

# Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

November 2016

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope*

*Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*



## Stars class



Marvellous Me' has been a super way for us to get to know each other, exploring our similarities and differences and learning to play with new friends. Our introduction to phonics has gone well, many children are noticing letters, remembering the rhymes and beginning to write. Thank you for your support. In Maths we have been looking at numbers to 10, reading them, counting and ordering, we have also shared rhymes to help us write them and have been comparing numbers.

After half term we will be starting the day with Early Morning Challenges which help us to develop writing, fine motor skills, handwriting, and number work. Children are grouped for these activities. In a few days your child may tell you they are in Moon, Planet, Rocket or Asteroid group?

This half term we are planning activities and learning experiences based around the broad theme of '**Let's Celebrate**'; this will include celebrations, festivals and Christmas and Diwali. Obviously we are finding out more about the Christmas story as we build up to our nativity worship 'A miracle in Town'. We will be looking at Change in Science through exploration of party food and decorations like balloons. In Maths we will be looking at numbers beyond ten and finding out about addition, we will be exploring 3d shapes, particularly parcels in our classroom post office. In English we will be beginning writing labels, invitations messages, letters and cards. We will be completing Phase 2 phonics and assessing how well we are doing before moving on to phase 3 and supporting children who need more reinforcement.

## **Tree dressing**

The first week of December is National Tree Dressing week, we are going in to the copse to 'dress' a tree to 'encourage the celebration of trees in city and country, in the street, village greens, anywhere in the public domain. It highlights our responsibility for looking after trees and reminds us of their enormous cultural and environmental importance'.

## **Getting messy!**

Whilst we do try to minimise dirty clothes, we do see our uniforms as clothes to wear to play, learn and get messy in. Today I came home with trousers covered in shaving foam and purple paint!

## **PE kits**

We are struggling a little to reunite children with PE kits after club nights, please check kits before they come back and make sure they are labelled. Thank you for your help. We need full PE kit in school on Tuesdays and plimsolls on Friday.

## Owls class



Last half-term saw a positive start to Year 1. The children enjoyed spending the first few weeks rebuilding friendships and adapting to new routines and expectations. The class were inspired through our geography unit on the United Kingdom, especially using the bee-bots to program their route through the UK. The children loved our English learning, writing a castle story and also writing a set of instructions for Winnie the Pooh's friends, for how to make a honey sandwich.

This half term will see Year 1 writing a Winnie the Pooh adventure story, followed by learning about traditional tales and some poetry. We are beginning the half term looking at 2D and 3D shapes followed by more place value, addition and subtraction learning. In Science we will be learning about animals and connecting this learning with animals from the UK.

In R.E. we will be exploring the nativity journey which will link well with our Christmas Worship. We are continuing with our Disney songs and using Disney to inspire our art unit of drawing.

P.E. this half term will be multi-skills and gym on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.

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### Leopards class

Leopard class have had a fun filled and learning packed journey so far. We started the year off by looking at the very big idea of 'Creation' in our RE learning. We were so impressed with the deep thinking and philosophical questioning that came from this.

Year 3 turned into archaeologists and began to use the clues and artefacts to start building up a picture about what Stone Age men and women might have used these for and how they lived. We loved our class trip to Butser Ancient farm where we found out so much about life in the Stone Age. Another source we have used to find out more about the Stone Age was images of cave paintings. It inspired us to experiment with different materials in our sketch books and develop our artistic mastery of these to produce our own fantastic cave paintings. Following on from this, we started to examine real rocks and stones. We found out how different rocks are naturally made and turned into palaeontologists to start examining fossils. Our science work also lead us onto investigating soil. We have well and truly learnt about what is under our feet. We haven't just been stuck in the Stone Age this half term.

We were lost things to start in September when we used a film/ book called 'The Lost Thing' to inspire our maths and English learning. Then we moved onto instructional writing with our Great Revolting Bake off. Feel free to come and read our new revolting recipe book featuring all of these not so delicious meal ideas.

Our learning about the life in Britain during pre-historic times will continue into this half term. We will be taking a closer look at changes from the Stone Age to the Bronze and Iron ages. We will look more deeply at historical evidence and discoveries that have been made. We are hoping to showcase our learning journey by opening our own pop up museum to teach others about these pre-historic times. This will take place on the afternoon of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

We will be learning about animals and skeletons in science. Leading up to Christmas, we will be learning about Angels in RE and preparing for a Christmas Celebration 'Lights, Camel, Action!' We will be moving onto learning about fractions, shapes and measures in maths as well as continuing to work on learning multiplication facts.



