

# Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

January 2017

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope*

*Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*



## Stars class



### **Celebrations**

Last half term, Stars had a fabulous half term of partying! We have found out about celebrations we have experienced and enjoyed a special wedding with Reverend Philippa. We finished the half term with an amazing Christmas celebration, well done to all the children and thank you to all parents who helped with song learning and provided costumes for 'a Miracle In Town'.

We made a great deal of progress in phonics and reading so well done to the children and to all families who support the children with reading. After Christmas, we will be grouping the children to do follow up phonics activities.

**This half term**, we are planning learning experiences based around the broad theme of '**Once upon a time**'; this will include introducing the children to oral stories, initially 'The Billy Goats Gruff' but also other traditional tales.

We will be talking about healthy eating choices and enjoying cooking some foods we like too, which may not all be healthy! We will be experimenting with food and looking at changes both natural and man-made. In Maths, we will find out about halves and doubles. We will be measuring length and weighing and comparing objects. We are also continuing to work on numbers between 10 and 20; recognising and writing them. We will be trying to write labels and lists and will be planning stories we have learnt.

In RE, we will be listening to stories Jesus told. In PE, we are alternating between dance and multi skills.

### **Help**

If any parent or grandparent would like to come in to help at school, we would be delighted to hear from you. Many thanks to all helping mums and grandmas; you make such a difference to the children and to me.

### **Recycling**

If you are planning a sort out after Christmas, please consider donating to school any of the following:

- Boys' dressing up
- Saucepans etc. for the mud kitchen
- Baskets or boxes for storage
- Small furniture or items that could be used in role play
- Surplus landscaping/ gardening materials.

## Owls class



Last half term, the children came back enthusiastic to learn more about Winnie the Pooh. The children wrote two short stories based on video clips we had watched. At the end of the unit, the children shared with the rest of the school their instruction and story writing. Also in English the children loved going outside on a senses walk and then turning their experience into a sense poem using adjectives.

A wide range of animal knowledge was shared during our science unit, even impressing me with what they knew. An investigation about whether snails can smell captured their attention especially when one of the snails had eaten the paper on top and decided to go on an adventure along the cupboards. However many of the children decided that the snails could smell because they had moved to find food that they liked to eat. I'm not too sure that paper was what the children expected the snails to eat!

Using our Disney theme, the children had a go at drawing Mickey Mouse and Piglet. We repeated each drawing 2 or 3 times and the children realised this helped them to get better. They didn't want to stop even when it was home time. Finally the children enjoyed performing the nativity and using their play to discuss different journeys and the importance of baby Jesus at the end.

**This term**, the children will begin by learning about the story Dogger, using some reading skills to help and develop their understanding of books they are reading. By the end of the unit, the children should have adapted the original story slightly to create their own version following the same structure. For the second half, we will be looking at the books in this year's picture book award and writing different genres using these books. In Maths, we will be looking at time, length, adding and taking away and some more place value.

Our focus for the whole spring term will be the **Great Fire of London** in history which will link to materials in science and using everything we learn to then construct houses in design technology using some strengthening skills. As part of this focus, we will be addressing the importance of keeping safe and the emergency number 999 and what this can be used for. This will be again be looked at when the fire service comes into school in spring 2.

In RE, we will looking at the theme of storytelling and thinking about the stories that Jesus told and the significance of his storytelling. PE will consist of mini games and some more gym. PE will be on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, just like last half term.

## Turtles Class



I hope you have all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Last half-term, we learnt about different materials in science. We investigated which material would be best to produce an umbrella out of. We also learnt about different materials and how to describe their properties. For example, we describe glass as transparent because you can see through it.

Our first English topic of the term was a focus week all about Roald Dahl. We found out lots of interesting facts which we then turned into a biography all about him. It was interesting to find out how Roald had got his ideas for his different stories that he produced. After studying Roald Dahl, we read learnt about writing instructions. Linked to our DT unit, we wrote instructions on how to make a bird box. We learnt about many features that we had to include in our own instructions to make it easy for the reader to follow. Finally, our unit before Christmas was based around the John Lewis 'Man on the Moon' advert. We wrote about how the characters felt during the clip and describing what the girl was trying to do to help the man.

