

Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

February 2016

Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope

Growing an Exceptional Learning Community



Class Updates



Year R: Hedgehogs

Last half-term we enjoyed opportunities to hear, read and learn lots of stories as we explored 'Once Upon a Time'. The stories really helped with our writing which all of the adults have been impressed by. In number the children are gaining confidence in teen numbers and early addition and subtraction. We have found Early Morning Challenges really beneficial for settling the children and starting their learning positively. Thank you to everybody who has done home learning; we have been particularly impressed by the Chinese New Year work.

What is going on in Hedgehogs during this half-term?

This half term we are planning activities and learning experiences based initially around the theme of **People who help us**.

Week 1: People who help us at school

Week 2: The Police (World Book Day)

Week 3: Nurses, doctors and dentists

Week 4: Emergency services

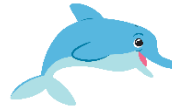
Week 5: Preparing for Easter and Easter Worship.

We are arranging visits from our PCSO with her police car. We would like to arrange visits from other professionals, so if you know of any who are available, please let us know. We will be trying to write labels, lists and sentences from stories we have learnt. In RE we will be building up to the Easter story, considering new life, looking at Spring outside and reflecting on our own qualities. In PE we will alternate between dance and multi-skills. In Phonics and Reading we are now revising the more complex vowel digraphs, letters and sounds phase 3.

Things to bring in and others to leave at home

Mrs Ross loves old comics, ribbons, cards and bits of wrapping paper, interesting boxes and tubes for model making, bits of string and rope, artefacts and pictures from holidays abroad, bits of old wood that are not too rough, shells. (Have you seen my lovely wooden pipe drum)? If you are throwing something away, I will probably like it!

Please leave your toys at home so that we don't lose them - but don't forget your water bottle!



Year 1: Dolphins

During Spring 1, Dolphins enjoyed finding out about the Great Fire of London and trying to work out who was to blame. We have spent some time looking at stories that Jesus told and why Jesus was such an important storyteller. In Science we looked at materials and the children had a challenge to use thin strips of paper to carry their heavy book bags across the playground. Some were successful but some were not, I wonder why? Finally the children loved going to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum on their school trip and I'm sure you heard about everything they had learnt.

What will Dolphins be learning during this half-term?

In Spring 2, we are going to be getting very creative using water colour to paint the Great Fire of London. We will also be creating some music and a dance for the Great Fire of London. We will be using the iPads again, but this time to make animations about the Great Fire of London. All this will be in preparation for our celebration near the end of this half-term; a date will be confirmed soon. The children will also be learning about Palm Sunday and how this fits into the Easter story.



Year 2: Penguins

Last half-term Penguins thoroughly enjoyed the books that they shared in English, and were very motivated with a range of writing opportunities that linked to these.

They found out about how to keep themselves healthy in a variety of ways, including exercise and diet. They were fascinated by learning more about a village in India and comparing life there to their lives in Whiteley.

What will Penguins be learning during this half-term?

This half-term Penguins will continue to read and write a range of texts and to develop their understanding and use of grammatical terminology. In Maths they will practice their use of calculations in problem solving and also undertake work on money, reading of scales, fractions and shapes.

They will also start their "Portraits from the Past" project, where they will learn about some famous people from the past, before debating and voting on

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which person they think is most significant. This project will continue after the Easter holiday.

Linked to this project they will look at different portrait paintings and create their own self-portraits. They will also consider favourite pieces of music and consider why different people prefer different genres.



Year 3: Dragonflies

Year 3 have been enjoying their new project about Rainforests. Last half-term, we learnt about the location of rainforests in the world and the location of different biomes. We zoomed in on our focus continent and made 3d models of South America. We ventured into our own forest (the copse) and looked at the nature around us with new eyes (our iPad cameras).

Dragonflies have taken some superb photographs and edited them with various filters and special effects. We have been finding out how plants grow well and will be able to use this information when looking at the Amazon rainforest in more depth.

The children have been making good progress with their number and calculating skills in maths. We have been learning the skills needed to write short stories based on animated films and the children are very proud of their stories.

What will Dragonflies be learning during this half-term?

We will be continuing to learn about the Amazon rainforest this half-term and considering why it is so important. We will be exploring the effects of deforestation on humans, plants, animals and planet earth. We have also started to look at how trees are used as symbols within religions. Our science learning will be based around animals and we are hoping that a trip to Marwell Zoo will support us with our learning about rainforests and animals. Dragonflies will explore the layers of the rainforest and producing some layered art work based on the work of Henri Rousseau.



