

This academic year is flying by, and it is hard to believe we have only one half-term left before the end of the school year and the children move to new classes with new teachers.

As part of this transition all classes are now engaging in early morning jobs from the start of the day. It would be appreciated therefore if all parents could say goodbye to their children outside and send them into class independently. Thank you.

Class Updates...

Year R Bumble Bees



Highlights in Bumble Bees during last half-term.

We have been working hard to find out about creatures and animals, from dinosaurs to pandas. We have talked about our favourites and where in the world they come from, we have role played as zoo keepers and with our two student teachers have built a fabulous dinosaur land including volcano!

We are making real progress in reading and writing as we realise we are now writers and readers, how amazing is that. In number we have concentrated on addition and subtraction and recognising those challenging teen numbers.

As a team we were very proud of the children during our Ofsted inspection, well done Bumble Bees your enthusiastic learning was obvious to all.

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

We are planning to continue our exploration of "All Creatures Great and Small" with weeks based around animals, farm animals and mini-beasts. We will be outside as much as possible. Please continue to send a coat while the weather is undecided as we are outside for at least half an hour at lunchtimes.

We have a farm visit planned, you will be able to pay on line for this, and we also expect a class delivery of butterflies, which we will hatch and release.

We are working particularly on doubling, halving and sharing in maths. We are practising correct formation of letters and using lined paper in writing. Many of us have been challenged to show adults evidence of our independent writing. Some are being challenged to write several or more sentences and to remember finger spaces. In reading we are ensuring we ask children what they have read about and to predict endings, both of which will check comprehension or understanding of text.

Much of our work in the next few weeks is about filling gaps in our knowledge of the children so that we are confident that our final assessments of them are accurate. This information has been submitted to county and to the Department for Education before the end of June. However we continue to work on past this date so that Miss Leach has the most up to date information about your children when they move in to year one.

We begin transitions slowly but sensitively with members of staff joining us for sessions and the children joining their new staff as the term goes on. The last and longest session will be on Friday 10th July.

Recycling school uniform. If at the end of term you find you have school uniform that you will not be passing on to another child, please consider donating it to school for our spare uniform box, thank you. Jumpers, cardigans and PE kit would be particularly appreciated.



Year 1 Ladybirds

Highlights in Ladybirds during last half-term.

Ladybird class enjoyed learning about the different food groups and looking at food and recipes to decide which group it belonged to. We had great discussions about cereals and fruit juice with children making the argument that they go into the fat and sugar group because they have lots of sugar in them.

The children loved looking at a big map of the local area and trying to work out where they live and comparing this to their friends and even their teacher. The children were very excited when the Spring Fairy and Chief Elf came to visit the class and were very enthusiastic to find out some of the answers to their questions.

What will Ladybirds be learning during this half-term?

During summer 2 we will be continuing to look at Whiteley and how it is changing, finishing our sculptures, and looking at trees and plants. In maths we will be consolidating all they have learnt this year and understanding each skill at a deeper level. In music we are learning about pitch and identifying which sound is the highest and lowest. Of course this half term the children will be spending some time in their new classroom and we are encouraging the children to be good role models to the younger children as they get ready to move up.



Year 2 Butterflies

Highlights in Butterflies during last half-term.

For a short half term we seemed to pack in an awful lot! The children continued their learning on famous people where they became the experts on people like Bear Grylls, Katy Perry and Henry VIII. They wrote letters and tweeted their famous person or contact hoping for a reply. We received a couple of replies which the children were excited about. Thank you to the parents for attending the Project Based Learning exhibition run by the children, and also for the complementary comments made.

Alongside History the children have been deepening their understanding of different adjectives and adverbs in their writing. They have been working hard to pick more powerful words to make their writing even better.

In Maths the children have been mastering skills in number and have been exploring position and direction. Further work on Fractions has challenged our thinking and enabled us to move further on our learning journey.

In RE we have learnt about special clothes and how these mean different things to different people. Rev. Philippa talked to us about her special clothes and the stoles she wears. The children planned questions and we able to confidently answer these. Many thanks Rev. Philippa for coming in to help us with our learning.

What will Butterflies be learning during this half-term?

