

# Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

June 2017

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope*

*Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*



## Stars class



Stars had a busy time last half term; we built up to our 'All Creatures Great and Small' unit by considering some extinct and 'magical' ones. We have been excited by several mini themes. Dragons, unicorns and dinosaurs gave us opportunities to use our reading skills to find out about dinosaurs in information books. We have also made fossils and hatched a dinosaur egg! We are also really impressed because Year R have made so much progress with writing, we can all write a little now and are building our skills to write sentences on our own; 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.

Not forgetting that the Mayor came to visit: we were delighted to meet Councillor Hockley (Mollie's Gan-Gan) and she let us feel how heavy her chain of office is!

This half term sees a concentration on preparation for Year 1, making sure the children are ready to access the new curriculum in September, 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 farm animals and wild animals. Again there will be much concentration on writing, handwriting (forming letters and numbers correctly), spelling the first 100 key words and ordering numbers to 20.

During this half term we will also be screening many of the children for a tendency towards a Specific Learning Difficulty (like Dyslexia); a letter will follow with more information. On a less serious note, we would like to finish the term with an Animal Picnic celebration, likely to be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July; more info later.

## Thank yous

To all those parents, who have made donations to school of craft materials and junk, outgrown resources and nearly new books. To Mrs Gadd for ordering us a new wooden shed to better organise our outdoor resources. To Mr Pleasants who keeps our area tidy, fixes things we break and finds solutions to our problems. To all of our team who give so much more than they are paid to.

## Reminder

Hats and water bottles every day, sun cream in book bag, if required, we will encourage application before lunch.

Great to be back with you for this last half term in Stars' class.

## Owls class



Owls class enjoyed learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, learning actions to help them remember the sequence. They liked changing the story to be about themselves with some children changing what they find at the top of the beanstalk. In Maths, the children loved getting outside and using the water trays to explore capacity. They also liked playing shops, spending money and getting some change to identify the values of coins.

The children were challenged through logging on to 'Purple Mash' to create different graphs but persevered and became independent in gathering and showing some data. Our history topic captured their interest and the children raised many good questions about queens such as 'When did queens start?'

In the final half term of Year 1 the children will begin with R.E. learning about the concept of remembering through Janmashtami, a Hindu festival remembering the birth of Krishna. They will be finding out about plants and trees and applying this science learning in their geography unit, considering what is special about our school grounds. We will be planting some seeds, trying to help them grow and using this experience to write some instructions.

We will then be looking at a book called 'Mr Gumpy's Journey' and using our mapping skills from Geography to bring this book to life. Our DT unit is all about designing and making a healthy couscous. The children will be trying some couscous before they choose from some ingredients to make their own version. This will come home for the children to try. At the end of the half term we will be using the laptops to find some information and using word to share this information.



### Turtles Class

Last half-term, Turtles were very busy. We learnt about plants and carried out an investigation to see which conditions were best to grow sweet peas. Over the term, we kept a close eye on which plant grew the most. The sweet pea that was surprised us was the one that had no water and no sunlight. Surprisingly, it started to grow without any water. We also grew a broad bean in the class. This enabled us to see the roots of plants. We learnt about the life cycle of a plant.

In our English learning, we learnt about the author Anthony Browne. We learnt about different books that had been written by this author. We wrote from the opinion of one of the characters. We tried to include different language features in our writing. Before the holidays, we then did a short topic on writing instructions. We identified what you need to include to be successful and we then wrote some instructions to make a toasted cheese sandwich. It made us hungry!

We learnt about time, addition, subtraction and word problems in Maths. We were able to identify different words that are used that mean addition and subtraction. We also answered multiple step problems identifying the steps involved to answer questions.

This term, our project is called "Into the Unknown". We are going to be learning about explorers. As part of this project, we will be skyping real-life explorers, and then creating a buggy for an explorer. We need egg boxes to create these. In PE we will be learning about athletics and rounders.



### Leopards class

Leopards Class started last half term with some great hooks to our project 'Who needs the Amazon rainforest?' The children (and Miss Pretty) were certainly inspired by our Skype call with Celine Cousteau who is a film maker and explorer working with the Vale do Javari tribe in the Amazon rainforest. We also loved seeing some real life bugs from the rainforest up close and working on our Growth Mindset and sketching skills to create some impressive drawings. So far we have concentrated on locating tropical rainforests and finding out about the climate there. In our English lessons, we have been learning to sound like David Attenborough when informing others about our fantastical creatures living on the 'Land of Never Believe'. We have created a class guide book in case you ever find yourself on this curious island...

The children are certainly more confident in recalling and using their multiplication and division facts as well as interpreting data and identifying and describing properties of shapes and lines in Maths. Leopards particularly enjoyed their cricket lessons with a Hampshire cricket coach – it is definitely a new favourite sport for many! We have been learning about how trees can be used as a symbol in Christianity and in our own lives through our RE learning.