New Permanent Site update

The design of the new school building is close to being complete and the governors' Building Committee are now discussing the exterior landscaping and interior designs with Hampshire's architect team. The final design will be displayed at the second Open Consultation event which is likely to be held during the week beginning Monday 21 March, though a final date will be confirmed soon.

The principles on which the design is based are focused on continuing to grow an Exceptional Learning Community in which all children and adults are valued and can thrive. The welfare and learning needs of the children have been central in our decision making, as well as the aim of providing as much space as possible, with as much flexibility in its use as possible to provide an effective learning environment not just for our current children but future generations as well.

SIAMS Inspection

Our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Inspection is taking place on Wednesday 24 February. The Inspector's name is Andrew Rickett, and he is a highly experienced and highly regarded SIAMS and Ofsted Inspector. The inspection will focus on four key questions.

1. How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
2. What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?
3. How effective is the Religious Education?
4. How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

There is an opportunity for parents to meet Mr Rickett and share their views on our school at 9am on the day of the inspection.

Collective Worship themes

During this half-term we will be exploring the themes of Serving (Lent) and Easter. A key part of this will be our daily challenge of 40 Acts. This is a set of acts of generosity, with each class choosing the acts for a particular week, to consider how we can serve those around us with generosity. Like last year, each class will take it in turns to select the Act for each day of a particular week. We will share this daily on the notice board and through our Facebook page and Twitter account.

During the final week we will be exploring the events of Easter week which lead up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Easter Worship

The children from each class will be sharing some of their learning, and the choir will be singing in a special Easter Worship at the end of term. This will take place twice: on Wednesday 23 March (2.30 pm) and Thursday 24 March (9.30 am). Family, friends and other members of the local community are warmly invited to join us for one or both of these Worships.

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Cornerstone Rules

One of the aspects of our school that makes staff proud is the kind and thoughtful behaviours the children regularly exhibit towards each other. Yes, they may make mistakes or fall out with each other at times, but overall it is a very calm and harmonious ethos at Cornerstone.

Part of the reason for this is the way the children helped to create the Cornerstone Rules, and how they can see examples of our school Values in action on a daily basis. As a reminder our Cornerstone Rules are:

Love

- *We are kind, friendly and helpful*
- *We listen carefully*
- *We look after our classrooms and school*

Forgiveness

- *We say sorry and try hard to improve*
- *We share and take turns*
- *We include everyone*

Hope

- *We are cheerful and positive*
- *We work hard to learn and grow*
- *We learn from mistakes and problems*

World Book Day

This wonderful event is taking place on Thursday, 3 March. A separate detailed letter was sent out last half-term explaining how it celebrates and promotes the joy of reading and books. Children and staff have been invited to come in dressed as characters from books and there will be a range of story-telling and sharing going on throughout the day with different members of staff.

Sport Relief 2016

This worthwhile national fundraising event is taking place on Friday, 18 March. We will be encouraging all children, and staff to take part in the Sport Relief mile (which can be walked, jogged, run or completed with a combination).

As well as promoting regular exercise and coming together as a school community, it also raises money for worthwhile causes both here in the UK and abroad.

Cornerstone PTA

We are always appreciative of the PTA members who give up their time so willingly to run such successful events and raise very beneficial funds to help enhance your children's experience at Cornerstone.

This year the PTA are supporting the school by fundraising to provide additional outside climbing equipment for all the children to enjoy. If you are able to offer support in any way please speak to Clare Nichols (Chair).

The big events coming up this half-term are:

11 March: "The Cornerstone Cup" Race Night (7.30pm)

19 March: Family Photo shoot (9-12)

Parents' Evenings

The Parents' Evenings will be taking place on Tuesday 23 February and Thursday 25 February for all classes. Hedgehogs and Dolphins will have an additional evening on Tuesday 1 March.

As always, we aim to provide you with a detailed update on how your child is progressing in all aspects of their development and school life. However we also try to stay on time, which means 10 minute appointments and we appreciate your support with this.

This year we will be providing you with a mid-year Report which will indicate whether your child is on track to achieve the new End of Year national expectations in the different domains of Reading, Writing and Maths (Y1-Y3) or on track to achieve the Early Learning Goals (YR). It will also provide you with specific targets for your child to work on over the coming months.

I would also like to thank the staff in advance for all the time and care they put into both preparing for and running these valuable evenings.

Home Learning

The aims of home learning are to develop a positive and enthusiastic approach to learning amongst the children and the whole school community. Regular reading, both by your child and you to your child as well as the regular practice of phonics, key words and maths 'Learn Its' that come home are also crucial in helping children master basic knowledge and skills.

