

Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

June 2016

Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope

Growing an Inspirational Learning Community



We welcome everyone back for the final half-term of this academic year. We hope it will be filled with sunshine, enjoyment, learning and many happy memories. We have the PTA Summer Fair, Big Olympic Sports Week, an open exhibition of the plans for the new building and new class afternoons to look forward to. Hedgehogs class will be visiting Longdown Farm, Penguins class the Science museum in Winchester and Dragonflies class Pizza Express within Whiteley.

Have an enjoyable and wonderful half-term everyone.



Hedgehogs (Year R)

Hedgehogs have been excited by several mini themes. Fairy fortnight was a real hit. There was a little bit of 'magic' even for our most masculine members. The 'fairies' visited us in the copse and used the special door in the corridor. This provided great stimuli for writing letters. Dragons and dinosaurs gave us opportunities to use our reading skills to find out about dinosaurs in Information books. Our Home learning creatures have made a happy home in the corridor, thank you.

We have been working really hard to enthuse the children to write independently, as this is one of the hardest goals to achieve. Looking at the children in their recent photo and the work in their books we are all struck by how they have grown in so many different ways.

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

This half term sees a concentration on preparation for Year 1, making sure the children are ready to access the new curriculum, that they spend time with their new teacher and that we reduce the amount of child initiated time and increase teacher directed time.

We are using the learning context of 'All creatures Great and Small' to inspire them. We will start with pets and move quickly into mini beasts (as our caterpillars arrive), then wild and farm animals to take us up to our trip to Longdown Dairy farm. Again there will be much concentration on writing, handwriting (forming letters and numbers correctly) and fine motor skills.

Thank you

To Mr Faulkner and his team for clearing the Copse so that we could find evidence of the 'fairies'. To all those parents, and neighbours who have made donations to school of outgrown resources and nearly new books.

To the PTA for their donation of money to Mrs Ross so that she can 'hit' the car boot sales and buy lots of resources, "Have you seen my fishing tent?" Bought for £4!



Dolphins (Year 1)

Dolphins class really enjoyed our school trip to Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum and this helped us in our learning about plants and also sculptures. The children were very enthusiastic and loved developing their clay skills to make some different kinds of sculptures.

The children were surprised when a beanstalk appeared in the classroom but this encouraged the children's imagination when working on our Jack and the Beanstalk unit in English.

They have also been impressive with their learning in maths about 2D and 3D shapes and telling the time in particular.

What will Dolphins be learning during this half-term?

During summer 2 we will be looking at our school in Geography and beginning to develop some mapping skills. We are also going to be starting a new unit of work about Queens from history.

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.

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Penguins (Year 2)

Last term Penguin class became 'Plant Doctors'. We had the responsibility to nurse some plants back to health. We kept a diary and notebook to record the changes we observed in our plants as well as the plants, trees and copse area within the school grounds. It was quite fitting to enjoy an amazing trip to Sir Harold Hiller Gardens where we learned how bees use flowers to pollinate, how various herbs smell, we looked at trees and their leaves, went pond dipping and played a seed survival game. It was great fun!

In Art, the children improved their sketching skills by drawing parts of plants, paying particular attention to tone and lines. In P.E. we enjoyed learning to play rounders and some athletics. In History, the children researched a famous person of their choice and made some notes of their findings. Alongside this, Penguin Class rose to the challenge of completing their 'Quizzes'. The children have worked very hard and we are all very proud of them.

What will Penguins be learning during this half-term?

This half term will see an exciting trip to the Science Centre in Winchester. We are sure that the children will have lots of fun! In Maths, we will be looking at 2D and 3D shape, money and will continue to improve our problem solving skills. In English, we will be looking at non-fiction writing, making leaflets and writing some poetry. In history, we will be researching the history of flight and will focus on the 'Wright' brothers and the development of the aeroplane. We shall then look at how kites are made and will attempt to make our own kites thinking about which materials we should use and why! In Science we will be exploring materials and in Music, the children will be focusing on their listening, call and response, dynamics, rehearsing and performing skills by creating a piece of music about space!



Dragonflies (Year 3)

Last half term, Year 3 enjoyed learning about the human skeleton and how our bones and muscles work together.