In Maths, we started the term learning about fractions. We learnt about writing fractions as well as working out equivalent fractions. Our second Maths topic was shape. We learnt about 2D and 3D shapes and how to describe them. We also identified lines of symmetry on a 2D shape using mirrors. Finally, we learnt about time. We were able to write the time for different clocks as well as ordering them.

We have continued taking part in Skype sessions last term. We skyped Jimmy Adams (Hampshire Cricket Captain), Stephen Reid (A Minecraft Expert), the team at Kahoot (an online way to learn) and finally the highlight Michel Van der Bel (Head of Microsoft Europe).

**This term**, our project '**On the High Seas**' will take us on a journey learning all about HMS Victory. Our first Maths topic will further develop our place value, addition and subtraction knowledge. We will be trying to apply our knowledge of these in different contexts. In English, we will be starting with the story Bog Baby. We will creating our own version of the story Bog Baby. This story links to our Science topic, Living Things and their Habitats. In RE, we will be learning about the Spring Indian Festival, Holi.



## Leopards class

**Last half term**, Leopard class loved learning about the Stone, Bronze and Iron ages. This enthusiasm for learning resulted in a fantastic pop-up museum to share our knowledge. Miss Pretty was very proud of the confident, independent and knowledgeable presenters at our class museum.

In the Autumn term, we also particularly liked using different texts to inspire our reading and writing. 'Stone Age boy' by Satoshi Kitamura, 'The Christmasaurus' by Tom Fletcher and 'Coming home' by Michael Morpurgo gave us great inspiration for class discussion, debate, performances and writing to entertain the reader. Leopard class also enjoyed a range of musical opportunities where we were able to collaborate with other classes and other schools at our Christmas performance and the concert with the Bournemouth symphony orchestra.

**This half term** will see Year 3 embarking on a short project to find out about the **Roman Empire** and its impact on Britain. Leopard class are going to collaborate with Year 3 from Whiteley Primary School on some elements of this project. It follows on nicely from our learning about the Iron Age. We will explore why the Romans invaded Britain, how the empire grew and the impact Romans have had on our lives today. We are looking forward to a trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace to bring our learning to life. We are hoping to be inspired by some of the wonderful remains of mosaics left at the roman palace to create some of our own mosaic masterpieces.

We will continue to learn more about the human body in science. In RE, Year 3 will be focusing on the concept of transformation and considering how this is important for Christian and Sikh religious leaders. As part of our learning journey in Computing, we will start to learn to use algorithms to design, write and de-bug programs. We are going to be programming using an online platform called 'Scratch'. We will learn to design and program our own games.

In Music, we will be developing our use of voice and using glockenspiels to put together a class performance of the Abba song 'Mamma Mia'. We will continue to work on a range of topic areas in Mathematics. As part of our English learning, we will be learning to write to entertain and persuade.



### Ocelots class

We have much to look forward to in Ocelots class during this half-term at the start of 2017.

Our main focus is Geography, and our **'Extreme Earth' Project**. The children will be learning about the various types of extreme weather and geographical events that occur in different parts of the world. The children will learn how to create a Powerpoint about 'Extreme Earth' in Design and Technology and Computing lessons. During English lessons, the children will be studying and creating reports about the planet's extreme weather.

PE will also continue with the 'Extreme Earth' theme, as the children will be portraying major geographical events (such as hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanoes, etc) through the medium of dance. The children shall also enjoy several more weeks of gymnastics.

Our Science theme this half-term will be centred on Teeth and Healthy Eating (as most people are at this time of year, following the excesses of the festive season!) Later this month, we shall also be taking the children on an exciting school excursion to the nearby SEARCH Science Centre in Gosport, to compliment the learning during Science. A very busy start to the New Year!

### Home Learning and Curriculum

As well as the Home Learning that comes home from your child's class teacher, please remember there is also additional information available on our website to help you support your child's learning and to understand the national expectations for each year group.

These include **National Curriculum Overviews**, which list objectives for Reading, Writing and Maths for Years 1 – 4.

