BLAKENEY CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO: 11
May 2024

This month sees a flurry of activity in school with many trips and visits planned. It is wonderful to be able to fit these in at such a busy time academically but we know that there is some juggling involved for parents and staff! If you are unsure of event details, please do drop us a message via Dojo. We are always happy to help if you are unsure of dates and times.

We all had a really great time at Federation Founding Day last week. The walk from the chapel into Walsingham stayed dry and children were able to walk with friends. We all then shared a pic-nic, followed by ice-cream which was a real treat. There are some lovely friendships forming and Blakeney children have requested more events with the pupils from the other 3 schools. I have reported this feedback to Mr Snowdon so hopefully we can accommodate them soon. Pictures of Founding Day are on the back of this newsletter.

Next week is Ascension Day and although we would have loved to climb St Nicholas Tower again, it is currently closed. To mark the day, all the children will climb Mariners Hill. The view is spectacular and the climb somewhat easier for the younger members of the school.

CPR training with the East Anglian Air Ambulance was also a huge success at the beginning of term. We will repeat these sessions regularly so that the older children are given refresher courses and the younger ones also become aware of how to keep themselves and others safe.

On Thursday, we are all going for a walk to the Quay (the older ones will continue on to Morston). The Bishop of Norwich had a late engagement so sadly can't join us but Reverend Richard will come along which is wonderful. The spiritual benefits of walking in nature are not immediately obvious to the children but as staff, we definitely see the benefits of calmer and happier children. When the weather improves we hope to do more of these mindful walks.

Collective Worship

We have a new certificate which is given out in Celebration Worship each week. Our first Leading Light award for displaying the school value of kindness was given to Henry Spriggs. He received the most peer votes despite many other note-worthy contributors. I have placed a selection of these on the display board in the hall, should you wish to look. This month, the school values we shall be reflecting upon are hope and respect. The quote from the bible we will use a basis for our worship is from Romans 15:13.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.'

Little Nippers Playgroup

We have had a flurry of new families join our Thursday morning stay and play sessions. There are always sensory activities for the children to enjoy, drinks for the grown-ups and snacks for the children. If you know of anyone with pre-school age children, please do mention our group to them. The group is free of charge and is part of our programme to promote literacy and numeracy in the early years.

Team Blakeney

Hoglets & Hedgehogs

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Hoglets & Hedgehogs Class. Our newest additions to Hoglets have settled in splendidly. They have made new friends, enjoyed exploring and playing within their new environment and have started to take part in adult-led activities. The rest of the class have settled back into school well and they are all eager to learn as it is the final push before the end of the academic year (how quickly it has gone!).
Our topic this term is 'Our Bodies, Growing Things & Life Cycles' and we are enjoying our learning so far. We are looking forward to some warmer weather so we can take more of our learning outside, so fingers crossed that the sun soon appears!

English

To get started we have been focusing on the text 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. We have thoroughly enjoyed this text so far, planting our very own seeds that are already starting to sprout. The children have engaged with the text well and they have written instruction texts on how to plant a seed, finishing with advice leaflets on how to keep seeds healthy. Our next focus text is 'The Tadpole's Promise' and we are very much looking forward to reading this.

Maths

In Reception, the children have moved onto learning about numbers beyond ten. They have been verbally counting to 20 and beyond, ordering numbers from 0 to 20 and they have started to visually notice numerical patterns. Our Year 1 children have been getting to grips with multiplication and division, learning how multiplication is commutative, and using the methods of grouping and sharing to divide. The Year 2 children are at the final hurdle, getting ready for their SATs tests that will be taking place this term. Although they are not compulsory, we as a school, will still be completing these for in-school assessment purposes. They've been busy learning about fractions, and I have to say I think they have cracked them!

Foundation Subjects

This half term in RE, we are looking at the meaning of the word **universe** as we focus on the big question 'How did the universe come to be?'. We have explored its meaning in Christianity and compared this with the meaning of creation in the religion of Hinduism. Our youngest children made lotus flowers, whilst our oldest children re-wrote the story of 'The Lotus Flower'.

