



Dear Parents and Carers,

The past fortnight has flown by and children have been exceptionally busy with their learning and keen to share new knowledge and skills with us all.

Young Voices at the O2

I should like to wish the children in year 6, 'Good Luck!' for their trip on Tuesday 6th February. Although, with the amount of singing practice I've heard, they are so well rehearsed that they do not need to rely on luck! Their dance moves are coming along a treat having been ably assisted by Mrs Richardson and Mr Carter. I'm sure that the enthusiasm that I've seen will be evident from the great heights of the O2 arena! It is sure to be a great evening's entertainment—remember to take your tickets and I'll see you there.

Arts Week

Thank you for supporting our Arts Week focus starting after half term. You may remember that when we gathered pupil feedback at the end of the Summer Term 2017, the children were keen for us to raise the profile of art and music. The Creative Curriculum team have been working hard to inspire all adults in our school to prepare an exciting and inspiring range of activities for the children. We have worked together to learn new approaches to music and dance to help in our class teaching and everyone is looking forward to a week celebrating, 'The Arts'. Some parents have come forward to volunteer their particular talents—so don't be shy—do talk to your child's class teacher if you feel you would like to get involved!

Fame

Did you notice some of our stars in the Herts and Essex Observer on January 11th? On page 8 Liberty in year 5's role in the BBC's Hard Sun was mentioned and those with keen eyesight will have spotted Anna and Jessica's photo as they were filmed for a programme broadcast on Sky Sports.

Road Closure—Plaw Hatch Close

I've received reassurance from the Communications Officer at Herts Highways that the preparation work needed in Plaw Hatch Close will be carried out on a Sunday and shouldn't impact on school traffic! However, we all know how these things overrun so do be mindful that the journey to school may be even trickier than usual. Please keep our children safe by parking in a considerate manner, thank you.

Have a wonderful half-term break with your families,
Carole Hintridge. Headteacher.

The Golden Folder

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





Watch Out Foxes!

Year 4

As you may remember, Year 4 were set the task of designing an alarm for the farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean. We have spent the last few weeks learning about simple electrical circuits, electrical insulators and conductors and switches. We have made predictions about whether a circuit will work or not and given our reasons why. Using our electrical expertise, we then set about designing an alarm for Boggis, Bunce and Bean. We have built our circuits complete with buzzers (alarms) and a switch (trigger). The circuits have been carefully hidden in bushes and behind trees just outside Mr Fox's hole. There are also tempting treats such as turkeys, geese and cider to lure Mr Fox from his hole and in the right direction, resulting in him stepping onto a pressure switch which triggers the alarm. We are now looking at persuasive language to create a poster to advertise our alarms. In art, we have completed our wonderful Fantastic Mr Fox illustrations, in the style of Quentin Blake and they all look amazing.



Summencroft Nursery Visits.

Do you have a child due to start Nursery this September; if so have you booked onto our next tour? Come and join us on Tuesday 20th February at 9.30am for our next Nursery tour. Sign up sheet for the tour can be found in the office, or call 01279 307477 to book your place now.

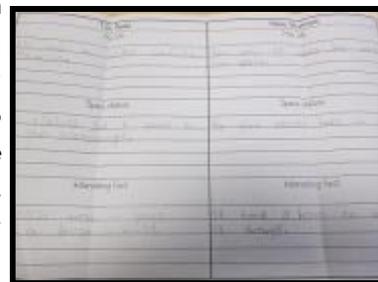




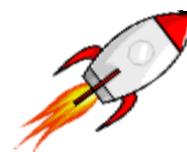
Blast Off Into Space

Year 1

Following on from last week, the children were excited to learn about another British astronaut, Helen Sharman. They were fascinated watching videos of Helen Sharman travelling to space in 1991 and discovered that she was the first British person to go into space. They were able to make comparisons with Tim Peake's adventures in 2015. The children had to design, research and write up a fact-file from all their learning and they compiled a fact-file for both astronauts. The children were very proud and pleased with their final piece of work. They are also looking forward to making a junk model moon buggy/rocket and are already planning ideas on how to make it.



