

Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

April 2016

Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope

Growing an Exceptional Learning Community



Class Updates



Year R: Hedgehogs

We had an exciting and productive half term before Easter. One of the most exciting things we have achieved is that nearly all of us are now readers. Well done to all of you for your support; reading at home makes such a difference. Thanks also to our reading Mum and Granny volunteers. What a difference you make. If you would like to join this group please let us know.

We also really enjoyed our work on 'People who help us', one of the highlights was our visitors, we enjoyed finding out about the jobs that paramedics and police officers do and about special clothes and uniforms that people wear for their work.

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

Our plans for the first half of the Summer term are to explore 'Let's Imagine'. We will be thinking about Pirates and Princesses, Heroes, then Fairy Fortnight, followed by looking at Dragons and Dinosaurs.

We are working towards achieving the Early Learning Goals which we need to try to reach by the end of this term, we will therefore be expecting the children to undertake more Teacher Directed Tasks and Less Child Initiated tasks. This will also prepare us for the transition to Y1 and the National Curriculum.

We will be going on our annual class visit in July, to Longdown Activity Farm. More details of this trip will be shared with you in a letter later this term.



Year 1: Dolphins

Last half term the children loved learning about The Great Fire of London and sharing this information through their animations. The children were also very inspired when we created a dance for our Project Celebration that gave the children confidence and an opportunity to share everything they had learnt. The class were very enthusiastic in their learning about Palm Sunday and shared this in the Easter Worship.

What will Dolphins be learning during this half-term?

In Summer 1 Dolphin class will be looking at instruction writing and traditional tales in English. The instruction writing will be linked to their learning about plants that we have begun this week and eventually to an independent piece to write a recipe for a healthy dish that we will design and make in D.T.

We have started to learn about 3D shapes and this is being supported by our Art unit on sculpture and making the links between the two. Finally in R.E. we are looking at the concept of specialness and discussing how and why churches are special to Christians.



Year 2: Penguins

Last half term, Penguin class visited the Cornerstone Portrait Gallery (in the hall) to learn about various famous people from the past. They then chose one of these people to research (using iPads and books) in greater depth. The Penguins then learned how to write a speech using persuasive language and presented their arguments in a debate to the class. All Penguins were amazing!

We also had a lot of fun learning a Bollywood dance which was performed to Mr Clarke and a few other visitors who were in school too. In Science, we set up an investigation to find out if seeds need water, light and soil to germinate. To add to the fun, we grew grass snakes which were very bushy! This topic will carry on into the summer term as Penguin Class will become Plant Doctors.

What will Penguins be learning during this half-term?

This half term will be a busy time as we have a few quizzes to complete in Maths and English. We shall continue to improve our problem solving skills, have a go at interpreting data, fractions and consolidating our knowledge of the x2, x5 and x10 tables. In History, Penguins will be researching a famous person of their own choice and will present their findings in their own way. We will be aiming to become experts in I.T. by researching our chosen famous person and to create posters.

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Year 3: Dragonflies

Dragonflies enjoyed learning about rainforests last term. They loved their trip to Marwell zoo and particularly enjoyed visiting the tropical house and seeing all the animals. We learnt about an artist called Henri Rousseau and created our own 'Tiger in a tropical storm' pictures by building up layers. We focused on learning about deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and the effects of this. We were very interested in learning to use emotive techniques to persuade people to save the rainforest and endangered animals like the orangutan and the jaguar.

In maths, we have liked learning our times tables using some funky songs to help us. In English, we were inspired by a book called 'The Day the Crayons quit' and wrote our letters in the style of the crayons.

What will Dragonflies be learning during this half-term?

This half term, we will be learning about transformation in RE and skeletons in our science lessons. Our main project will be 'What did the Romans ever do for us?' We will improve our map skills by looking at how the Romans invaded parts of Europe and become better historians through enquiry. Our project will mainly focus on the impact that the Romans had on Britain and the legacy they left.

