

Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

March 2017

Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope

Growing an Inspirational Learning Community



CORNERSTONE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Stars class



Last half term, we enjoyed opportunities to hear, read and learn lots of stories as we explored '**We are Bookworms**'. 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. Thank you to everybody who has done home learning; we have been particularly impressed by the Chinese New Year work.

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

We are trying to arrange visits from professionals who work in this field. 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 gymnastics with apparatus and ball skills. In Phonics and Reading, we are now revising the more complex vowel digraphs in Letters and Sounds phase 3 and teaching phase 4. As we said on our last home learning, Miss Noel will be with us for the next five weeks. This is her final teaching practice so Mrs Lamey and myself will be supporting her temporary position as the class teacher.

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 and unwanted plants. If you are throwing something away, I will probably like it! I would particularly like some big wooden reels that you get wire on, to turn into toadstools.

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

Also we have started sending home our 'In the Spotlight' bag. If it comes home to your house, please return it with 3 things your child would like to show and talk about, ready for Friday. Instructions are inside.

What you can do for your child

We are working hard to help your child to make progress with their reading, but we do need your help. Please try to hear your child read, preferably twice a week, as it makes such a difference to them and to us. We know that they will make even greater progress and they love to tell us about their home reading.

Owls class



During **Spring 1**, Owls looked at 4 books as part of the County Picture Book Award. The class especially liked using the book 'Hoot Owl Master of Disguise' to learn about adjectives, nouns and similes.

They 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 go at 2 investigations applying all they had learnt about materials. We then looked at the pull and push forces, identifying how these forces occur in everyday activities, including sharing their knowledge during P.E.

Finally the children loved going to Weald and Downland on their school trip and I'm sure you heard about everything they have learnt. They then used all they had seen about building to make a wooden frame for a house, using saws, sandpaper and triangles to make the frame stronger.

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 to make animations about the Great Fire of London.

All this will be in preparation for our **Project Celebration** near the end of the half term, **Tuesday 28th March** at 2.30pm. The children will also be learning about Palm Sunday and how this fits into the Easter story.



Turtles Class

We had a very busy time since Christmas. We started our English with the book "The Bog Baby". We learnt about two children discover an unusual creature in Bluebell Woods. During the unit, we created our own Bog Baby creature. At the end of the unit, we created our own Bog Baby story with the Bog Babies created. During our second English unit we studied the story "There is a Snake in my School". As part of this unit we tried to persuade Mr Clarke that we should be able to bring animals into school for a day. We came up with different reasons to try and persuade him. We wait to hear his response!

We started off our Maths learning at the beginning of 2017 learning about place value, addition and subtraction. We then moved onto to learning about mass. We learnt about how to read weighing scales and ordering different masses. After learning about mass, we learnt about money. We understood about different values of coins and making amounts using different coins. We finally learnt about data handling. We learnt about how data can be shown in different ways with a pictogram, bar chart and tally chart.

We also learnt about the HMS Victory. Our highlight of the topic was going on a trip to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyards. During this trip, we were able to have a hands on experience of what it would be like for sailors on the Victory. We explored the ship and saw where Admiral Nelson commanded the boat. During our music unit, we learnt about sea shanties. We even created our own sea shanties to help us do jobs on the boat. We learnt about photography in computing.

We also learnt all about healthy eating and living things and their habitats. In RE we found about all about the Hindu festival, Holi. We particularly enjoyed learning about how they throw paints at each other during this festival.

This half-term, we will be learning all about Ghana. We will be comparing where we live to what's it like living in Ghana. In English, will start with a film clip "Zahra". In Art, we will be creating our own African masks. As part our DT, we will be making our own drums (you have been warned!)



Leopards class

Year 3 have been enjoying learning more about life in Roman Britain. We especially liked teaming up with Whiteley Primary to start our project and stage a real life invasion. Leopard class have also worked hard to write their own fantastic stories linked to the short film called 'The Dragon Slayer'. They are in the process of editing and publishing these into books to share with some younger children on World Book Day.

We improved some of our computing skills when we programmed our own games using 'scratch' and we have begun learning to sing and play 'Mamma Mia'. We have been particularly impressed with their knowledge of the human skeleton.

What will Leopard Class be learning this half term?

We will be continuing with our Roman/Italian theme for the first 2 weeks of the half term with a focus on mosaics in Art and Pizza in DT. We are excited to design and make pizzas and pizza boxes in school with Mrs Snape and out of school at Pizza Express.