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Please be assured that if your child has spent the allocated time on their Home Learning, but not completed it, then staff are happy for you to sign the task and for it to remain uncompleted. Home Learning should be more focused on developing knowledge, skills and understanding rather than on task completion.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Workshop

Thank you to the (approximately 30) parents who attended this information evening on Thursday 4 February, and in particular for the interest you showed and range of questions you asked. Thank you also for the positive and generous feedback we received both on the night and afterwards.

As you became aware we are in a significant transition phase in education in England at the moment and we hope that the evening provided you with some key information and reassurance about how we are working as a school, with other schools and the Local Authority to ensure these developments impact positively on your children

Water bottles and school shoes

Just a reminder that we encourage all children to bring a water bottle to school, but that it must contain water not squash or another drink. This helps keep the children hydrated and healthy.

Also please can I remind you that school shoes should be worn to school, not trainers, unless the children have been specifically asked to for a school trip or activity.

Eddie the Penguin Saved the World

I'm sure that everyone who attended the performances last half-term were very impressed and proud of the children's achievements. The acting, singing, remembering cues and moves were all of such high quality (although we have come to expect it now). This is a brilliant opportunity to develop the children's speaking and drama skills, whilst also encouraging them to think about important global issues.

Many thanks again to Mrs Quick for her enthusiasm, time and expertise in helping the children produce such memorable productions. Also many thanks to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Faulkner who more than ably supported the production.

Open Library

Mrs Maguire opens up the library after school on a Friday every week. This allows families to come in and share stories and books together. Hopefully it also gives you an opportunity to see the range of books we

have on offer and to suggest other books to your child that they might like to borrow.

Website

<http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/>

We update details on our school website on a regular and ongoing basis. Our website is the central place to go for all information including dates, letters and policies. We also linked our Facebook page last academic year, so if you are not on Facebook you can still see the posts through the website.

Attendance

As a school we have to set a target in line with national expectations for the children's attendance, which this year we have set at 97%.

As a whole school the attendance for this academic year so far was 96.6%.

This percentage can be broken down into individual classes for this academic year so far:

Hedgehogs: 95%

Dolphins: 97.5%

Penguins: 97%

Dragonflies: 96.8%

Our aim is to work in partnership with families to keep children healthy and motivated so their attendance remains high. The Department for Education repeatedly reference evidence that proves this has a positive effect on progress and enjoyment of school.

Parent View

Thank you to everyone who has completed the online questionnaire about your views of our school last year, it was a fantastic percentage of our families when compared to other schools. 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 hyperlink on our website under "Parents".

Facebook and Twitter accounts

Thank you to everyone who has been 'liking' and commenting in such a positive way to our Facebook posts and Twitter tweets this term. We hope that it is a useful way of sharing the news and achievements of the school.

Please can we remind you that these forums are for celebrating achievements and sharing positives of the school as many parents share the posts with their children. If you have any concerns or complaints we would appreciate you coming into school to discuss them with us in person. Many thanks.

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Staff Updates

We will be saying a sad farewell to Mr David Williams our Caretaker at the end of this term. Due to the hours Mr Williams works it may be that many of you have not actually met him, but I'm sure we can all agree that we see the benefits of his work on a daily basis in the way the school is maintained, kept clean and safe.

We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed a new class teacher for the Y4 class for September 2016. They have a number of years teaching experience in a range of schools. We are confident the Y4 children will have an enjoyable and successful year learning and growing with them. Once all of the necessary employment checks have been completed, we will provide a further update.

Staff INSET days

Just to confirm that there are no more INSET days for this academic year. We will aim to inform you of the Autumn term 2016 INSET days as soon as possible.

Dates for your Diary



February 2015

22 Feb: First day of Spring term 2

23 Feb: Parents' Evening

25 Feb: Parents' Evening

March 2015

1 Mar: Parents' Evening (YR & Y1 only)

3 Mar: World Book Day

8 Mar: PTA meeting (7pm)

11 Mar: PTA Cornerstone Cup Race Night (7.30pm)

17 Mar: Maths information evening for parents (7pm)

18 Mar: Sport Relief day

23 Mar: Easter Worship (2.30pm)

24 Mar: Easter Worship (9.30am)

24 Mar: Last day of Spring term 2

25 Mar: Messy Church at Cornerstone (4-6pm)

April 2015

11 Apr: First day of Summer term 1

19 Apr: PTA meeting (7pm)

Please remember you can access term dates for this and next academic year on Hantsweb at:

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/school_holidays

Many thanks for your continued partnership and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Clarke'.

Mr Tim Clarke
Headteacher

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