Summer 2 looks to be just as busy as last half-term, but a lot of fun!

We will be looking at our locality and our school grounds. We will be recognising landmarks and basic human and physical features. The children will be making simple maps and using the position and direction knowledge from maths to give accurate directions. Linked to the geography we will be making links between the different road names, researching what they have in common.

In English the children will have opportunities for extended writing and to work on their handwriting. Also continuing to write for different audiences and purposes.

Maths will involve work on 3D shape, money, time, division and subtraction. We will be starting to work on the white and lime mental maths targets. Look out for these in the children's home learning.

New staff

We are pleased to let you know that we have three new Midday Supervisory Assistants (MDSAs) starting this half term. Their names are: Mrs Joyce Foxwell, Miss Rachael Smith and Mrs Kathryn Young. We wish them all the best as they join our Cornerstone team and are sure they will help the children continue to enjoy positive lunchtimes.

Fond farewells

At the end of last half-term we said a sad goodbye to Mrs. Justine Holman-Payne and Mrs Rachel Goodman, both of whom have worked hard and with great enthusiasm to ensure that the children have enjoyable and safe lunchtimes.

We also said goodbye to Mrs Tracey Murphy who has worked hard every day this academic year to make sure the school is clean and ready for the children and staff.

Cornerstone PTA

Thank you again to the wonderful and hardworking members of the 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 on **Saturday 27th June (11am – 2pm)**. It promises to be a fantastic event with lots for everyone to do, to eat and to drink. The PTA would still appreciate a few extra volunteers to help run this event. If you are able to help before, for a shift during or afterwards please speak to a member of the PTA.

Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware we were visited by Ofsted for two days in the final week of last half-term. We were pleased with how the two days went and the enthusiasm and the behaviour of the children. Thank you for all of your supportive comments, and for the fact we now have approximately 80% of the parent community who have shared their opinions of the school on Parentview.

Website

Please remember our website is the central source of information for parents and the wider community about our school. Mrs Christine Jones, our new member of staff in the office, is now responsible for the running and updating of the website, so more letters, policies and other information will be added regularly over the coming terms.

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.

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Sainsbury's Vouchers

Many thanks to everyone who kindly collected and handed in vouchers over the past few months. We are very pleased to let you know that we had 3899 vouchers in total. With these we have managed to order additional PE storage, balls, nets / hoops, maths equipment and a range of other smaller items.

Church School Values

Thank you to all the families who have shared their thoughts through the Home Learning discussions. We have a display of some of the responses in the Hall and a more detailed selection of comments have been placed onto our school website.

Thank you also to the parents who attended the Values Workshop led by Richard Wharton from the Diocese Education department and the Coffee Evening to share final thoughts with Mr Clarke.

All of this feedback, along with the children's thoughts from school discussions and the staff's opinions will be shared with the Governing Body, who have the responsibility of choosing our third Value.

If you have any thoughts about this process or the relevance of these Values for your child please do talk to me.

These Values are crucial to the work and life of the school as they encapsulate the type of people we want to help the children grow up into during their time at Cornerstone.

Collective Worship themes

The themes for this half-term are Happiness, Friendships and Challenges / Goals. We will also share with the children by the end of term the third school Value.

Home Learning

Thank you again for all the time and support you have given your child 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 to concentrate at the end of a long day.

We also appreciate you finding 3-5 minutes a few times each week to practice one of the ideas 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.

Home Learning is a key part of the home-school partnership. It enables the children to practice their skills with different people and helps them develop their understanding. It is also a strong positive message that we are always learning, and that learning is enjoyable.

Parent Pupil drop-ins

These will be taking place on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 of July. The classrooms will be open between 3.15 and 3.45 for your child to show you their work and the projects that have been undertaken by the class. The teachers will be present but the aim is that your child should take the lead in sharing and discussing their learning with you.

School Singing Club

On the same afternoons as the Parent Pupil drop-ins the children in Ladybirds and Butterflies who are in the school Singing Club would like to share a few of the songs they have been learning this year.

This will start at 2.50 on both Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 of July, to ensure you have plenty of time to collect siblings and tour the classroom with your children after school.

