

Summercroft Primary School

'Achieving through care, challenge and creativity'



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another Summercroft Newsletter!

It was lovely to welcome back our evacuees from Lincolnsfield on Friday. By all accounts, spam was not a very popular food choice but the children were full of all the exciting things they'd experienced during the two night residential. I understand that more sleep was enjoyed by the children on the second night but Mr Eaton was unable to sleep due to the disappointment of losing the quiz to Mrs Perry! My sincere thanks to Miss Bryant, Mrs Blaney, Mr Eaton, Mrs Perry, Mrs McCrone, Mr and Mrs Gapper for giving up their time so the Year 5 children were able to bring their learning to life in such a dynamic way. I'm sure they will remember this adventure for years to come!



Thank you for your generous support at the Book Fair this week. Holding this annual event enables us to restock our shelves due to the commission raised by sales. Whilst budgets are diminishing, the English team are keen to find ways to bring fresh reading material for our children to enjoy.



Recently, we have welcomed two new faces to our Midday Supervisor team: Mrs Andrea Nyikosne and Mrs Becky Taylor—we hope they are very happy working with us. After Easter, we look forward to welcoming Mrs Janet Goldsworthy as she takes up the post School Business Manager, leading the Administration Team in the school office. Janet will be visiting the school before the holidays so do give her a warm welcome when you meet her!

I know that many of you are taking advantage of our CPD day tomorrow and heading off with your families. I hope that the weather is kind and that you enjoy a long weekend. Teachers will be busy putting the finishing touches to their annual written reports (Years 1—5 (except Maple and Beech)) on this day and preparing for parent/teacher/pupil consultations (Nursery, Reception, Maple, Beech and Year 6) for the week commencing 19th March.



Warm wishes,
Carole Hintridge
Headteacher

The Golden Folder

Congratulations to the following children who have appeared in our Golden Folder recently:





A Visit from Bishop's Stortford Fire Station

Nursery and Reception

Last week Nursery and Reception had a visit from the firefighters who are based at the Bishop's Stortford Station. They showed us all of the equipment which is kept on the fire engine, teaching us the different names of the tools and explained that they had a variety of different ladders and hoses depending on the incident. They even let us sit in the back so we could experience what it is like to be in a fire engine. They then talked to us about what different rescue services they provide and talked us through the special protective equipment which they wear. We all got to try on the helmet and some of us even tried on the jacket and trousers. They then taught us what to do if our clothes ever caught fire and showed us a special fireman dance.

Florence talked about the visit, "I sat in the fire engine, it had ladders and a big steering wheel. They told us about fire alarms and when it sniffs smoke there is a problem and it goes a big beep." Fraser told us, "They told us that there was a secret ladder in the back of the fire engine. They told us you stop, drop, roll if our clothes are on fire, it gets the fire off your clothes." Meraj explained, "They let us hold the water hose. They have daddy hose, mummy hose and a baby hose. They have hats to keep them safe, we wore it."

Maya explained, "They told us about fire engines and how they put the fire out with water. They had ladders, daddy, mummy and baby ladder." Oliver told us, "They had a tank so they won't run out of breath when they are in smoke. They had metal boots so they won't hurt their feet in the fire." Elliott added, "They have a special uniform to protect them. If they go in a fire they do a sweep, sweep, tap, tap to make sure they don't fall over." Kayden explained, "They have ladders and hoses. Dad and mummy one and a baby one. They got special clothes to keep them safe." Blake told us, "The fan blows the smoke away. They have a boat to rescue people in the river." Lila also told us, "They put out a fire with the hose. You stop, drop and roll because you got a fire on your tummy."

The firefighters also explained that if you do not have a fire alarm fitted in your house then please call the Bishop's Stortford station on 01279 696800 and they will come and fit one for you.



