to work on your child's end of year report over the coming weeks. We are planning to send them out to you on Wednesday 1st July.

We are trialling a slightly altered format for Ladybirds and Butterflies classes which is in line with our assessment systems. Our aim is obviously to give you a wide range of useful information and to share the positive achievements of your child.

If you have any thoughts on the format or style of the reports please speak to me after you have received them.

Clubs

For details about other clubs on offer for your children please visit the school website and click on the "Parents" link on the homepage.

Walk to school week 2015

Walk to school week is a national initiative designed to encourage more children to be physically active. This year it will be taking place from 18-22 May.

We know that many families already walk regularly to school, but this is an ideal opportunity for more people to try it as often as possible for a week.

I have promised that I will walk to and from school every day that I do not have a meeting I have to drive to. *I also promise not to try and book a meeting for every day that week!*

Messy Church in Whiteley

The dates for the summer term are as follows:

- Sunday 3rd May
- Sunday 7th June
- Sunday 5th July

Messy Church takes place between 4-6 pm in the Community Centre.

If you have not attended before your family are very welcome. It was lovely to have so many members of the Cornerstone community coming together for the Easter Messy Church in April.

Parent View

Thank you to everyone who has completed the online questionnaire with your opinions of our school. We are pleased to have had 26 responses, however we would appreciate more. Therefore if you have not completed the form so far we would appreciate it if you could log on to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk or follow the link on our website under "Parents".

We are pleased that the overall picture of parental opinion is positive with 100% of parents saying they would recommend us to other parents and that their children are happy.

Please also remember that if you have queries or concerns about your child's education or the work of the school in general please do make an appointment to discuss this either with your child's class teacher or myself.

Facebook and Twitter accounts

Thank you to everyone who has been following our Facebook (Cornerstone Primary) and Twitter (@cornerstonecofe) feeds.

Please remember if you have any specific queries about your own child we would appreciate you coming into school to speak with us directly.

Staff INSET days

Staff training days (also known as INSET days) are extremely important for the professional development of the staff and have a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning your children will experience. The final INSET day of this academic year is Friday 1st May.

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The first INSET day of next academic year is on the first day of term, Tuesday 1st September.

On these days the school will be closed to the children.

We aim to choose the dates for the next INSET days of next academic year as soon as possible, so that families have plenty of notice.

Dates for your Diary



April 2015

23 April: PTA meeting (7pm)

May 2015

1 May: INSET day – children do not attend

4 May: Bank Holiday Monday

5 May: Whiteley Annual Assembly at The Meadowside Centre (6pm)

12 May: Ground Force Day

14 May: New Year R Parents Information Evening (7pm)

18-22 May: Walk to school week

18 May: Values coffee morning (9am)

20 May: Values coffee evening (6pm)

22 May: Last day of Summer Term 1

June 2015

1 June: First day of Summer Term 2

9 June: PTA meeting (7pm)

15 June: Phonics week

July 2015

1 July: Reports to parents

10 July: New classes day

22 July: Last day of Summer Term 2

September 2015

1 September: INSET day – Children do not attend

Many thanks for your continued partnership and support.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Clarke

Headteacher