

Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

January 2018

Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope

Growing an Inspirational Learning Community



Ladybirds class (Year R)



Welcome back, we hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break!

This half term we are planning activities and learning experiences based around the theme of **'Once Upon A Time'**. We will be reading traditional stories which will include 'Billy Goats Gruff', 'Peter and the Wolf' and 'We are going on a Bear Hunt'.

In English we will be focusing on story-telling. We will be learning about the structure and language used in stories through drama, dance and music. In writing we hope to develop the children's confidence in using clear letter shapes that represent sounds correctly. For some children this will be individual words but for others it will be attempting to write short sentences that can be read by others as well as themselves. We will be completing Phase 3 phonics and once this has been completed we will consolidate all the sounds taught so far.

In Maths we will be continuing to look at numbers beyond ten, reinforcing our knowledge of addition and developing our understanding of subtraction. Ladybird class will also be looking at numbers that are one more or one less than a given number and making sure we are counting objects reliably.

We are always looking for parental help, particularly with reading. Our aim is to hear each child read once a week but unfortunately this is not always possible. If you can offer any time to hear readers, please could you contact the school office; we would welcome your support. Your child's book is changed twice a week but if you'd like to change your child's book more frequently you are very welcome to pop in any day after school.

Sunshine class (Year 1)



During Autumn 2 the children enjoyed learning all about humans and animals in Science, in particular about whether worms can smell and how we know/can assume they do. The children were very perplexed when they found a penguin on the top of our climbing pyramid, suggesting lots of reasons for its arrival. This inspired some diary writing using 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. The children were then shocked when they saw some footprints in the classroom and some other clues around the school. This helped the children to learn 'The Three Little Pigs' story using actions before having a go at writing part of the story.

In Maths the children looked at subtraction and then 2d and 3d shapes before going back to securing place value up to 20 in a multitude of ways. Sunshine class were extremely motivated by drawing Disney characters and giving each other feedback about their sketching skill. They even asked every day if they could do some more sketching!

Spring 1 begins our Great Fire of London Learning Quest. We will be exploring this event, ultimately trying to decide whose fault the fire was, while learning about the historical aspects and skills. We will also be looking at stories Jesus told in our R.E. unit. Following our history we will explore the fire more through our watercolour painting unit. We will consider an artist's selection of paintings and using his techniques to create our own. Finally we will learn how to make a house frame by measuring wood and then using a saw to cut it in D.T.

In English we are starting with a book I love, thinking about the order of the story in order to write our own adapted version. Then we will be using the picture book award books to enhance our English learning. We are back to learning about addition and subtraction in Maths followed by more place value (0-50) and ending with length and height. P.E. will again take place on Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

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Meerkat class (Year 2)

We hope you have all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Last 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 described glass as transparent because you can see through it.

Our first English topic of the term was based around the book Tidy. We learnt about a badger that liked to keep the forest tidy. After Tidy, we learnt how to write 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 money. We learnt about different coins and making different amount of money. Our second Maths topic was multiplication and division. We calculated multiplication and division number sentences using a number line. Next, we learnt about fraction. We learnt how to write fractions as well as finding fraction of an amount. Finally, we learnt about 2D and 3D shapes and how to describe them. We also identified lines of symmetry on 2D shapes using mirrors.

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.



Tigers class (Year 3)

Year 3 enjoyed a very successful Learning Quest last term. We discovered what life was like for early people in the stone age and how things changed throughout the bronze and iron ages. We were able to make links with our Science learning about bones and rocks, our cave drawing skills and our sewing expertise in order to celebrate and share our learning through a fantastic museum. The children in Tiger class became curators at our pop up museum and amazed our visitors with their confidence, independence and enthusiasm for sharing their awesome learning quest. We were very proud of their efforts and we look forward to starting a new learning quest this term.

This half term we will attempt to go on two Learning Quests. The first will be an exploration of the United Kingdom and deepening our knowledge of the country and county we live in as we play 'UK Go!' We will be aiming to improve our ability to read atlases and maps while discovering how key aspects have changed over time. In computing, we will create our own computer games using programmes called 'Kodu' and 'Scratch'.

Our second Learning Quest will be centred around Pizza! We will be working on our design and technology skills as we design and make boxes for our products and design, make and eat our own pizzas! We are all looking forward to a free trip to Pizza Express to learn more from the chefs and make our own pizzas. This will be happening on the morning of Tuesday 6th February with a quick visit to Rock Up afterwards.

In other areas of the curriculum we will be learning about forces and magnets in Science, learning to sing and play Mamma Mia by Abba in Music and to improve our dance and gymnastics in PE with Miss Luff from Henry Cort.

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Bats class (Year 4)



Welcome to 2018! We have much to look forward to in Year 4 Bats class during this half-term.

Our main focus for this half-term is Geography, and 'Extreme Earth'. The children will be learning about the various types of extreme weather and geographical events/natural disasters 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/I.T. lessons. During English lessons, the children will be studying and creating reports about the planet's extreme weather.

In Maths, we shall be focussing on measurement, place value, and decimal numbers. French will concentrate on family and home, and during RE we will look at the theme of making choices.

Our Science theme 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 term, we shall also hopefully be taking the children on an exciting school excursion to the nearby SEARCH Science Centre, in Gosport, to compliment the learning during Science.