We have developed our mastery in maths and are on our way to being experts in telling the time, working with fractions and describing shapes and turns using angles. We used this angles knowledge to help us when creating algorithms in our computing.

We have particularly enjoyed writing stories about a Dragon slayer with a dilemma and publishing our own books. We loved reading them to Hedgehog class!

We have started to learn about life in Roman Britain with some interesting artefacts that were discovered at an excavation site. Dragonflies have become great historians and archaeologists and can tell you what an artefact tells us about the past. They have also started to learn about how far the Roman Empire spread across Europe and identified these countries using atlases.

We also enjoyed our music lessons where we learnt to sing and play along to a song 'Let your spirit fly'. Proudly, we performed and taught this to Year 1 and 2 in singing worship.

What will Dragonflies be learning during this half-term?

This half term will be kicking off with Pizza! Dragonflies are going to become Pizza chefs by taste testing, designing, making and packaging their very own pizzas (using our 3d shape maths).

After that it will be back to Roman Britain and we will be finding out what legacy the Romans have left behind and what impact this has had on our lives today. In science, the force will be with us as we learn about magnets and forces. We will build on our coding work in computing and starting to use a program called Scratch to control a character.

In Year 3, we learn about Sikhism as well as Christianity and this term we have focused on the transformation and wisdom of Guru Nanak.

In maths, we will continue to master adding and subtracting using the column method, learn our multiplication facts and revise other areas of mathematics we have already covered at least once this year already. We are going to learn to write reports about fantastical creatures in our English lessons.

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New Building

The process of designing both the internal and external elements of the new Cornerstone Primary building are almost ready to be submitted for planning permission. If you would like to see these plans and have an opportunity to discuss them with the architects, representatives of Hampshire's Children's Services team and governors from our school, please attend the public exhibition on **Thursday 16 June (3-6pm)** in the school hall.

New Trim Trail

Firstly many thanks to the **PTA** for their hard work over the last 12-18 months. They have run exciting events, and sourced funding grants, to raise **£17,000** to pay for the new equipment for the children to explore and enjoy. We will be explaining the use of the new equipment with the children during the first two days of this half-term, to ensure they know how to enjoy it safely with the other children. We are happy to allow children to use the equipment **before and after school**, but they must be **closely supervised by a parent or carer** at these times. We would request that **pre-school and Year R children use only the original pieces of Trim Trail equipment**. We have also explained to the **Year 1** children that they can only go to the height indicated by the **green ribbons** on the **Climbing Pyramid** and **Net Wall**, and also that the **Monkey Bars** can only be used by **Year 2** and **older children**. I appreciate that this may be disappointing for some of the younger children, but hope that you can support us in explaining that it means there will be more challenging equipment for them as they get older. For further guidance on the use of this equipment, please read the letter I sent out in May which is published on the school website:

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

Growing an Inspirational Learning Community

You may have noticed that we are changing our vision statement from 'Growing an Exceptional Community'. After much deliberation by staff and governors, it was felt the new version fits better with our **INSPIRE Learning Values**. We have been discussing and debating how we would define our school community as this. Currently we would explain it as:

- **Igniting a love of learning**
- **Empowering Partnerships**
- **Nurturing a Growth Mindset**

However, we are only currently defining it as this, as we will be working with and listening to the children's views in Pupil Voice Group sessions during this half-term. If you have any ideas which you would like to add that you think would help us to grow and develop as a community of learners, please do let me know.

Big Olympic Sports Week

During the week beginning Monday 20 June, we have a range of different taster sessions happening during the week, from Gymnastics to Football, and Choi Kwang Do to Cheerleading. We hope that the children will enjoy learning about and trying new sports, and that this will inspire them to follow a wider range of events at the Rio Olympics this summer.

Sports morning and picnic

The week will culminate on Friday morning with our Sports Morning and family picnic. This year there will be three teams: Purple, Gold and Green. From this year, the children will remain in these teams throughout their time at Cornerstone.

The morning will start at **9.15** with Penguins and Dragonflies classes taking part in some sprint and relay races. The rest of the children will join them at **9.45** for a carousel of activities. If everything runs to schedule, there should just be enough time for some mums and dads races at **12.00** before the picnic starts.