In PE, the children have been creating a sequence of movements. We looked at making shapes using our bodies and at ways of travelling across a bench. Last week the children were perfecting their final part of the sequence by adding a jump and learning to finish in a gymnastic style. This week the children will be sequencing all of their moves and performing the whole routine to the rest of the class.



Musical Monday

Year 3

Year 3 have been enjoying playing percussion instruments in their Monday afternoon music sessions. They have been working on rhythms and counting beats. After clapping out some rhythms, each group was asked to make a repeating pattern using African drums and shakers. Tempo and tone had to be considered. Each group created very different rhythms and will be working on improving their ability to play together in time next lesson.





Learning Warming Up in Year Two!

The children are really enjoying our topic learning based around the diary of Samuel Pepys. They have so far produced some excellent writing, firstly in the form of a diary and currently the children are imagining what it might have been like to have lived through the fire. They will then use this to write descriptions using the senses. The children have also learnt about the differences between formal and informal writing and have started to write a formal letter to Thomas Farrinor, the owner of the bakery where the Great Fire of London started. This was done on MS Word to improve the children's typing and writing skills. Oak and Holly class have also produced some fabulous art work, including some Tudor houses made from cereal boxes and some sketches of the London skyline.

In maths, year 2 learning has been based around addition and subtraction (using plenty of resources, as seen in the picture) and this week we are looking at problem solving using these skills.

Keep up the great work year 2!



Visit From A Man Who Climbed Everest Year 6

On the 17th January 2018, Summercroft's Year 6 were lucky enough to receive a visit from a man who climbed Everest.

Alan, who reached the mighty mountain's summit in April 2016, visited us to explain what it is like to climb Everest and how to do it. He also brought in lots of the tools and equipment that he used to climb the mountain, and Jamie P and Olivia C had a try, with help from Alan, to replicate a passing on Everest's single rope system. Alan had a very interesting and detailed PowerPoint with videos from his and other people's YouTube channels. Throughout the visit, the Year 6 children asked many questions, which Alan happily answered. Also, Alan continuously noted that in order to follow your dreams and do stuff like climbing mountains you need to be determined enough to fall, fail and still be able to continue.

For all of the Year 6 children, this visit was very inspiring and helped us as we wrote our Shackleton diaries and also in our survival topic where we are experimenting how to survive with little supplies.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Alan for giving up his time and driving all the way from Cardiff to help inspire us as we continued with our survival topic.

By Thomas G





On the Move

Year 5

In Year 5 Maths we have been busy measuring and calculating the perimeter and area of different shapes. Paper clips helped to remind us about perimeter while newspapers were most helpful with area. We made single square metres out of newspaper then used them as a benchmark to estimate the area of our classrooms. As you can see from the photographs, we employed various techniques with our newspaper squares to do this – some more successful than others!

We have done quite a bit of running around on the playground this week – mainly for Science and English. In Science our focus is Forces – and more specifically this week, air resistance. Having run around on the playground with large pieces of paper and raised the eyebrows of any on-lookers, we then came up with our own scientific questions relating to paper helicopters, for example 'Does the length of the propeller blade affect the speed it falls?'. We then planned and carried out our own investigations in order to try to answer these questions for ourselves.

In English, the running around on the playground was to do with Tag – the context for our shared writing. We are developing characters and trying to show a changing relationship between them. Flashbacks are also a feature of this week's writing. This will all help us next week with our independent writing.

Music from Vera Lynn and Glenn Miller has been heard floating down the corridors from both Year 5 classrooms. We appreciated some music by listening and comparing the two rather different styles – both popular during World War 2. Our next step is to modernise one of the songs and try to bring it right up-to-date in a 2018 style. We can't wait to hear the final compositions.





Traditional Tales

Nursery

Over the past few weeks Nursery has been looking at different traditional tales. We have especially enjoyed listening to The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Each week we have loved joining in with the different activities and challenges linked with each story. We have painted pigs, bears and the big bad wolf. We have made our own shape houses, created paper plate Goldilocks, collaged the three bears and practised our cutting skills. We have especially enjoyed re telling the different stories in our role play area and using the puppets.

