

Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

February 2018

Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope

Growing an Inspirational Learning Community



Ladybirds class (Year R)



Last half-term, we enjoyed opportunities to hear, read and act out through dance and drama various stories, 'We're going on a croc hunt' was particularly successful! It was been really impressive to see the quality of writing that has been influenced by the stories we were focusing on. Many of the children now have a good grasp of addition and gaining more confidence with teen numbers.

This half-term, we are planning activities and learning experiences based, initially, around the theme of the Chinese New Year. We'll then be thinking of Pirates and Princesses for 2 weeks and finally People who help us.

From the 12th March, we will be focusing on People who help us; it would be great to arrange some professionals who work in this field to come and visit us. If you know of anyone who would be willing to pop in and talk to Ladybird class about their role we would be delighted to hear from you!

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; letters and Sounds phase 3 and teaching phase 4.

Just a reminder...

We are dressing up as our favourite book character for World Book Day (Friday 2nd March) and would love to see Ladybirds come into school as their favourite character too!

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

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; 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. Feel free to change your child's book more often at the end of the day, if you would like to!

Sunshine class (Year 1)



Spring 1 saw Sunshine Class learning about The Great Fire of London (GFoL). The children thoroughly enjoyed the beginning of this Learning Quest, researching it at home and sharing their knowledge with their friends. As well as finding out what happened in the GFoL, we have then used this learning in our art to create fire pictures in the style of Joseph William Mallord Turner. We also built a wooden frame in DT, learning how to saw safely and strengthening the joins.

In English, we looked at using capital letters for names of people, places, days of the week and the pronoun I through diary writing experiences in the GFoL. Next in English, we used a book from the picture book awards focusing on reading contractions and using full stops, question marks and exclamation marks in our writing.

In Maths, we continued looking at addition and subtraction and place value up to 50, including counting in 2's, 5's and 10's.

In Spring 2, we are going to continue to use our Learning Quest to inspire our Computing, Music and PE learning. The children are going to learn how to make an animation film and use this to tell the story of the GfoL. We are going to compose a piece of music and create a dance to show the sequence of the fire. This learning is going to form the basis of our Learning Quest Celebration, date to follow.

During RE, the children are going to look at 'welcoming' through Palm Sunday in the lead up to Easter. Our Science learning will be looking at different materials and investigating simple properties/uses for particular materials.

Next, in Maths, we are going to be exploring length and height followed by mass and weight. The picture book award is still inspiring our English learning at the beginning of the half-term finishing with some poetry.

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Meerkat class (Year 2)

Thank you for attending our Learning Quest celebration at the end of last term. It was great the children were able to share all they had learned about the HMS Victory. It was a topic that inspired and was great to see how much they loved learning about the Victory. A special thank you goes to Mr Mason who was able to arrange us a special visit before and during our trip to the Dockyards.

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 made our own Bog Baby story with the Bog Babies created. Our second English unit we wrote non-chronological reports all about HMS Victory.

We started off our Maths learning at the beginning of the year learning about place value, addition and subtraction. We practiced answering word problem questions. We then moved onto to learning about measuring. We learnt about how to read weighing scales and ordering different masses. We then learnt about temperature and how a thermometer is used to measure the temperature. We understood about different values of coins and making amounts using different coins.

We also learnt about the HMS Victory. Our highlight of the Learning Quest was undoubtedly 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. Our English, will start with a film clip 'Zahra'. When learning art, we will be creating our own African masks. As part our DT, we will be making our own drums!



Tiger class (Year 3)

Last half-term, Tiger Class enjoyed learning more about features and places of the United Kingdom on their latest Learning Quest. We were very impressed with the home learning they presented in class about a city of their choice. Year 3 enjoyed creating their own environments using 'Kodu game lab' in which they learnt to control and program objects and creatures within their own mini-kingdoms. Music last half-term was a highlight for many members of Tiger class as we learnt, rehearsed, improvised, composed and performed versions of 'Mamma Mia' by Abba. There was even an impromptu singalong at the school disco! We made great progress in our writing, as we learnt to write letters and recounts while developing our use of sentence structures to enhance our writing.

This half-term will see Year 3 embarking on a short Learning Quest to find out about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. It follows on well from our learning about the Iron Age. We will explore why the Romans invaded Britain, how the empire grew and the impact Romans have had on our lives today. We are kicking things off with a trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace to bring our learning to life. We are hoping to be inspired by some of the wonderful remains of mosaics left at the Roman palace to create some of our own mosaic masterpieces in our Art lessons.

In RE, Tiger class will be focusing on the concept of transformation and considering how this is important for Christian and Sikh religious leaders. As part of our learning journey in Computing, we will develop our skills to use algorithms to design, write and de-bug programs. We are going to be programming using an online platform called 'Scratch'. We will continue to learn to design and program our own games.

In Maths, we will be learning about length and perimeter and we will be developing our understanding of fractions. It would be extremely helpful if the children continue to use the 'Times Table Rockstars' as a regular part of their home learning to support their multiplication work.

As part of our English learning, we will be learning to develop our narrative writing with a unit based on a short animation called 'Dragonslayer' and we will also learn to write explanations about how machines work. In order to support the children in their spelling learning at home, making use of our new logins to 'spelling shed' would be very beneficial.

In PE, we will continue to have a session a week with Miss Luff from Henry Cort. She will be teaching us further tennis and orienteering skills. It will be very useful for children to have a full PE kit in school at all times to ensure the children can take part in all PE sessions.

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Bats class (Year 4)



During Spring 1, the children learnt much about the different types of natural disasters that occur all over the planet, and created some excellent pieces of writing, including poems and reports linked to the Geography Learning Quest of Extreme Earth. Our Science unit of Teeth and Healthy Eating will continue into this half-term, when we shall learn about the diets of different animals (including humans), habitats and eco-systems.