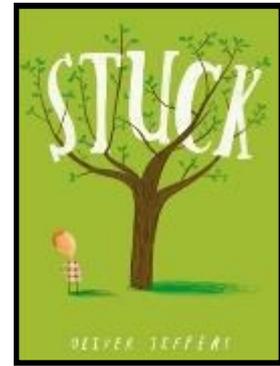
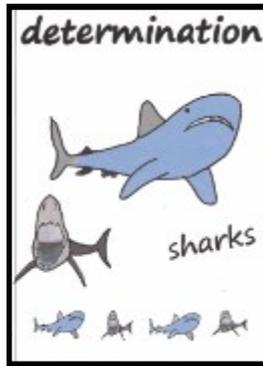


Determination

Mr Jess

March assemblies are all focussed around our 'Determination' learning power. The children were reminded about our shark character who is determined to make more friends around the coral reef. He finds that it is not as easy as he first thought but remains determined and eventually over time gets the friends he'd always dreamed of having.

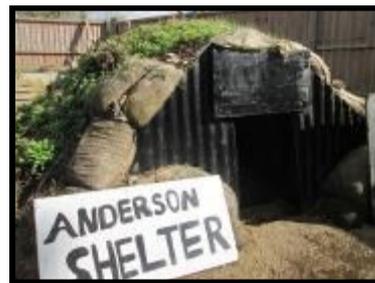
This has been followed up with further stories which reflect determination including *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright and *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers. By developing the children's determination we expect to build up their ability to keep going even when things are tough and that actually if we are aiming high then it is not going to be easy and may take some time to get there. We all need to be determined and have that inner desire to get better at what we're doing. We have looked at a number of famous people who needed a lot of determination to defy the odds to become successful in their different areas and also the determination of people who raise money for charity but are not famous for their hard work and dedication. However, without these people showing a huge amount of determination they would not have raised as much money for their charities. Hopefully you will see some more determination at home; maybe becoming more independent or in keeping going at things they are finding a challenge and not giving up first time.



1940s Evacuee Experience

Year Five

Year 5 have safely returned from their educational, enjoyable yet rather tiring two-night residential trip to Lincolnfield. We had a super time, despite some 1940s-style behaviour expectations – some children were made to think twice when putting their hands in their pockets or elbows on the table. The children turned up to school in their 1940s outfits, which really helped them to get into the role for their Evacuee Experience. They were given a 3-day insight into what life would have been like for children during World War 2. This included activities about school, the home, the garden, the air-raid shelters, and even the food. Not too many were keen on rationing and most were relieved to return to 2018 meals. The children behaved extra well and were a credit to us – even though some of them did manage to misplace their identity cards on a regular basis! We would like to thank the staff who came along for the ride and helped to make it a truly memorable experience for the children.





The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Year One

You will be pleased to know Year 1 solved the mystery of who made a mess in their classrooms - it was the tiger from the story *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*. After enjoying the story book we created a story map and have been learning actions to retell it. The children worked collaboratively with each other and retold the story using masks and stick puppets. They further immersed themselves in *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* by sequencing pictures from the story and writing sentences to accompany them. Finally this week Year 1 have used their imaginations to pretend they were Sophie. They wrote the tiger a letter asking why he hadn't returned and were trying to persuade him to do so with describing all the cakes and sweet treats they would make for him.

The aim in maths over the last couple of weeks has been to develop the children's weighing and measuring skills. They started off by weighing in non-standard units and investigated, for example, how many cubes a glue stick or pencil pot weighed, before moving onto describing heavier and lighter items. This week saw Year 1 measuring things around the classroom using cubes and then a ruler. Their challenge was to find something that measured 10 cm, 20 cm and 30cm.



Sport at Summercroft

On Thursday 8th March, our football A team took on Northgate in a league playoff game. Once again the children displayed a tremendous attitude and fought extremely hard for each other. The result ended up in a 1-1 draw, however the team definitely deserved a win - which I am sure we will get in our final match this week.

Mr Carter.





Despicable Dragons

Year Two

The children are really enjoying their new topic- dragons! A few weeks ago everyone went outside and found 'evidence' that a dragon had been on the school grounds (do ask your children what they found- it was a lovely way to start our new topic!)

Our English focus has been on writing explanations and the children were fascinated by a clip from the BBC's The Hunt, which we used as a basis to write an explanation of how tigers hunt. The children then designed their own dragon and wrote an explanation of how those hunt- there were some fantastically creative ideas!

In maths the focus has been on multiplication, division and problem solving. The children have loved using apparatus to solve both multiplication and division problems, including drawing pictures to represent the equipment they've used. The children will also be tackling some dragon-based problems soon!