**Reading Bookmarks.** These suggest a range of questions you can use to discuss what your child is reading with them. Although a large proportion of reading in Year R and to a certain extent in Year 1 is based on word reading, using phonics and other strategies to actually decode the letters and words, in every year group there is also a focus on developing your child's understanding and ability to explain their ideas about what they read.

**Maths Learn Its.** Key knowledge and skills your child needs to develop, with suggestions for activities and games. These are for Years R-4.

These documents have been sent out to you previously, but will be sent home again this term and are always available on our website in the **Teaching and Learning tab** (Curriculum and Home Learning) using the following links:

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

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

### Scholastic Book Fair

From the **24-26 January**, we will be celebrating reading at our Book Fair. There will be hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy. For every book that is bought, the school will receive a small donation which we can then spend on books for our school library. The more that is spent, the more the children can enjoy book both at home and at school.

### Radio 2: 500 word story challenge

This year, we would like to invite children at Cornerstone to take part in this national 500 word story competition. They would need to write an original story on any subject or theme in 500 words or fewer and submit it online by **23 February**. If they win, their story will be read live on the radio by a superstar celebrity. Further details and previous winning stories can be found on the Radio 2 website: [www.bbc.co.uk/500words](http://www.bbc.co.uk/500words)

We would also like the children to **bring a copy of their story into school** after February half-term. These will then be shared with their class and made into a school book to go in our library. Also one story from each class will be chosen to be read aloud to the whole school by a 'superstar teacher', both to the school and also recorded for our website.

### 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**, which are next to the fence.

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.

***"This is a happy school where pupils achieve well in terms of their personal, as well as academic development and are growing up as responsible caring young people." Ofsted 2015***

### **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 fundraising events. 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.

### **E-safety week and Parents Information Evening**

Within the National Curriculum, E-safety is one of the key strands. Children are taught how to be safe on the internet, starting from learning about what is their private information. Within KS2, children begin to understand what to do in a situation they don't feel comfortable in.

In February, Safer Internet Day is promoted across the world. Each class will be taking part in activities about keeping safe online. The activities will be designed for each of the classes in the school. On Thursday 9 February (7pm), there will be a Safer Internet Parents evening. We will share how to keep your children safe, websites that are useful and will be able to answer questions that you may have about e-safety. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Collective Worship themes**

This half-term, we will be exploring the themes of Honesty, Hope and Relationships in our school and class Collective Worships. As one of our school values, our thinking about Hope will include the children reviewing what they think it means within our Cornerstone community.

### **Messy Church**

The dates for Messy Church this term are: 5<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Messy Church takes place on the first Sunday of every month, between **4-6pm** and is usually at the **Community Centre** in Whiteley. 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 Autumn term was 96.4%. This percentage can be broken down into individual classes as follows:

Stars: 88.6%      Owls: 96.3%      Turtles: 96.8%      Leopards: 97.6%      Ocelots: 95.6%

### **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.

Thank you to those parents who have been using our new system of collecting reply slips from the transparent box next to the main post-box by the main reception door, and posting returns into the main post-box. We have received positive feedback from parents that this has been more time efficient and worked well.

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**Diary Dates: this half-term**

3 Jan: First day of Spring 1  
24 Jan: Y4 trip to SEARCH Museum  
24 Jan: PTA meeting (7pm)  
24-26 Jan: Scholastic Book Fair  
27 Jan: **INSET day**

2 Feb: Y5 Residential Parents' Meeting (7pm)  
3 Feb: Y3 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace  
3 Feb: Y2 trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyards  
9 Feb: Parents E-safety Information Evening (7pm)  
17 Feb: Last day of Spring 1

**Diary Dates: further ahead**

27 Feb: First day of Spring 2

2 Mar: Y3 trip to Pizza Express & Rock Up  
7 Mar: KS1 Barnaby the Bear concert  
W/b 13 Mar: Parents' Evenings  
23 Mar: Red Nose day  
24 Mar: **INSET day**

1 Apr: Choir at Fareham & Gosport Vocal concert  
7 Apr: Last day of Spring 2  
24 Apr: First day of Summer 1

Please remember you can access all term time dates on Hantsweb, using the following link:  
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolholidays>