

# Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

November 2017

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope*

*Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*



## Ladybirds class (Year R)



### **Planning**

This half term we are planning activities and learning experiences based around the broad theme of **'Special days'**; this will include fireworks, weddings and Christmas. We are finding out more about the Christmas story as we build up to our nativity. In Science we will be looking at *change* - exploring our copse, our little garden and decorations like balloons! In Maths we will be looking at numbers beyond ten and learning more out about addition. We will be exploring 2D and 3D shapes, particularly the parcels in our classroom post office during this busy festive season. In English we will be working on nursery rhymes before beginning writing labels, invitations, messages, letters and cards. We will be completing Phase 2 phonics and assessing how well the children are doing before moving on to phase 3 whilst supporting children who need further reinforcement.

### **Getting outside**

Our outdoor space is a valuable learning environment that we use as often as possible throughout the year. After half term we would like to further explore the Cornerstone Copse. We ask that all children have named wellies in school if they haven't already. Don't forget named hats, scarves and gloves now the weather is getting that bit cooler, thank you.

### **Keeping hydrated**

Please don't forget to bring in a **named** 'water' bottle every day. We do remind the children to drink and they are shown how to re-fill their water bottle from our sink in the classroom.

### **Getting messy!**

The children wear aprons when painting and when using the water tray. Wellies are worn in the sand pit, the copse and on those rainy days! Whilst we try to minimise dirty clothes the children's uniforms are working clothes and so may get messy from time to time.

### **PE kits**

We are struggling a little to reunite children with PE kits and their school uniform. Please ensure that your child's clothes are labelled, even their shoes.

### **Healthy Snacks**

All children are entitled to free fruit every day, however we have discussed with a few parents the need to bring in an additional healthy snack. If you'd like to do this we request they keep their snack in their book bag until snack time, named if possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Sunshine class (Year 1)



Sunshine class have thoroughly enjoyed the first half-term of Y1. The children loved being hooked into our Geography learning quest and finding out all about the United Kingdom. They especially liked it when the four flags were hung from the ceiling. We were even informed by one of the children that 'bagpipes sound tooty and really bad close up!' The children and bee-bots went on some adventures across the United Kingdom, trying to solve where they went wrong.

Sunshine class have also been inspired listening to Disney songs, learning about dynamics, tempo, texture and pitch. They were intrigued by some of the sounds and we looked at different instruments and watched how they were played through some videos. One child when asked what they had enjoyed replied 'EVERYTHING!!' Let's try to keep the enthusiasm going during the next half term.

During Autumn 2 the children are going to be learning all about humans and animals in Science, in particular about our senses and the parts of the body that we need for our senses. We will explore how animals and humans use our senses to survive. Linked to our United Kingdom Learning Quest and our Science the children will be learning to write a recount using the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. We will then move onto our first traditional tales unit and looking at predictable phrases in stories.

In Maths we are moving on to subtraction and then shapes before going back to securing place value up to 20 in a multitude of ways. We will be starting our first Art unit focussing on drawing Disney characters. P.E. will take place on Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning. We will be learning about indoor multi-skills and gymnastics. Of course we will be thinking about the build up to Christmas. In R.E. we will be considering nativity journeys linking well and preparing the children for the school nativity. Details to follow in the coming weeks.

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### Meerkat class (Year 2)

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 were 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.

This half-term we will be learning about different materials in Science. We will learning about different materials and how they can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. As we approach closer to Christmas, in RE, we will be learning about Diviali and understanding about Advent.

In English, we will be learning about instructional writing to help children build their own bug hotel. In Maths we will be starting the term learning about measurement, multiplication and division. We look forward to this half-term.



### Tigers class (Year 3)

Tiger class have had a fun filled and learning packed journey so far. Our learning quest has been focused on Bones and Stones so far. Tigers have learnt all about humans and their skeletons in Science. Year 3 also turned into archaeologists and began to use 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 group cave paintings and we will be creating some individual cave art this week. Following on from this, we have started to examine real rocks and stones. We turned into palaeontologists to start examining fossils. They have really enjoyed and made great progress by taking part in cricket skills sessions with our coach, Rob. We moved onto instructional writing with our Great Revolting Bake off. Feel free to come and read our new revolting recipe book (when it is published) 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 15th December at 2pm. We will be learning more about rocks and soil in science. Leading up to Christmas, we will be learning about the concept of Angels in RE. We will be moving onto learning about fractions, shapes and measures in maths as well as continuing to work on learning multiplication facts.



### Bats class (Year 4)

We have enjoyed a very busy first half to the Autumn term in Bats 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. The behaviour of the children whilst on the trip was absolutely exemplary, and they were true ambassadors for the school. We look forward to welcoming parents and displaying some Anglo-Saxon inspired artefacts at our own museum exhibition, which will be held very soon.



### Emoji class (Year 5)

Emoji class have enjoyed a busy first half term culminating in an exciting celebration of our Ancient Greek learning quest. Thank you to all parents who came along to share in the children's success and for providing the children with such spectacular costumes. An enjoyable day was had by all and some pictures are now on the website.

One of the highlights of our half term was our trip to Fairthorne, where the children embraced a range of challenges. When we returned to school, we became

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So far this Autumn term the children have learnt about descriptive features in writing, including metaphors and similes, different sentence types, and designed and created their own dragons and hero/heroines. In English, to begin this half-term, the theme shall be Macbeth. 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, and position and direction.

