

# Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

April 2017

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope*

*Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*



## Stars class



We had a challenging 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 found out about, 'People who help us', one of the highlights was the fire engine but we also enjoyed working with Miss Noel on her final teaching practice. In the last two weeks we thought a great deal about good and bad characters in relation to 'Trolls'. We spent the last week of term talking about what Easter is really all about.

Our plans for the first half of the summer term are to explore 'Let's Imagine'. We will be thinking about Pirates and Mermaids, (following the Performing Arts show), 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 year 1 and the national Curriculum.

Can you help your child by:

- Increasing reading as days get longer, it becomes more important now to check that the children understand what they read as well as being able to 'decode' text.
- Encouraging any writing your child wants to do without your help, and perhaps asking them to bring examples into school?

Can you help with these things we need?

- small plastic bottles (for message in a bottle writing)
- tubes for telescope making,
- unwanted seeds or plants for gardening club and Grounds Day

We are really looking forwards to more outdoor learning this term. Don't forget to protect your child with sunscreen at home. We will help them put some on at lunchtime if you provide it, labelled with their name. Hats are obviously important, again named please and water bottles too. Please remember PE is on Tuesday and Friday so we do need kit on these days, you may want to check plimsolls still fit?

## Owls class



Owl class had a really exciting and creative Spring 2. The children loved their animation, art, music and dance learning for their Great Fire of London celebration, showing great enthusiasm throughout. The children were inspired by Michael Rosen and his poem called 'Don't'. The children are still bursting into poetry as soon as the word don't is mentioned.

In the beginning of Summer 1 the children are going to be furthering their learning about traditional tales embedding all the skills we have taught them so far but trying to challenge them within their writing. We will then be moving on to instruction writing linking this to our science, all about plants. Finally we will have a unit focussing on phonics in preparation for the phonics test (known to the children as a reading challenge) in June. In maths we are embedding our understanding and application of our number system through money and mass, linking to prior knowledge of addition, subtraction etc.

Our R.E. learning this half term is about special places and understanding the concept of specialness. This links to our PSHE about looking after special places in our community. Our music learning is about composition using tuned instruments and applying this to the traditional tale that that we are focussing on in English.

We have a historical unit this term comparing 2 Queens. The children will be trying to answer the question 'Who was the best queen?' We are going to be using 2 programs on purple mash called 2graph and 2count within our computing to explore different ways we can share information.

The children will also be learning about rounders and athletics in their P.E. lessons. Please note that P.E. is on Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon. Also we are going to the library on Wednesday afternoon this half term and then back to Friday afternoon for Summer 2. This is so that we can learn library skills with our new librarian.

### Turtles Class



We have enjoyed learning about Ghana last term. We compared a walk to school in Ghana with our daily walk to school. We discussed about the different types of housing that is in our local area. Throughout the topic, we were continually making comparisons between life in Ghana to life in Whiteley.

During our first English unit, we used the video clip Zahra. The video clip shows the struggle of a girl trying to get water to look after a plant. Due to the heat, the well dries up and trees begins to die. Throughout this unit, we tried to relate to the girl understanding how she feels with a lack of water. We wrote persuasive posters to try and persuade people to donate money to support charities. We tried to use different sentences types to help create these posters. Linked to our first English topic, in our computing learning, we created animations all about the story of Zahra.

During our music topic, we learnt about world music. We discussed about different types of music and what instruments that we could hear when listening. Our other English topic looked at the book the Bear and the Piano. During this story the Bear discovers a piano in the forest. He gradually learns to play the piano and becomes an accomplished player. He is fortunate enough to play in the city and records an album for people to buy. He missed the forest during his time in fame. We wrote certain parts of the story from the point of view of the Bear.

Next term we are going to be learning about plants in our science sessions. We will be using clay in our art learning linked to our topic on plants. During PE, we will be learning about cricket and athletics. Our English learning will begin with a focus on the author Anthony Browne. We will be learning about the author and his books during our English and guided reading sessions.

### Leopards class



Last term, Year 3 especially enjoyed designing and making their own pizzas with Mrs Snape and at Pizza Express. This trip was tied in with a trip to 'Rock Up' and it was definitely a highlight for Leopard class. They have also shown great resilience when creating their own wonderful mosaics floors like those we saw on our trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace.

They also worked on a mini project called 'Lost'. During this, they learnt lots about position, directional language, map reading and sketching and using and making keys. This geographical skills were linked to some computing work and orienteering in PE lessons.

This half-term in Year 3, we are going to be learning about Rainforests for the summer term. We are going to be trying to answer the question 'Who needs the Amazon Rainforest?' Our project will begin by learning a little bit about life inside the rainforest with an exciting skype call with a documentary maker who is working alongside one of the largest indigenous tribes still living in the Amazon rainforest called the Vale do Javari tribe. She is going to help us launch our project by telling us about her experiences in the Amazon rainforest and why she is working with these tribes.

We are also lucky enough to be having a delivery of some hands on 'Art inspiration' boxes with insects from the rainforest for us to observe. We will be learning about the location of rainforests in the world, the conditions in tropical rainforests and the locations of different biomes around the world. We will zoom in on our focus continent and made 3d models of South America. We will venture into our own forest and school grounds in our science lessons to learn more about plants and we will also do this with our computing lessons by capturing images and editing the photos. When we have learnt more about rainforests and the living things which depend on them, we will start to find out circumstances which threaten their survival. This will lead into some persuasive writing in our English lessons and encourage us to think about ways we can help in our everyday lives.