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New Staff

We are very pleased to let you know that we have appointed **Mr Henry Penfold** to be our Year 2 teacher from September. As well as a great deal of experience and interest in PE and Music, Mr Penfold is also a Microsoft Education Innovator Expert.

We are also very pleased to welcome **Mr Matt Pleasants** as our new caretaker. Mr Pleasants will be starting with us from Monday 13 June.

PTA

Our big event for this term is the **Summer Fair** which is taking place on **Saturday 18 June (11am -2pm)**. There will be a range of stalls, activities, refreshments and a visit from the circus!

To support the PTA's Summer Fair there will be a non-uniform day on **Friday 10 June**. The PTA would like all children to bring in a donation for the Tombola stall.

As this is the day before the Queen's birthday weekend, we would like all children to come either regally dressed as Kings, Queens, Princes or Princesses, or in red, white and blue.

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** 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.

National Curriculum

Following conversations as a staff and with a few parents, we have created overviews of the reading, writing and maths objectives for each year group (from Year 1 to Year 4). These can be found on our website using the following link:

<http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/teaching-learning/curriculum/>

There is also a link to the full National Curriculum on this page, but as this is a 201 page document, we hope that you may find the Year Group Overviews helpful.

Polite requests

Parking

As a working parent, I do understand and sympathise with difficulties parents face at the start and end of the school day. I would like to thank all the families who try to walk, scoot or cycle to school regularly and those who made extra efforts during Walk to School Week.

Currently, we have some parents using the overflow car park, but this is obviously likely to **increase in September 2016**. I am also aware of some parents' concerns about parking when we relocate to the new school site. Please can I ask you to consider during this half-term whether there are opportunities to **park and stride** from side roads off of Leafy Lane and Bader Way, or to consider **car sharing** with other families. Obviously, please be considerate of local residents and do not block driveways or access points.

I appreciate it is not always convenient, nor is the weather often on our side, however compared to the vast majority of Hampshire schools where there is no parking at all for parents, we are very fortunate at Cornerstone.

Playground and field

As stated in previous newsletters, please could you ask your children **not to cycle or scoot on the playground** at the start or end of the day. This includes younger siblings using school bikes and scooters.

We would appreciate **school equipment** not being used if it has been moved off the playground, as otherwise staff have to come out and tidy it away again after school.

I know many of you enjoy and appreciate the lovely community atmosphere we have on our playground, but please may I respectfully ask that all families have left the school site by **3.45pm** to allow clubs and Time Out to use the outside space. Obviously if you are staying to watch your child at a club you are very welcome to stay.

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<p>Website 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 upload pictures of the children's learning and trips, and also examples of their writing on their class pages.</p>	<p>Facebook and Twitter Thank you to everyone who has been 'liking' and commenting in such a positive way to our Facebook posts and Twitter tweets this term. 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.</p>	<p>ParentView Thank you to everyone who has completed the online questionnaire. If you have not completed it 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".</p>
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<p>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.</p>	<p>Family Fun Run Friday This weekly event, which can be run or strolled is open to all members of the family. Thank you to all the children and adults who joined in last half-term. We would encourage everyone to join in as a way of waking up our bodies and brains for the day and setting a healthy example for the children.</p>
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<p>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 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: 95.8% Dolphins: 97% Penguins: 97.4% Dragonflies: 96.4% Our aim as always is to work in partnership with families to keep children healthy and motivated, so their attendance and enjoyment of school remains high.</p>

<p>Dates for your diary Please remember you can access term dates for this and next academic year on Hantsweb at: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolholidays</p>	
<p>June 2016 Monday 6: First day back Friday 10: Non-uniform day Monday 13: Y2 trip to Science Museum Thursday 16: New build public exhibition Saturday 18: Summer Fair W/b Monday 20: Olympic Sports Week Friday 24: Sports morning and picnic</p>	<p>July 2016 Friday 1: Reserve Sports Morning and picnic Thursday 7: New class afternoon Tuesday 12: YR trip to Longdown Farm Wednesday 20: Last day of summer term 2</p>
<p>Autumn 2016 Wednesday 7 September: First day for Y1-Y4 pupils</p>	<p>INSET days Monday 5 September 2016 Tuesday 6 September 2016 Friday 27 January 2017 (There will be two other INSET days next academic year)</p>

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