In Art the children 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, 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 concentrated on different states of matter, focussing on water in particular, including evaporation and condensation and the Hydrologic (Water) Cycle. Water has also been the theme in Religious Education, investigating water's symbolism in Christianity and in other Faiths. During the run-up to Christmas, the RE theme will be about Mary, The Mother Of Jesus, and we shall of course also revisit the story of the Nativity. Another busy and exciting half-term to look forward to in Bats Class!

historians for our learning quest based around Ancient Greece. We investigated the question 'How did the Ancient Greeks change our world?' researching different aspects of Greek life. We examined the impact the Ancient Greeks have on our world today. We also explored Ancient Greek sport within our PE learning. We created our own Ancient Greek dance, using motifs based on the Olympics adding this to a sequence that we worked on as a class. In Art, we explored Greek patterns learning how to use printing inks to create even, clean prints. Our writing also focused on our Greek learning as we explored a range of myths and legends in order to write our own myths. We then adapted our myths into playscripts. As a class, we read 'Who Let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans. We were very excited after we emailed her some questions about the book and she replied! In Science, we have been exploring the different properties of materials investigating reversible and irreversible changes. We will be continuing with this learning this half term.

Our learning quest will have a geographical focus as we embark on a journey to New York. We will compare New York and Southampton to improve our map skills. In English, we will explore the suitcase of a character who visits New York which will help to inspire our writing alongside the film 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to find them'. America will also be the focus of our DT as we will be making and evaluating snacks for Thanksgiving. Our computing learning will focus on data as we plan our own Thanksgiving party. We will be moving onto learning about fractions, shape and measure in Maths as well as continuing to develop formal written methods for calculations. In PE, we are going to develop our skills in gymnastics and circuit training. As we get closer to Christmas, our RE topic will focus on the Magi.

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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.

Last half-term we added information about key **spelling** words your child needs to learn in each year and a range of strategies that might help them.

These include **National Curriculum Overviews**. The objectives for Reading, Writing and Maths for Years 1 – 5.

**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-5.

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/>

### E.Safety newsletter

A reminder that the newsletter Mr Penfold sent out at the start of last half-term, can be found on the Newsletters page on our website by the using the following link: <http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/parents/newsletters/>

### Cornerstone PTA

We have many new members of our PTA this year. The main roles have been filled as follows:

Chair: Emma Mabey

Vice-Chair: Tonia Taylor

Treasurer: Jon Mayhew

Secretary: Mark Elliott

Communications: Sarah Hughes

This half-term the big event we are working towards is of course the Christmas Fair. This will be taking place on **Saturday 16 December** between **11am – 2pm**.

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 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 sets 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 3** and older children, and **should only be used by one child at a time**. 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 term. We will continue to promote this healthy community activity for this half-term.

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## **Collective Worship themes**

This half term we will be exploring the themes of **Relationships, Signs and Symbols, Advent and Christmas** in our school and class Collective Worships. Bats class (Year 3 from last year) were involved last term in helping to choose and plan the themes for this term.

## **Messy Church**

The dates for Messy Church this half-term are Sunday 4 November and Sunday 2 December. 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.

## **New Build update**

Following a meeting with members of Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council, local councillors and our school governors, we sent out a letter with an official update about the timing of our relocation to our new site. This letter confirmed that this has been delayed until September 2020. This is due to the delay in the Section 106 document being signed by a range of parties and the building consortium therefore not being able to start work on the North Whiteley development.

There will be a public meeting of the **North Whiteley Forum** on **Monday 13 November**. This will take place at The Solent Hotel and will start at 6.30pm.

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%. In 2016-2017 we achieved 96.3% as a whole school. Our aim, as always, is to work in partnership with families to keep children healthy and motivated so their attendance remains high. You can view our attendance policy on the website using the following link: <http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/school-information/attendance/>

The whole school attendance so far for this academic year is: 97.2% The attendance for each class is as follows:

Ladybirds: 96.7%	Sunshine: 97.4%	Meerkats: 96.5%
Tigers: 97.8%	Bats: 97.5%	Emoji: 97.2%

## **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 have also linked our Facebook page, 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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**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.

**Parent Link**

If you would like to discuss any issues concerning the social and emotional well-being of your child at school, the Parent Link team are available for appointments on the following days:

Wednesdays, 2.45pm and 3pm – Mrs Quick

Thursdays, 2.45pm and 3pm – Mrs Quick and Mrs Adair

Please contact the school office to book an appointment.

**Diary dates: this half term**

30 Oct: First day of Autumn 2

1 Nov: YR Parents Evening

2 Nov: Parents Evening

7 Nov: Flu jabs (YR-Y4)

8 Nov: Y1-Y5 Parents Evening

12 Dec: Christmas lunch

13 Dec: YR-Y2 Christmas show (2.30)

14 Dec: YR-Y2 Christmas show (9.30)

15 Dec: Christmas Jumper day

18 Dec: Y3-Y5 Carols and Readings (2.15)

18 Dec: Choir singing at Carols in The Square (6.15)

21 Dec: Last day of Autumn 2

**Diary dates: further ahead**

4 Jan: First day of Spring 1

9 Feb: Last day of Spring 1

19 Feb: First day of Spring 2

29 Mar: Last day of Spring 2

19 Feb: INSET day

23 July: 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>