



11th September 2020

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. Each week, the classes will share some of the learning and exciting activities that we have been getting up to in school to give you a flavour of what school life has been like that week. We hope that this will then allow you to have some great conversations with your children over the weekend about what they have been learning.

Our Value of the Month:

Determination

the ability to continue trying to do something, even if it is difficult



Our Learning this Week

Nursery

We have had such a great start to the year and have been so impressed with how well the children have come in to nursery for their first sessions back. It cannot have been easy for them to come in to a setting that so many of them have not been in before and others have not seen for almost 6 months. You should all be very proud. And well done to you all too as I can imagine 'the handover' was not easy for you either. All children seemed to enjoy their first session, and all seemed very confident to investigate the activities we had out, the water tray and paint easel were definitely a hub of activity and I enjoyed lots of meals being cooked for me in our home corner.



Reception

We have had a really exciting first week in school. We have enjoyed exploring the new resources and making new friends. We have all settled in really well. This week, we have painted self-portraits thinking about our facial features. We have also started to learn our phonics sounds and exploring letter formation. Outside, we have really enjoyed playing with the ribbons making them fly like kites and building obstacle courses using our crates and wooden blocks.



Year 1

We have really enjoyed our first full week at school (especially playing on the big playground) and have settled in well to the new routines. This week in Art we have used oil pastels to create self-portraits. In maths we have been very busy! We have been looking at the value of numbers up to 10, comparing objects and using the equality and inequality symbols. In computing, we have been giving and listening to instructions and directing our partners round an obstacle course. In English, we have been looking at Julia Donaldson stories and have focused on 'The Gruffalo' this week and have started to write sentences about the Gruffalo.



Year 2

We have really enjoyed our first week back at school, and I am really pleased all the children have settled in well. This week we have been working on writing a character description about Cinderella using expanded noun phrases, and in maths we have been working on place value. The children have enjoyed using the practical equipment to find ten more and ten less than a multiple of ten! In science, we have been looking at identifying a range of materials and we have also started learning some new vocabulary when discussing the properties of the materials.

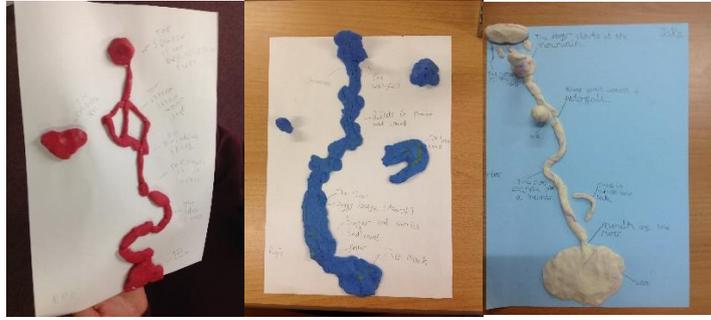


Year 3

This week in year 3, we have started our topic on the Extraordinary Egyptians. In our English lessons we have been learning how to mummify an orange and writing our own set of instructions of how to do this. In history we have been looking at the early civilisation of Ancient Egypt and we have also been looking at how the pyramids were built, why they were built and their importance. In Maths we have been looking at the composition of numbers using our place value knowledge.

Year 4

This week we have started our topic on Victorious Vikings by exploring facts about longships; the information from which we intend to use when writing an information page. We have also been looking at the prominent features of rivers and discussed the importance of a water supply relating to why people historically have chosen to settle at certain sites. The children enjoyed creating 3D models of what they have learnt.



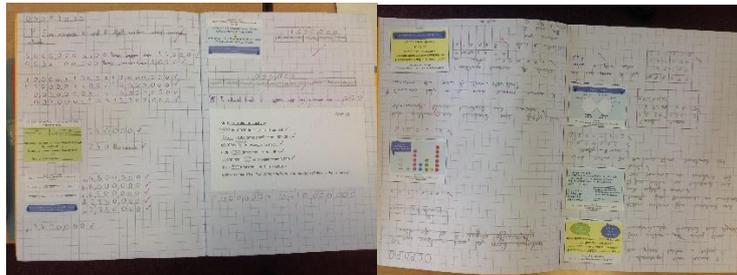
Year 5

What a busy start to the term we have had! Year 5 have come back ready to learn and are enthusiastic about our topic of Space. We have been learning about the planets in our Solar System and generating questions about them which we will be researching. We have started our PE this week with a focus on healthy living and tennis. In maths and literacy, we are revising skills and putting them to use as we move onto new learning.



Year 6

We have had a great first week back at school. We have explored the book *Street Child* and started generating descriptive and figurative language in preparation for our narrative opening next week. We have also revised our knowledge of different sentence structures. In Maths, we have explored the composition of numbers using the place value grid and learned to read and write eight-digit numbers. In History, we have been exploring vocabulary linked to the Victorians and learned about the life of Queen Victoria.



What to do if your child is unwell: If your child is unwell, please phone the office at your earliest convenience to let us know the reason for their absence. We have recently received some updated guidance from the government around the management of coronavirus symptoms which we will be following. Your child, and the rest of the household, must self-isolate immediately and arrange to have a test should your child display any one of the following symptoms:

- a new, continuous cough;
- a high temperature; or
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.

If we observe any of these symptoms in school, we will call you to collect all of your children and take them home. You must then follow the government's '[Stay at Home Guidance](#)'. You will need to organise a swab for the child displaying symptoms. The **swab must be done within 5 days of onset of symptoms**. If this is not possible, the child will need to complete **10 days of isolation**, and all **household members will need to complete 14 days isolation**. The household will only need to be swabbed if they develop symptoms themselves, of which they will need to isolate for a further 10 days.

Even if the child is feeling better but unable to have a test, they will need to **still complete their 10 days** of isolation.

They do not need to self-isolate if their **swab is negative** and:

- **everyone you live with who has symptoms tests negative**
- **everyone in your support bubble who has symptoms tests negative**
- **you were not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace – if you were, see [what to do if you've been told you've been in contact with someone who has coronavirus](#)**
- **you feel well – if you feel unwell, stay at home until you're feeling better**

Social Media: We are aware that a number of social media platforms have been in the news recently. Whilst these apps are frequently published with a minimum age rating over the age of primary pupils, we would like to signpost you to some helpful resources should you decide as a parent to allow their use. We cannot stress enough the importance of being fully aware of what apps your children are accessing. NetAware have produced a review of the most popular apps, games and social media sites your children are likely to be using: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

O₂ | NSPCC

Let's keep kids safe online

Contacting us: The office is now manned 5 days a week between the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm but will be closed to parents unless by prior appointment. The best way to communicate with the office is through the info@hardwickschool.org email account or the telephone 01295 285355.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 18th September – Jeans for Genes Day (£1 donation / jeans only – all other uniform items to be worn)

Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th September – Online Parents' Evenings

Friday 9th October – Individual School Photos

Have a lovely weekend!



Graeme Page and the school team