SIAMS Inspection

We were very pleased with the outcome of our SIAMS inspection last half-term and hope that you enjoyed reading the Inspection Report that was sent out. The Report can be found on our website at: <http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/school-information/siams-inspection-february-2016/>

We were pleased that the Inspector judged us in all aspects as 'Good', and in particular spoke about the amount of progress we have made as a new school in a relatively short space of time.

New Permanent Site update

In last half-term's Newsletter I informed you that the plan was to have second Public Consultation event during the week beginning Monday 21 March. Unfortunately due to processes outside our control this has now been moved back until the 16th of June. The Consultation will be here at school and will run from 3pm-6pm.

Collective Worship themes

During this half-term we will be exploring the themes of: Hope, Creation and Talents & Gifts. As part of our

school development we will be encouraging the children to take even greater roles in planning and leading aspects of some of the Collective Worship. We will also be learning a couple of new songs.

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.

The main events coming up this term are the school discos on Tuesday 26 April and of course the Summer Fair on Saturday 18 June. The PTA will send out further details about these events in separate letters.

We are very pleased to re-share the good news that enough funds have been raised to provide three new pieces of Trim Trail climbing equipment and a four metre tall climbing rope pyramid. This equipment will be installed during the final week of this half-term and over the May half-term holiday week.

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.

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 it to remain uncompleted. Home Learning should be more focused on developing knowledge, skills and understanding rather than on task completion.

Maths Information Evening

Thank you to the parents who attended this evening last half-term, and also for joining in with the activities so willingly and enthusiastically. Thank you also for the positive feedback we received both on the night and afterwards.

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, or you have discussed a medical need for alternative footwear with me.

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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.

Family Fun Run Friday

This weekly event for all members of the family will start again this term, on the playground during wet weather, but hopefully mainly on the field. We invite everyone to take part, either running or walking, and to record their names and laps completed. The children will help calculate weekly and termly totals.

This links with our WOW (Walk Once a Week) initiative to help keep the children fit and healthy and to promote exercise as a positive lifestyle choice. It also links to a new initiative called the Daily Mile. Further details can be found on their website: <http://thedailymile.co.uk/>.

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, so if you are not personally 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 the year so far is 96.6%

This percentage can be broken down into individual classes. For the year so far the attendance for each class is as follows:

Hedgehogs: 95.4%

Dolphins: 97.7%

Penguins: 97.1%

Dragonflies: 96.6%

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. 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.

Staff Updates

Last half-term we said a sad farewell to Mrs Claire Riley and Mr Dave Williams (our Caretaker). I thank them for everything they have done for our school and we wish them both all the best for future.

We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed a new class teacher for the Y4 class for September 2016. His name is Mr Sam Batley, he has a number of years teaching experience in a range of schools. We look forward to welcoming him to join our Cornerstone community in September and are confident the Y4 children will have an enjoyable and successful year learning and growing with him.

We will be interviewing for a new Y2 teacher for September 2016 and a new Caretaker in the coming weeks. We will update you on this situation before the end of term.

Staff INSET days

Just to confirm that there are no more INSET days for this academic year. We have however booked the first two days of the Autumn term as INSET days: Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 September 2016.

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Dates for your Diary



April 2016

11 Apr: First day of Summer term 1

19 Apr: PTA meeting (7pm)

26 Apr: Non –uniform day

26 Apr: Disco (YR & Y1 3.15-4.15)
(Y2 & Y3 4.30-5.30)

May 2016

4 May: School photos

5 May: New YR Parents Evening (7.30)

13 May: Y1 & Y2 trip to Hillier Gardens

16 May: Walk to school week

27 May: Last day of Summer term 1

June 2016

6 June: First day of Summer term 2

18 June: PTA Summer Fair

24 June: Sports morning & picnic

July 2016

1 July: Reserve Sports morning & picnic

7 July: New class afternoon

20 July: Last day of Summer term 2

September 2016

5 Sept: INSET day

6 Sept: INSET day

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

Mr Tim Clarke
Headteacher

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