The main theme of this half-term will be 'Alice In Wonderland'. In English, we shall be studying the novel in depth, and comparing it to other popular versions of the story. Each child will create their own e-book alternative version of 'Alice', incorporating the children's own illustrations and graphic design skills.

In Maths, the children will be learning about time, fractions and decimals, and will also be studying statistics and some geometry/property of shapes.

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 PE lessons with Miss Luff.

Emoji class (Year 5)



Emoji class enjoyed taking a trip to outer space last half-term! We wrote non-chronological reports about the fictional planet Zigon, and emails back to NASA and our family explaining our discoveries. We enjoyed a brilliant trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium; it was awe-inspiring to find out so many exciting facts about space! We learnt about the planets, the sun and moon, as well as exploring shadows, day and night, and the seasons. We even learnt how to play Star Wars on the glockenspiels!

This half-term, our Learning Quest will be history-focused as we take a trip back in time to World War II. We will be putting ourselves into the shoes of evacuees as we write letters and diaries considering how it would have felt to be an evacuated child. We will examine propaganda in History and explore the effects felt by everyone of the war. In DT, we will be looking at WWII embroidery, making our own quilt squares using a variety of stitches. In Art, we will be focusing on observational drawing and painting, looking specifically at the poppy.

Our PE this half-term will be outside where we will be furthering our skills in the invasion games of netball and tag rugby. As we are outside, can we take this opportunity to remind parents that, whilst the weather is still cold, it is beneficial for the children to have tracksuit bottoms in school. They also need trainers.

In Science, we will be looking at the life-cycles of plants and animals, and are lucky to have a visitor coming in who is going explain the process of plant breeding and pollination. Our Maths learning will be predominantly focused around fractions, decimals and percentages. Another busy half-term in Year 5!

Learning Powers

The children have been developing their understanding and use of the Learning Powers that they agreed in Pupil Voice Groups last year. These are attitudes and abilities we encourage the children to develop through all of their learning. They are:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Independence
- Positivity

Learning Quests

There have already been an exciting variety of Learning Quests the children have undertaken so far this year. The steps the classes undertake are:

1. Hook
2. Questions, questions, questions
3. Finding out
4. My Time
5. Check our learning
6. Celebrate our learning

A display showing a selection of these steps is on display in the main school corridor.

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E-Safety

Thank you to the parents who attended the E-Safety Parents' Workshop last half-term, and of course a big thank you to Mr Penfold for all the time and effort he put into preparing and presenting. We recognise that with the speed of change of new technologies, it is crucially important for us all to be aware of potential dangers for the children in the online / digital world.

You can view our E-Safety Newsletters at any point on the website by using the following link:

<http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/parents/newsletters/>

Maths Parents Workshop

Following on from the workshop a couple of years ago about the written calculation methods we use and how these progress from year to year, Mr Clarke will be running another workshop on the range of strategies and activities we use to develop the children's mathematical thinking and problem solving. This will be taking place on **Wednesday, 21st March** at 7pm.

Collective Worship themes

This half-term, we will be focusing on **Lent** and **Easter** in our school and class Collective Worship.

The big whole school focus for this half-term is '40 Acts'. This is a national and international initiative aimed at encouraging people to be kind and generous during Lent. Giving something back rather than giving something up.

Pupils from Emoji class launched it with the rest of the school at the end of last half-term. Each week, a different class will chose the 40 Acts for the week.

We will share these in classrooms, on the Notice Board and via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Messy Church

The dates for Messy Church this term are **Sunday 4 March** (at the Community Centre) and **Friday 30 March at 11am**, which is Good Friday (at Cornerstone). 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.

Cornerstone PTA

Last half-term the children thoroughly enjoyed the school disco. Many thanks to the DJ and members of the PTA and staff who organised and ran the event.

The **PTA** have also been busy planning a range of events for this half-term. These are:

- 24 March: PTA Race Night for adults only (7.30pm)
- 25 March: PTA Easter Egg hunt in the school grounds (2-5pm)

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

Our regular reminder is that we are happy to allow children to use the equipment **before and after school**, but can we remind everyone that this is a **parental / family's responsibility** rather than the school's, and children 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.

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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 96.58% The attendance for each class is as follows:

Ladybirds: 95.7%	Sunshine: 96.72%	Meerkats: 96.33%
Tigers: 97.34%	Bats: 97.5%	Emoji: 95.98%

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 even 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.

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.

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Diary dates: this half-term**19 Feb: INSET day**

20 Feb: First day of Spring 2 for pupils
20 Feb: Y3 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace
22 Feb: Parents Evenings
27 Feb: Parents Evenings
27 Feb: PTA meeting (7pm)
1 Mar: Rock Challenge
2 Mar: World Book Day at Cornerstone
7 Mar: Chris Woods (Hants Cricket) visit
21 Mar: Parents Maths Workshop (7pm)
23 Mar: Sport Relief Mile
24 Mar: PTA Race Night (7.30pm)
25 Mar: PTA Easter Egg hunt (2-5pm)
28 Mar: Y3-Y5 Easter Performance (2.30pm)
29 Mar: Y3-Y5 Easter Performance (9.15am)
29 Mar: Last day of Spring 2

Diary dates: further ahead

16 Apr: First day of Summer 1
14 May: Y5 Bikeability week
24 May: Last day of Summer 1 for pupils
25 May: INSET day

4 Jun: First day of Summer 2
22 Jun: Sports Morning & picnic
29 Jun: Reserve Sports Morning & picnic
5 Jul: Y5 Henry Cort day
20 July: Last day of Summer 2 for pupils
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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