

Summercroft Primary School

'Achieving through care, challenge and creativity'



Dear Parents and Carers,

The snow last Friday was tantalising! The promise of fun on the field with the disappointment of melting slushiness and mud. When the temperature drops we operate our cold weather protocol at lunch times. This means that the children stay inside for half of the lunch break and go out for the second half. Please make sure that the children come to school with appropriate, named clothing to go outside whilst the weather is cold!



Traffic outside the front of the school has been horrendous over the past couple of weeks. Parking will always be an issue in a residential area and there isn't a magic wand that can be waved. Please help to keep everyone safe by: keeping wheels off the pavements, observing the zigzags outside the school, keeping the kiss and go zone clear, parking in line with the Highway Code Rule 243 (especially the repeat offenders who park opposite the junction in Plaw Hatch Close) and parking with consideration to the local residents. Thank you.

Monday's assembly focused on Children's Mental Health Week, which builds naturally on the work we've been doing as part of our Resilience Learning Power. We have talked about the importance of sleep, exercise, being connected with friends and families and learning new things; looking after our body inside and out! Mind full or mindful was a discussion point last week. The children watched a clip from Kung Fu Panda 3 and talked about the quote, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery but today is a gift. That's why it's called the 'present'."

Many thanks to the PTA and the staff who enabled the children to stay for Movie and Munch on Friday afternoon. The smell of popcorn was delicious.

I'd also like to congratulate the children on a fantastic performance at the O2 on Tuesday. As always, they 'did us proud' with excellent behaviour and buckets of enthusiasm, despite the long day! It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, singing in such a famous venue in a choir of over eight and a half thousand and the children seemed to really enjoy themselves. Thank you to the adults that accompanied the children: Mrs Hogan, Miss Tarran, Mrs Davey (Mrs R's mum), Mrs Dawson, Mrs Perry, Mr Carter and Mrs Richardson.



With all best wishes,
Carole Hinstridge
Headteacher



The Golden Folder

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





31st January, 1880

Today, the children were a little excitable. We don't stand for any of that nonsense. The cane is usually a very good deterrent!

Morning assembly with Mrs Anderson was a quiet affair today. Most of the children seemed reluctant to sing the hymn and the National Anthem honouring Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. They have been warned that they must sing with more enthusiasm next time.

Our drill session was a little chilly today. Many complained about the cold, but it is character building so went ahead regardless. The children seem to have forgotten how lucky they are to be at school. Many of their peers are out at work for very long hours but since the Act has been passed in Parliament, all children up to the age of 10 need to be educated now.

Sitting in rows, the boys worked very hard in mathematics. The addition work produced with their chalk was well set-out and accurate. Only a couple needed the dunce hat to help them focus. The needlework being produced by many of our young ladies is most pleasing. There are a couple however, who may find it difficult to get a job in service if they don't start trying a little harder.

In geography today the children were able to name the countries in our wonderful Empire. Involved chanting the British monarchs from Egbert, in the House of Wessex, right through to our Majesty, Queen Victoria. Not a pleasing effort. Many seemed to find some of the names amusing. Extra marching around the playground soon sorted that silliness out.

After lunch, it was most pleasing to see the children work on their handwriting. Several of the children seem to be close to being allowed to try pen and ink soon. A couple were making a great effort to drop the devil's habit of using their left hands.

Unfortunately, we had to send some children to the work house today. It is always sad to see them leave us but at least they will be able to have somewhere to sleep and food to eat in return for their hard work.

Overall, a good day.

Year 3



Our history lesson





A Day In The Life Of Peter Rabbit

Year 1

In English we used our imaginations and put our 'Peter Rabbit hats' on as we went outside and recorded with our senses what Peter Rabbit could see, hear, feel and smell. We had lots of lovely ideas such as sweet gooseberries, fresh grass, sticky mud and tuneful birds singing! In groups, the children acted out The Tale of Peter Rabbit before writing their own versions of the story. We were blown away with the standard of writing in the children's books and very pleased to see so many wonderful sentence openers, adjectives and conjunctions – well done to our super Year Ones!

In PE the children were extremely excited to explore the wall bars; climbing carefully up them as high as they felt comfortable and trying to move around them without touching the ground! They also practised the different ways of moving and stretching that we've learnt so far in Year 1 as they travelled around our obstacle course.

In RE we were looking at the Christian celebration of welcoming a new baby where we watched a video or a real-life Baptism before acting out our own. Our Vicar Dixon baptised baby Lucy who with proud parents, Siarra and Joshua P and Godparents, Meraj, Safia and Florence T!