### Ocelots class

We have enjoyed a very busy first half to the Autumn term in Ocelots Class, and have much to look forward to in the second half-term. The highlight of the first half-term was undoubtedly our trip to Winchester Cathedral and the City Museum, as part of our Anglo-Saxon theme. We look forward to displaying some Anglo-Saxon inspired artefacts at our own museum exhibition on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 3.15pm.

So far this Autumn term the children have learnt about descriptive features in writing, including metaphors and similes, different sentence types, and writing a recount. In Maths, the children have been looking at place value, multiplication and division, and solving puzzles and problems. During the second half of the Autumn term, we shall be focussing on fractions and decimals, position and direction.

The children have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons, their life, kingdoms, and Alfred the Great of Winchester. In Art they enjoyed creating some Anglo-Saxon clay pots, and will be learning about texture and tone when drawing some Anglo-Saxon jewellery before Christmas. In Design and Technology, the children enjoyed designing and constructing wooden catapults, and competing in a formal competition to find the best contraption. We shall continue to learn more about the Anglo-Saxons this half-term, including Anglo-Saxon religion, politics, relationship with Vikings, and the impact/influence of the Anglo-Saxon period on modern-day Britain. We shall also be studying Winchester and how it has changed over time, and the different types and classification of settlements and their characteristics.

During P.E., football and hockey skills have been the focus in the first half-term, moving onto gym skills and orienteering in the second half-term. In Science, so far we have focussed on different states of matter, water in particular, including evaporation and condensation and the Hydrologic (Water) Cycle. Water has also been the theme in Religious Education, focussing on water's symbolism in Christianity and in other faiths. During the run-up to Christmas, the RE theme will be about Mary. We hope to participate in some cooking before Christmas as part of our Science states of matter theme, demonstrating some irreversible states. We are also very much looking forward to the culmination of this second half-term, when the children shall be sharing their Christmas Celebration.

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## Turtles Class

We have had a great start to the year. We have learnt about the continents and oceans all over the world. As part of this learning, we have skyped different classrooms. We have enjoyed learning about different countries.

We have enjoyed learning about Meerkat Mail, following Sunny's journey through the Sahara Desert. We wrote him a postcard telling him all about what we had been up to. Sunny sent us many messages throughout the topic. We have developed our understanding of different word types. In addition to this, we have come up with different effective verbs that we can use. We also had a look at the book *The Tale of the Two Beasts*. This book tells a story from two different points of views. We have enjoyed acting different parts of the book helping us to imagine how the different characters feel.

In Maths, we have been learning lots. We started off the year learning about place value, ordering numbers and identifying different place value columns. We then moved onto learning about addition and subtraction. We finally looked at measuring, multiplication and division.

Next term we will be learning about different materials in science. We will be learning about different materials and how they can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. As we move closer to Christmas, in RE, we will be learning about Diwali and understanding about Advent.

As part of our author focus, we will be starting our English learning with a week on Roald Dahl. We will also be learning about instructional writing to help children build their own bug hotel. In Maths we will be starting the term learning about fractions. We are all looking forward to next half-term.

## Whole school Author Week

In our first week back each class will be exploring the books and ideas of certain authors who are celebrating a special anniversary in 2016.

Stars class are learning about the **Mr Men books** as it is 45 years since the first books were published.

Owls class are focusing on **A.A.Milne** and the Winnie the Pooh stories as it is 90 years since the first Winnie the Pooh book was published.

Turtles and Leopards class are enjoying learning more about **Roald Dahl** and his imaginative stories as it is 100 years since Dahl was born.

Finally, Ocelots class are learning about **Shakespeare** and exploring some of the characters, events and ideas from *Macbeth* as it is 400 years since Shakespeare's death.

Each class will be sharing with the other children part of their learning in a special Celebration Worship on Friday 4 November. We will share their thoughts and work on the website in the coming weeks.

## Cornerstone Museums

As part of their projects this term, both Leopards and Ocelots classes will be creating and sharing their learning in museums during this half term. As usual, the aim of these events is for them to be interactive, which supports the children's understanding and communication skills, so as many curious visitors from our parent community as possible would be much appreciated.

**Ocelots** are running their **Anglo-Saxon Museum** on **Monday 7 November** at 3.15pm.

**Leopards** are running their **Stone, Iron and Bronze Age Museum** on **Friday 3 December** at 2.15pm.

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### **Cornerstone PTA**

We are extremely fortunate to have such a hard working, dedicated and generous group of parents who organise and run a range of exciting fund raising events. We have two main events coming up this half-term.

**Tuesday 8 November** is the date for the school disco. The **Year R** and **Year 1** disco will take place directly from the **end of the school day until 4.15pm**. PTA volunteers and staff will take the children straight down to the hall after school. The **Year 2-Year 4** disco will take place from **4.30-5.30pm**. Please can I ask that you **book and pay for your child's place prior to the day** so that the PTA will be able to ensure that all children are catered for.

**Saturday 3 December** is the date for our **Christmas Fair**. There will be a range of stalls, games and refreshments available, as well as a raffle with many exciting prizes donated by local businesses. And of course the children will have the chance to visit Santa in his Grotto. Further details will be coming out in a letter from the PTA, but please do make sure this date is in your diary, as it is one of the highlights of the school year.

Please remember that the **Cornerstone PTA** have a **Facebook page**. Once you have liked the page, you will then receive additional updates about the great work the PTA are doing as well as reminders about forthcoming events.

### **Trim Trail**

We are happy to allow children to use the equipment **before and after school** but it must be clearly understood this is at **parental / families' responsibility** rather than the school's, and they must be **closely supervised by a parent or carer** from that side of the playground at these times. We would greatly appreciate you **reminding the children about the following age restrictions**, so that they don't get confused by different set of rules.

Pre-school and Year R children use only the original pieces of Trim Trail equipment. Year 1 children can only go to the height indicated by the green ribbons on the Climbing Pyramid and Net Wall, and the Monkey Bars can only be used by Year 2 and older children. It is also important that no children stand on the top 'Crow's Nest' on the Climbing Pyramid. We hope the children enjoy using the equipment as often as our British weather allows and thank you for your support in ensuring the equipment is used safely.

### **Collective Worship themes**

This half term we will be exploring the themes of: Greed, Patience and Christmas in our school and class Collective Worships. Reflecting back on last half-term we were impressed with the range of ideas the children came up with re. the meaning of Love and how we show it in our school community. Some of these ideas are now displayed in our reception area and on the hall display.

### **Messy Church**

The dates for Messy Church this term are: **Sunday 6 November** and **4 December**.

Messy Church takes place on the first Sunday of every month, between **4-6pm** and is usually at the **Community Centre** in Whiteley. On 4 December, we will be hosting it here at Cornerstone as we did last December. Messy Church provides a mixture of craft and other activities, stories and songs and a shared tea. It is a lovely opportunity for families to meet and children to make new friends. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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%. Our aim, as always, is to work in partnership with families to keep children healthy and motivated so their attendance remains high.

As a whole school the attendance for the first half of Autumn term was: 98%

This percentage can be broken down into individual classes. For last half-term the attendance for each class was as follows:

Stars: 99.3%

Owls: 97.3%

Turtles: 98.2%

Leopards: 97.9%

Ocelots: 97.5%

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## **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.

## **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. Many parents will enjoy sharing 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.

## **Office hours**

The school office opens at 8.30 am and closes at 4 pm. If you wish to contact the school outside of these hours please ring and leave a message on the answer machine. We will always endeavour to return your call as soon as possible.

## **Diary Dates: this half-term**

31 Oct: First day of Autumn 2

31 Oct: Whole school 'Author Week'

7 Nov: Y4 Anglo-Saxon Museum (3.15)

14 Nov: Y2-Y4 Parents Evenings (3.30-6)

15 Nov: Parents Evenings (3.30-7)

17 Nov: YR-Y1 Parents Evenings (3.30-6)

22 Nov: YR-Y1 Parents Evenings (3.30-6)

2 Dec: Y3 Stone, Bronze, Iron Age 'Pop-Up' Museum (2.15pm)

3 Dec: Christmas Fair (11am-2pm)

8 Dec: YR & Y1 Christmas Worship (2.30pm)

9 Dec: YR & Y1 Christmas Worship (9.30am)

13 Dec: Y2-Y4 Christmas Worship (2.00pm)

14 Dec: Y2-Y4 Christmas Worship (9.15am)

15 Dec: Christmas parties (pm)

## **Diary Dates: further ahead**

3 Jan: First day of Spring 1

27 Jan: **INSET day**

17 Feb: Last day of Spring 1

27 Feb: First day of Spring 2

Please remember you can access all term time dates on Hantsweb, using the following link:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolholidays>

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