In Science this term, we are focusing on exercise and keeping healthy. The children took part in an 'exercise experiment' where they had to notice the physical changes before and after exercise. Tiring stuff, but they could all recognise how their bodies reacted to movement!

In Art, we are learning about portraits and self-portraits. The children have started to create their own self-portraits, learning how to add facial features and mixing different coloured paints to create their skin tones. Keep an eye out for the finished pieces!

Important Reminders:

- The home reading before the Easter holidays was excellent, but the momentum has dropped. Please keep up with the daily reading and record this in your child's reading record.
- It is the final push before we send off data and results, please support us in supporting your child's education, by completing their homework.

Samphire News

The children are settling in to our learning theme of WW2 and are already able to demonstrate a lot of knowledge. A local man, who himself was an evacuee, is coming in to talk to the children about his experience of the War and many children have also brought in family keepsakes and photographs related to the topic. Thank you everyone for talking about this with the children. Total immersion in the topic seems to be working!

Maths

Year 6 have completed their Maths learning and are currently revising topics in preparation for their SAT's exams. We will be going over past papers to pick up any weaker areas and consolidating their knowledge. Year 5 are finishing their lessons on Shape, Space, Position and Direction before moving onto manipulating decimal numbers. In Lower Key Stage 2, Year 3 and 4 move onto a new theme of money (as a beginning for decimals) and time.

English

We are still in the middle of our WW2 related texts, Letters from the Lighthouse and The Lion and the Unicorn. Years 3 and 4 are producing much longer pieces of writing and have excelled at character descriptions and diary entries. We hope to begin our extended piece of writing in the coming week. Years 5 and 6 have been describing the experience of sheltering during an air raid and are currently writing their extended piece of writing, which is a scary story called "The Hairy Hands". Unsurprisingly, they are all masters of tension and terror!

Science

It is wonderful to have such a hands-on Science theme this term and already the children have made periscopes to demonstrate how light is reflected and looked at images through water to see refraction. In our upcoming lessons we will be exploring prisms, creating colour wheels and studying the shapes of shadows.

Music

Ms Furnell has really been inspiring the children this term with her knowledge of Samba! Samphire class have already begun to recreate Samba rhythms and reply to the call and response whistle. They sound amazing and I can't wait to share their music with you. Hopefully, this will be a live performance with dancing optional!

History

This topic, for so many reasons, has really grasped the children's attention. We have looked at the reasons for outbreak of WWII and the children have shown great maturity when looking at the Holocaust and the story of Anne Frank. As we progress, we study significant events during the War and the role of women and commonwealth soldiers. To mark the 80th anniversary of D Day in June, we will also place flowers on the memorials of the Commonwealth War Graves at St Nicholas Church.

PE

The hurdles which were purchased last year have been a really worthwhile investment. Most children have now attempted the hurdles at the tallest setting. It is now a matter of building endurance and speed during our Monday lesson. On Wednesdays, the Maypole dancing was a whole new experience for us all. It has taken some time to learn the dance and work on our timings but we are hoping to perform for you all at the last Celebration Worship of the half term.























Important Dates

May

Thurs 9th		Ascension Day walk to Mariners Hill
Mon 13th - Thurs 16th		Y6 SATs Week
Mon 20th		Hoglets & Hedgehogs trip to Hillside Animal Sanctuary
Tues 21st	PM	Y6 Steam Event at Greshams
Fri 24th	3.15pm	Break up for Half Term

June

Mon 3rd		Back to School
Weds 5th		Samphires trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum
Fri - Mon 7th - 10th		Salthouse Art Exhibition @ Salthouse Church
Thurs 13th		Whole school trip to Amazona Zoo, Cromer

July

3rd/4th/5th		Year 6 Transition Days @ APHS
Thurs 4th	AM	Y4/Y5 Dodgeball Tournament @ Beeston Hall