May the Force Be With Us!

Year 5

We have been looking at forces in science, with a particular focus so far on gravity and resistance. Our paper spinner investigation prompted a lot of scientific discussion and predictions, as well as the buzz it created when we had a go at changing the spinner design in several ways and measuring the impact. Some of the changes we tried were: blade shape; blade length; number of paperclips (weight); height of drop and the position of spinner at point of release.

Many impressive scientific skills were on display and we all took on different roles within our teams to try to make it as fair a test as possible. The results were interesting – and not always what we would have predicted. Our next step will be looking at levers & pulleys, then gears & ratios.



Dinosaurs

Nursery

The children have loved learning all about dinosaurs. We have been looking on the computer and in non-fiction books to find out about certain dinosaurs and we have been particularly interested in learning about what dinosaurs eat and whether they are herbivores, carnivores or even omnivores!

Throughout the past few weeks the children have made their own dinosaur egg from papier-mâché, collaged large dinosaurs together using a variety of different materials whilst thinking about their texture and we finding dinosaur eggs which rhyme! We even explored what happens when we mix colours whilst making our own dotty dinosaurs and we have been busy making our own dinosaur counting books and creating different dinosaurs using shapes!

We can't wait to show you all of the busy things we have been up to on Wednesday 6th of February at 2:30pm!





The Great Fire!

Year 2

The children in Oak and Holly classes are completely immersed in their learning about The Great Fire of London. Many are following up their learning at home and producing pictures and information leaflets. We are enjoying seeing their efforts in class.

This week in English, we have written reports about the Great Fire. We began by researching facts using books, pictures and also the internet. We then learnt how to group similar information into paragraphs.

As part of our topic work, the children have made Tudor houses which they thoroughly enjoyed, especially adding flames to make them appear on fire. We have also looked at the differences between houses in London in 1666 and houses today.

Our maths learning over the past week has been finding fractions of shapes and amounts. We have also been comparing fractions and looking at equivalents.



Champions of Bishop's Stortford!

The Summercroft athletics squad started off the school's 2019 sports schedule in style by coming first in the town's indoor athletics competition. A total of 18 schools took part, with the event being split across two days. First up were the field events, which included foam javelin throwing, chest-push, standing long jump and speed bounce. It was incredible to see how well the children did after only a couple of sessions practising.

After this, the scores were announced and the team got a huge confidence boost upon hearing that they were in the lead. They never looked back, winning every race in the running segment of the competition. The points were tallied up and the final standings for the top three were:

- 1st – Summercroft 316 points
- 2nd – Reedings 276 points
- 3rd - St Andrews 270 points

Back at Summercroft, we were incredibly proud of the score the children posted, but even more so with the way in which the squad conducted themselves as winners and in representing the school. They will now go on to represent the town in the County Championships in March, which will be an amazing experience.





All At Sea

Reception

Ahoy there! Reception have loved journeying into their new topic 'Pirates' so far. Last week we read 'Pirates Love Underpants' by Clare Freedman; we then went on to draw our favourite parts of the story and write about them. Many children enjoyed the part where the pirates found the fabled 'Pants of Gold' for the captain's treasure chest. Treasure has been the word on everybody's lips throughout Reception as the children have dug deep into their work, making their own golden treasures and gems, treasure chests, maps and telescopes to search out their fortunes. Together, large scale pirate ships have been built inside and out to sail the Seven Seas. Some of the mischievous pirates who've crept up and taken other pirates' treasures have had to carefully balance as they've walked the plank. Lots of signs have been made to decorate an inside pirate ship, including ones which warn 'Prts wlk the pac' (pirates walk the plank), 'Wolc the planc' (walk the plank), 'Plroot croo' (pirate crew) and 'Plroos cooz' (pirates' coins). We found some real coins in special pouches and sorted them by size, colour and shape. We have been investigating how much some of the pirates' loot weighs using balance scales and multilink, how much treasure it takes to sink a ship and which treasures are magnetic or non-magnetic. We are looking forward to many more pirate adventures over the coming week.



Governor News

Michael Kirby

The Trustees' Report, Governance Statement and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2018 have been posted on the school's website under Policies: Statutory Policies and Documents: Audited Accounts 2018.

By their nature they are rather formal but for those who are interested they give some idea about how the school is governed, the work of the Governors, the achievements of the children and the state of the finances.

We aim to have at least one Governor around at parent/teacher consultations if there is anything you want to ask.