In the wider curriculum we've seen some beautiful dragon artwork, where the children used water colours to produce their own dragon. We're also starting to use the iPads to make a stop-motion animation this week, and of course the children are keeping physically active with gymnastics, throwing, catching, and swimming.

Thanks for all your continued support,

The Year 2 Team.





Through the Keyhole

Year Four

Last week, we began our 'Take One Picture' topic by entering class through a giant keyhole.

The sounds of a jungle could be heard from the whiteboard and a carousel of activities awaited us. We were given pictures of different keys and asked to think about what the keys might open, a treasure chest, a door to a castle or a safe were a few of the suggestions. We had to match story titles with the portal used by the characters to reach another world. We had a selection of pictures of portals e.g. tunnels, holes etc. and had to suggest where the portals might lead. These activities started us thinking about our own stories with the theme of entering another world through a portal.



Next, we took a close look at the picture inspiring the idea of entering another world, 'Through the Keyhole'. We looked at the work of Estonian artist Marge Nelk and how she uses different media to create her pictures. We then started to create our own, thinking about the setting for our stories and the characters in our stories, as the pictures are also going to become our book covers. Our stories are well under way now and we have written and edited our openings, build-ups, problems and resolutions. Just a bit more editing before we can start focussing on our handwriting for our finished books.



On Friday, we started our new science topic 'Sound'. We had a carousel of activities to explore sound and scientists linked to sound. Can your child tell you who invented the telephone? We will be learning lots more about sound over the coming weeks.



An Atmospheric Tale

Year Six

This week in English we have been reading extracts from the Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle

We started off by looking at an extract describing the moors and Mrs R and Mr C made us think about what book it might be. A few of us guessed but we weren't allowed to tell the class yet! We looked at some of the amazing description of the fog, which made us think about how to improve our own description. We especially loved the way he described the roof of the house floating 'like a strange ship upon a shadowy sea'. We spent a long time discussing the tricky language. One of our favourite sentences described Holmes's face: 'It was pale and exultant, his eyes shining brightly in the moonlight.' We also looked at the mysterious monster that appeared in the fog, which was described like a savage, devilish beast. After we read the passage about this extraordinary beast, we worked out that the book was Hound of the Baskervilles. Next we are going to write stories where our characters are lost on the moors and our own mysterious beast appears from the fog.





Mummy and Me Craft Afternoon

Nursery

Last Friday our Mummies joined us for a craft afternoon. Throughout the afternoon we made crowns for our Mummies using lots of glitter, sequins and feathers. We planted a flower, decorated biscuits with marshmallows and sprinkles and even made a lolly stick photo frame. It was lots of fun having our Mummies at school and being so creative with us!

Lucy spoke about the afternoon, "I liked making the flowers with Mummy. We have to put soil around the flower. I liked eating the biscuits too. We made one for each other and Mummy made a castle one for me and I made one with sprinkles on."

Elsbeth told us, "I liked when she made me a biscuit with icing and sprinkles and the marshmallows. I liked making the crown with Mummy. I made one with sparkles and pretty things and Mummy made a pretty one with glue sparkles and feathers on the top."

Kitty told us her favourite part of the afternoon, "I liked making the crowns. I put glitter on them and also sparkly bits and glue. I put stickers on the photo frame, they were pink and purple and I put pom poms on there. We are going to put me and Mummy in the frame."





Blown Away

Year Three

Extreme weather has caused a lot of interest in Year 3 this half term. The snow arrived just in time for the beginning of our new topic – perfect timing! Tornadoes came next, whirling around Year 3 in many different forms. After we had watched an informative power point and a short film about storm chasers, the children were asked to produce some creative writing. They have used some powerful language to express themselves.

Zoe – The dust rose like a powerful explosion covering the highway with destruction and debris.

Lucas – Ominous clouds block the bright sky like a dark blanket.

Eli – A violent spiral of air left a path of destruction everywhere it went.

Ryan – The twisting tornado sprints forward while kidnapping anything in its way.

The children were asked to create some tornado art. They used brightly coloured pencils against a dark background to show the contrast. Using shading to show a gradual decrease in colour gave the impression of movement. Apple and Maple class children were surprised how effective their shading and sketching skills were. “WOW!” was frequently heard around the classrooms when they were showing each other their work.