Following on from this, we will be moving onto a short geography project called 'Lost in Whiteley'. We will be working on improving our map and direction skills in our geography, computing and Maths. Magnets will be our focus in science. Win English we will learning to write recounts from different viewpoints and newspaper reports inspired by a text called 'Tuesday'.



Ocelots class

Spring 1 was an extremely busy half-term in Year 4 Ocelots Class. The children learnt much about the different types of Natural Disasters that occur all over the planet, and created some excellent reports linked to the Geography unit of Extreme Earth. Our Science unit of Teeth and Healthy Eating included a class visit to the SEARCH Centre in Gosport, where the children enjoyed investigating about the different teeth and diets of different animals, including humans.

Spring 2 also promises to be a very busy half-term, the main theme of which shall be, 'Alice In Wonderland'. In English, we shall be studying the novel in depth, and comparing it to other popular versions of the story. We also plan to create an e-book alternative version of 'Alice', incorporating the children's illustrations and graphic design skills.

In Science, we will be learning about Living Things and their habitats, including eco-systems. In Religious Education, the children will be studying in depth different religious symbols, including the cross/crucifix in Christianity. The children will also get the opportunity to develop their basketball skills and circuit-training during P.E. lessons.

In mathematics, the children will be learning about percentages, fractions and decimals, as well as studying statistics and some geometry and property of shapes. All in all, we have much to look forward to.

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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**. The 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 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/>

Meet your Parent Governors

We are pleased that our Parent Governors have kindly agreed to organise and run a **Parents' Tea & Cake** event on Friday 10 March from 2.30-3.15 in the Hall.

This is a great opportunity to meet the governors who are parents, find out more about their role and to discuss any queries you may have.

Radio 2 - 500 word story challenge

We are looking forward to the children **bringing a copy of their story into school** at the start of this 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.

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. The big event they are currently planning for is of course the **Summer Fair**. This will be taking place on either **Saturday 17 June**. The PTA would welcome any additional parents to help plan the event or to help set up or run a stall on the day of the event.

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.

These events include:

21 March: **Family Games** event (3.15pm)

25 March: **Family Photo Shoot** (am)

31 March: Joint PTA / Church **Quiz Night** (7pm)

25 April: **School disco** (YR & Y1: 3.15-4.15) (Y2-Y4: 4.30-5.30)

12 May: **Race Night** (7.30pm)

17 June: Summer Fair

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E.Safety Parents Information Evening

Many thanks to Mr Penfold for an interesting and informative evening giving advice on how to help children stay safe online, both in school and at home. He shared the importance of having open discussions with children about online safety, the range of social media sites now available (none of which allow primary aged children to have an account) and some useful advice on web filtering and parental control Apps.

Collective Worship themes

This half term we will be exploring the themes of: Preparation, Sharing and Easter in our school and class Collective Worship.

An important part of this half-term is our focus on **40 Acts**. The aim is that during Lent we will be encouraging all members of the school community to promote acts of generosity. The children from each class will be choosing the Acts for the whole school for one of the weeks. You can find out more by following our daily Facebook and Twitter reminders.

Messy Church

The dates for Messy Church this half-term are: 5th March and 2nd 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 year so far is 96.2%

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

Stars: 96.6%	Owls: 96.5%	Turtles: 97.0%	Leopards: 96.9%	Ocelots: 95.0%
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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. This includes accessing our Freedom of Information policy.

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

27 Feb: First day of Spring 2

2 Mar: Y3 trip to Pizza Express & Rock Up

3 Mar: Dress Up for World Book Day

16 Mar: Parents' Evenings

20 Mar: Parents' Evenings

21 Mar: PTA Family Games Event

23 Mar: Red Nose day

24 Mar: **INSET day**

25 Mar: PTA Family Photo Shoot

28 Mar: Owls Project Celebration (2.30pm)

31 Mar: Autism Awareness Workshop for Parents
(2.45- 3.15pm)

31 Mar: Cake sale for Autism Awareness

31 Mar: PTA / Church Quiz Night

1 Apr: Choir at Fareham & Gosport Vocal concert

7 Apr: Last day of Spring 2

Diary Dates: further ahead

24 Apr: First day of Summer 1

25 Apr: School disco

(YR & Y1: 3.15-4.15) (Y2-Y4: 4.30-5.30)

12 May: PTA Race Night (7.30pm)

15-19 May: Walk to School Week

25 May: Last day of Summer 1 for pupils

26 May: **INSET day**

5 June: First day of Summer 2

17 June: **Summer Fair**

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

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