Kyra retold the story of The Three Little Pigs. "Once upon a time there were three little pigs who were setting off to build their own house. The big bad wolf comes and goes to the first little pig house made of straw and he huffed and he puffed and he blows the house down. He went to the next piggy house made of sticks and he huffed and he puffed and he blows the house down. Then he went to the brick house he huff and puff and couldn't blow the house down he climbed up the chimney and the pigs put a fire on and he fell down the chimney and burnt his bottom! The End."

Elsbeth retold the story of Goldilocks and the three bears: "Goldilocks tries the big porridge and it was too salty and then tried the middle bowl. Yuck too sweet then tried the little one and ate it all up. Then she tried the big chair it was a bit too high so she tried the middle size chair, ow too low. Then she tried the little one and broke it. Then she went upstairs and tried the big bed it was too hard. Then she tried the middle bed it was too soft. Then she tried the little one it was just right and she fell asleep in it. Then the three bears came back and found her asleep. They woke her up and Goldilocks did run away."

Kitty retold the story of Little Red Riding Hood, "Little Red Riding Hood went to see her Granny but she had big teeth, big ears and big eyes. It was the wolf pretending to be Granny. He gobbled up Granny and Little Red Riding Hood and then the woodcutter comes and shakes the Big Bad Wolf and out comes Granny and Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf runs away into the woods!"

Ask us if we can retell you one of the stories!





Sports at Summercroft

Athletics

'A team comprised of 16 year 5s and 6s took part in a Sportshall Athletics tournament at Birchwood last Friday. Competing against 8 other teams from various Stortford schools, in the first half of the competition the children's jumping, javelin and speed bouncing were put to the test. At this point the scores were read out and to our delight we were top of the leader board.

The second half of the afternoon involved the running side of the competition, including obstacle courses and team relays. I'm glad to say we cemented our 1st place spot, winning all but one of our races and coming top by a long way in the end. We unfortunately did not qualify for the county competition however, losing by a mere two points to Reedings who had competed against other schools the day before. Congratulations to them.

I would also like to congratulate our team, who not only beat all who were put in front of them, but also displayed the kind of behaviour of which we at Summercroft are extremely proud. It was a pleasure to watch you compete,

Mr Eaton

Football

On the 22nd January, the football B team came up against Puller School in their first league fixture since the Christmas holiday. Unfortunately, Puller School ended up winning by four goals to none. However, the team battled extremely well and especially impressed me with their determination to fight until the final whistle.



On Monday 29th January, both the A and B football teams competed against the Manor Fields A and B teams in a league fixture. Again, both teams displayed brilliant togetherness and an extremely high work ethic - evidencing a definite improvement in their performance levels. However, unfortunately the B team ended up losing by 3 goals to none and the A team lost by one goal to none. Mr Eaton and Mr Carter are extremely proud of all of the team members for how well they continue to represent the school.





Goldilocks and Friends

Reception

We have been extremely busy over the last few weeks reading and exploring some of the traditional tales.

During lunch time Goldilocks broke Baby Bear's chair in Willow Class. The children then decided to trick Goldilocks into come back to ask her to apologise. Willow class decided we should have a porridge party. So this week the children have been busy getting prepared for their master plan. They have been making decorations, inviting friends and family, making posters, cooking up some porridge and inventing some porridge party games such as 'pass the porridge', 'stuck in the porridge' and 'pin the nose on the bears'. We have been amazed at the fantastic ideas the children have come up with and how engaged they have been. They then decided to make some bowls out of clay, a small one for Baby bear, a medium sized one for Mummy bear and a large bowl for Daddy bear. They are so proud of their creations and finally got their apology. Goldilocks joined us for our party and is welcome back again.

In Ash class the children have been making the three bears using different media. The children have working carefully to create paper plate bears using tissue paper, felt and pipe cleaners. We have also made bear headbands and the children have enjoyed using these in their roleplay. It has been lovely to see them using more expression in their voices throughout their acting and the class particularly enjoyed it when Miss Cheer entered the classroom as one of the three little pigs. The children asked lots of different questions of the characters. Gabriel asked "how did you feel when the wolf blew down your houses?" Ash class were satisfied with their answers and helped the three little pigs to rebuild their houses.