Emoji class (Year 5)



Last half term, Emoji class enjoyed learning about New York pursuing our geographical Learning Quest. We compared New York and Southampton, explored maps and discovered why visitors are attracted to New York. Many thanks for all the hard work and effort that went into the children's home-learning; it was a joy to hear the children sharing all the facts they had discovered.

We also enjoyed some cooking last half-term during which the children learnt how to make pumpkin bread, modifying the recipe with different fillings. We then used our DT as a stimulus to help us write persuasive adverts which we recorded. These are now on the school website.

We also enjoyed writing newspaper reports about the Fantastic Beasts in New York and creating Robot Poems. In Computing, we improved our data handling skills by learning how to use Excel. Our PE focused around fitness and gymnastics, which fed into our Maths learning; we enjoyed measuring the angles of our balances in gymnastics! Fractions were also a big focus in Maths, as well as statistics and addition and subtraction.

This half term, our Learning Quest will be predominantly science focused as we blast off to outer space! After our trip to Winchester Science Centre and visit to the planetarium, we will be learning about the different planets, the earth and the moon. We will consider the idea of day and night and how the seasons are formed. We will also be creating our own planets and writing reports about these. Our music learning also links to our quest, as we will listen to space inspired music to create our own soundscapes.

In Computing, we will be focusing on touch typing and e-safety. We will continue to work on a range of topic areas in Maths. Our PE will focus on gymnastics and dance. In PSHE, we are going to explore our rights and responsibilities.

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Cornerstone Values

Our school Values are: **Love, Forgiveness** and **Hope**. As a school we have discussed these Values, and with our **Pupil Voice Groups** explored how we show these Values in the way we all behave towards each other. These have been finalised and agreed as our school's **Cornerstone Rules**. We promote these regularly with the children and praise them when they behave in line with the Values.

Love

- *We are kind, friendly and helpful*
- *We listen carefully*
- *We look after our classrooms and school*

Forgiveness

- *We say sorry and try hard to improve*
- *We share and take turns*
- *We include everyone*

Hope

- *We are cheerful and positive*
- *We work hard to learn and grow*
- *We learn from mistakes and problems*

Growing an 'Inspirational Learning Community'

Pupil Voice Groups have spent time in previous years discussing examples of how we are a community. We then explored how we are all learners in our community and how we can inspire and encourage others to learn and grow. As a school we are now defining this term as:

- **Together, igniting a love of learning**
- **Encouraging and empowering partnerships**
- **Nurturing a Growth Mindset**

This year we plan to continue to continue to grow the ethos of our ILC in practice. This includes working in partnership with parents and families to support the children's wellbeing and learning. Together we hope that we can continue to inspire the children's natural curiosity and love of learning.

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.

On this page there are:

- National Curriculum Overviews
- Reading Bookmarks
- Library links
- Key spelling words
- Grammar terminology
- Maths Learn Its
- Link to Purple Mash

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

Mr Penfold will be sending out a new E-Safety newsletter this half-term. He will also be running an E-Safety Parents Workshop on Wednesday 7 February starting at 7pm.

Collective Worship themes

This half term we will be exploring the themes of **Journeys** and **Trust** in our school and class Collective Worships. Emoji class were involved last term in helping to choose and plan the themes for this term.

Messy Church

The dates for Messy Church this term are **Sunday 4 February, Sunday 4 March** and **Friday 30 March at 11am** (Good Friday). Messy Church usually 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.

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Cornerstone PTA

A huge thank you to the PTA, and all the other family members, staff and governors who helped organise and run such a successful Christmas Fair last month. We are very pleased to have **raised over £1700**.

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 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 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.

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 2016-17, 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 96.7% The attendance for each class is as follows:

Ladybirds: 95.3%	Sunshine: 96.7%	Meerkats: 96.3%
Tigers: 97.7%	Bats: 98.0%	Emoji: 96.5%

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, so even if you are not on Facebook you can still see the posts through the school 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.

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Parent Link & Behaviour Strategies Consultations

Two 45 minute consultations are available with Marc Smith here at Cornerstone on 25th January, at 8.30am or 9.15am. These meetings will endeavour to offer guidance and possible strategies that may support families at home.

These appointments are in addition to the Parent Link chats which are available to any parent wishing to discuss concerns about the social and emotional wellbeing of their family and their children. The Parent Link team are available for appointments on Wednesdays and Thursdays either at 8.25am, 2.45pm and 3pm (Mrs Quick or Mrs Adair). If you feel any of these would be beneficial to your family, please contact Mrs Quick or the school office to book an appointment.

Diary dates: this half term

4 Jan: First day of Spring 1
10 Jan: Y5 Winchester Science Centre / Planetarium trip
23 Jan – 30 Jan: Scholastic Book Fair
31 Jan: Y2 Portsmouth Historic Dockyard trip

1 Feb: Y1 Weald and Downland Living Museum trip
6 Feb: Y3 Pizza Express / Rock Up trip
6 Feb: Safer Internet day
7 Feb: E.Safety Parents Workshop (7pm)
9 Feb: Last day of Spring 1

Diary dates: further ahead

19 Feb: INSET day
20 Feb: First day of Spring 2 for pupils
20 Feb: Y3 Fishbourne Roman Palace trip
21 Feb: Parents Evenings
22 Feb: Parents Evenings
27 Feb: Parents Evenings
1 Mar: Rock Challenge
19 Mar: Sports Relief week
29 Mar: Last day of Spring 2

25 May: 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>

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