This half term, we are looking forward to finding out more about South America and delving further into the rainforest to see who else calls it their home. Year 3 will be learning more about the reasons for and the effects of deforestation on our planet and considering what we could do to help. This may tie in with our English lesson as we consider the audience and best way to get our voices heard and persuade people to help. We will also be busy writing rainforest adventure stories in our English lessons. We will begin to study the art work of Henry Rousseau and re-create one of his famous pieces of art work depicting a tropical storm. In Maths, we will be building on and consolidating some of our addition and subtraction skills, moving on with our fractions learning and getting more experiences of working with measurement. We will continue to learn more about plants through some investigations and Mrs Raper will be teaching a light and shadows topic in PPA sessions. In RE, we will learn about the concept of Wisdom in our lives, in Sikhism and in Christianity.



### Ocelots class

Incredibly, the final half-term of the academic year is upon us! The seven weeks of Summer 2 will be full of interesting themes and topics in Ocelots Class. We shall be continuing with our Ancient Egyptian topic, culminating in a celebration of the children's learning with a display in the library (parents will be invited to attend: further details to follow). In Art, we shall be exploring drawing techniques, and investigating tone, shade, and texture with pencils, chalk and charcoals. Computing will continue with the children using 'Scratch' to design, create and code their own interactive games and programmes. The children will also be continuing with the Electricity topic during Science lessons, which will lead into a Design and Technology project involving circuits, buzzers, lights, and other external devices.

Religious Education has a focus on Sikhism, and the different places of worship in other religions and faiths. PE will involve 'Athletics', and we shall also be warmly welcomed back to Holly Hill Leisure Centre to continue our swimming lessons as part of the P.E. curriculum. All the children in Year 4 Ocelots Class have made Mr. Batley and Mrs. Raper extremely proud, and been excellent ambassadors for the school during their swimming lessons, with many positive comments about their kind, friendly and superb behaviour and attitude, from coach drivers, swimming instructors, and Leisure Centre staff. We have much to look forward to in Ocelots Class during this busy and exciting final half-term, at the end of an extremely positive academic year. We're sure that the children will enjoy their last half-term of Year 4.

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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. Many thanks to those parents who joined them to discuss Home Learning last half-term.

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

### **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 **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.

The PTA are also running an adults only **Race Night** on Friday 7 July (7.30pm).

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.

### **Sports Morning and Picnic**

This event is taking place on Friday 30 June (unless the weather forces us to postpone it to Friday 14 July). Like last year, there will be some running races and jumping events for the older classes first, followed by all the classes joining in a range of team activities. Children who were here last year will remain in the same teams (Team Purple, Team Gold and Team Green), and new children will be allocated to a team for their time at Cornerstone. After the sporting events, we invite families to stay and picnic with their children over lunch time. Families are asked to leave by 1pm, when the children will return to class for the afternoon.

### **Big Climbing Day**

We have undertaken a range of charity support this year (Food bank at Harvest, Shoebox appeal, Red Nose day...). On Friday 21 July each class will climb on our Trim Trail equipment for 30 minutes non-stop. They will then repeat this for 20 minutes in the afternoon.

We will send sponsor forms home and ask you to help them encourage friends and families to sponsor them. The funds raised will be handed to Whiteley Town Council to continue their excellent work developing an inclusive play park at Meadowside. We hope this will encourage the children to think about the needs and rights of everyone in our community.

### **How could you travel to school?**

Hampshire County Council's School Travel team have shared with us a website with useful information on inspiring parents and children to try out more active ways of getting to and from school. This includes ideas on walking and scooting, which will not only help you and your child improve your fitness, but also reduce congestion in the school car-park!

<https://myjourneyhampshire.com/parent-information>

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### 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, and **should only be used by one child at a time**. We will be sending out an update about the use of the Climbing Pyramid as soon as work has been completed on the two bases currently needing attention. We hope the children enjoy using the equipment and thank you for your support in ensuring the equipment is used safely.

### Family Fun Run Fridays

Thank you for all the children and adults who have joined in by strolling or jogging before school on Fridays.

Last half-term we completed 1,206 laps as a school community. How many will we manage this half-term?

### Collective Worship themes

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

### Messy Church

The final date for Messy Church this half-term is the 2 July.

Messy Church takes place on the first Sunday of every month, between **4-6pm**.

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: 96.7%

Owls: 95.6%

Turtles: 96.7%

Leopards: 97.1%

Ocelots: 94.6%

### 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.

### 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/>

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### **Be Tick Aware**

With the warmer weather here, the tick season is in full swing and we would like to remind you to check your child regularly for ticks. You can find "tick busting" information via the link below:

<https://www3.hants.gov.uk/tickbusting>

We are obviously keen for our children to enjoy spending time outside and learning outdoors, and are therefore taking reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of either children or staff being bitten by ticks. We have asked our staff team to keep the children away from the areas of long grass at the edge of the school grounds. You might wish to have a pair of long trouser and long-sleeved top in the children's PE bags, which they can change into if we use our copse area.

### **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 school's post box by the main reception door, and posting returns into our school post box. We have received positive feedback from parents that this has been more time efficient and is working well.

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

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

### **Diary Dates: further ahead**

4 September 2017: **INSET day**  
5 September 2017: **INSET day**  
  
19 February 2018: **INSET day**  
23 July 2018: **INSET day**  
  
The final INSET day for the academic year 2017/18 will be announced in due course.

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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