### Ocelots class



Ocelots class enjoyed a very busy Spring 2 half-term, and now that we are in the summer term, we also have much to look forward to. Our lead subject will be History, with the children learning all about the Ancient Egyptians, and the influence they have had on today's world. During the first half of the summer term, Year 4 will be starting their swimming lessons as part of the PE curriculum. This will involve the whole class taking a short coach trip to Holly hill Leisure Centre on Wednesday mornings (swimming costume, towel needed). They will also be taking part in Athletics and Cricket, with some expert cricket coaches coming into the school.

During Science lessons, the children will be learning about electricity and circuits. In Design and Technology, the children will be using their knowledge of electricity and circuits, to help them design and create a torch for investigating an Ancient Egyptian tomb. PSHE will be focussing on Friendship and Friendship issues, including bullying. Religious Education will be concentrating on Temptation, and making choices. During maths lessons, the children will be focussing on Fractions, and calculations, involving problem-solving, and during English the children will be writing instructions linked to mummification and Ancient Egypt. An interesting and busy half-term ahead!

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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 another **Parents' Tea & Cake** event this half term. This follows on from last half-term's event which was an opportunity to find out more about the role of the Governors in running the school.

The date is still to be decided but the focus will be on gaining parental views on the **Home Learning policy** and children's experiences of Home Learning.

### Radio 2 - 500 word story challenge

Many congratulations to Lucy Murray from Leopards class and Oliver Margetson and Charlotte Yeats from Ocelots class. All three of these young authors have reached the second round of this national writing competition. This means they have made it into the final 5,000 from over 131,000 entries: a fantastic achievement.

We look forward to finding out over the coming weeks whether their hard work and creativity takes them into the final.

### New Year 5 teacher

We are very pleased to announce that **Miss Tamara Goddard** will be joining us in September 2017 as our Year 5 teacher. Pupils and parents from Ocelots may remember Miss Goddard from last academic year, when she had her final teaching practice with the class. She is been working this year in another Hampshire school, also teaching in Year 5. We are very excited about the positive and enthusiastic impact she will have on the class and the school as a whole.

### Trim Trail

We are happy to allow children to use the equipment **before and after school** but can we remind everyone that 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.

### Family Fun Run Fridays

We will be restarting this healthy and family focused weekly event this term. Children and adults are warmly invited to stroll or jog around a circuit (hopefully for most weeks on the field). We hope as many people as possible will join us each week, as its sets a really good example the children about the enjoyment of keeping fit and healthy as a community.

As in previous years we will keep a count of how many laps are completed each week and give the children the opportunity to keep their own personal score chart.

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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. 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:

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

**17 June: Summer Fair**

### **Ground Force Day**

Mrs Ross has been busy organising this Sunday morning event for the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The aim is as a team of staff, parents and children to weed, trim and tidy the outdoor learning environment in the Copse and around the field and playground in readiness for a fun summer term of outdoor learning. We will be working as a team between 9.30 and 12.30. Drinks and doughnuts will be available during the morning. If you, your family and any other volunteers you can find are available, whether for part of the time or the whole morning your support would be very much appreciated. To view the original letter please click on the following link:

<http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Grounds-Morning.pdf>

### **Pirates versus Mermaids**

A huge well done to the cast, Mrs Quick and her team for another fantastic performance from the Performing Arts club. The acting, singing and dancing kept the audience entertained during two performances and led to many commendations from the audience. Again as previously the costumes, props and set changes helped to make the performance feel like it was taking place in a theatre rather than in a school hall.

### **Choir performance**

Congratulations also to members of the choir who last term performed with choirs from other local schools and the Fareham and Gosport Youth Orchestra at Ferneham Hall.

It was a great experience for our young singers to perform original pieces to an audience of hundreds.

### **Collective Worship themes**

This half term we will be exploring the themes of: **Forgiveness** and **Responsibilities** in our school and class Collective Worships. Ocelots class have been involved in helping to choose and plan the themes for this term.

As one of our school Values we will helping the children particularly consider the meaning and importance of **Forgiveness** in our school community and in their lives.

### **Messy Church**

The date for Messy Church this half-term is the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. 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 96.1%

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: 95.9%

Turtles: 96.8%

Leopards: 97.6%

Ocelots: 94.7%

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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.

### Freedom of Information

We have updated our Freedom of Information policy which can be accessed in the Policies section on the website (under the School Information tab) or by using the following link:

<http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/school-information/school-policies/other-policies/>

### 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.

### Diary Dates: this half-term

24 Apr: First day of Summer 1  
25 Apr: School disco  
(YR & Y1: 3.15-4.15) (Y2-Y4: 4.30-5.30)

2 May: Mayor of Fareham visit YR  
4 May: New Year R Parents evening (7pm)  
7 May: Ground Force Day (9.30-12.30)  
9 May: PTA meeting (7pm)  
15-19 May: Walk to School Week  
25 May: Last day of Summer 1 for pupils  
26 May: **INSET day**

### Diary Dates: further ahead

5 June: First day of Summer 2  
17 June: **Summer Fair**  
20-26 June: Scholastic Book Fair  
30 June: Sports morning and picnic  
  
13 July: New class afternoon  
14 July: Reserve Sports morning and picnic  
21 July: Sponsored Climb  
  
4 September: **INSET day**  
5 September: **INSET day**

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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