Ground Force Day

Many thanks to Lisa Morey and some of her colleagues from Lloyds Bank who came into school for two days to undertake Ground Force days with us. It was a fantastic couple of days, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. It was a positive experience for them working with a range of different adults and seeing first hand members of a community working together. We were very pleased that many of you came to share and enjoy the results of the joint effort.

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, our Local Authority Advisor and of course with the Ofsted Inspector who visited last half-term.

Mr Clarke and Mrs Ross will be working with staff and governors over this half term to agree the priorities for next year. These will build on the advice given by both the Ofsted Inspector and our Local Authority Advisor. This will be shared with you in September and published on our website.

Building works

The Local Authority will be undertaking the building of the three final classrooms over this summer. Although we are waiting to have a final timeline agreed, we know the work will not start until the summer holiday. There will definitely still be work ongoing when we come back in September which we are sure will be fascinating for the children to watch.

During the building work in term time "Time Out" will still be operating their usual before and after school club provision, but they will predominantly be using the Hall. They will find alternative space during after school club time, but will be based in the Hall. Also during the building work the Gibson Gate entrance will be closed as there will be no way to access the school from that entrance at that time. Apologies if this causes you any inconvenience but it is necessary.

The Health and Safety requirements of this building project are a high priority for both us at school and for the Local Authority, and we will ensure the children's safety and security are maintained.

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 will also mean that "Time Out" will still have a dedicated room upon completion of the works.

End of year reports

As in schools across England our teachers have been working hard on your child's end of year report over the last few weeks. We will be sending the reports to on Wednesday 1st July. If there are any aspects of the report you wish to discuss please talk to your child's teacher to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Family Fun Run Fridays

Thank you to all the children and parents who have taken part in these runs or strolls around the field. We will continue the Fun Runs during this half-term, and hopefully weather permitting until October half-term. If you haven't joined in yet please do so even for just a lap or two. It's a positive way of encouraging healthy lifestyles with the children and gives them an opportunity to consider the maths involved and to record their name and score on the chart.

Last half-term as a school we ran 1040 laps which equates to 104 kilometres. This is a great achievement. Can we go further this half-term? (We do have two extra Fridays!)

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.

Mr Clarke's Charity Challenge

Hopefully you are aware that I am undertaking a 48.1 mile charity walk towards the end of June, (though you may question why I am doing it!). The aim is to raise funds for the PTA to support the school with additional resources for the children's learning and play. Half of the money raised will be going to support Whiteley Church, who also support the work of the school and the wider Whiteley community.

Apologies that on the original letter there was confusion about how donations could be made. To clarify we are going to stick to a traditional method of cheques or cash donations being handed in or sent into the school office. If you wish to donate that would be very much appreciated.

Messy Church in Whiteley

The dates for the summer term are as follows:

- 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, the largest number of people who have ever attended Whiteley Messy Church.

Parentmail

Parentmail is a fantastic system to receive all school communications by email. If you have not yet signed up for this service please speak to Mrs. Gadd in the school office.

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. INSET days for next academic year which have been decided are:

- Tuesday 1 September 2015
- Friday 9 October 2015
- Monday 12 October 2015
- Friday 29 January 2016

There will be one further INSET day next academic year. On these days the school will be closed to the children.

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Dates for your Diary



June 2015

- 1 June: First day of Summer Term 2
- 9 June: PTA meeting (7pm)
- 15 June: Phonics testing week
- 16-18 June: New YR afternoon visits
- 19 June: Non-Uniform day
- 24 June: Bumble Bees Longdown Farm trip
- 27 June: Summer Fair (11-2)**
- 30 June-2 July: New YR afternoon visits

July 2015

- 1 July: Reports to parents
- 3 July: Sports Morning & Picnic (10.30-1)
- 8 & 9 July: Parent Pupil drop-ins (3.15-3.45)
- 10 July: New classes day
- 22 July: Last day of Summer Term 2**

September 2015

- 1 September: INSET day
- 2 September: First day Of Autumn Term 1 for children**

October 2015

- 9 October: INSET day
- 12 October: INSET day

January 2016

- 29 January: INSET day

Many thanks for your continued partnership and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Tim Clarke
Headteacher