



The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure that you will enjoy reading this newsletter as it is a great showcase of all the fantastic learning that is taking place over our schools. Understandably, you will view those year groups that your children are in, however do take some time to have a look at other year group pages as this will give you a taste of the wide range of activities our children take part in!

Our school staff are working incredibly hard to build in as many exciting opportunities as they can, and it has been really positive to feel a greater sense of normality this term. I have been spending some time in classes recently, looking at how the children are learning and I have been very impressed with the way that they engage with each other and our school staff. They are clearly pleased to be back!

I am sure that you will have also seen in the media recently the update to our Community Connections project that continues to go from strength to strength. Our children have really enjoyed receiving letters from local residents who find themselves isolated and have written their responses. It is a great way of modelling some of our school values!

I hope that you can enjoy a happy half term break and we will look forward to seeing the children back for what I am sure will be another exciting second half to the Summer term.

Best wishes and kind regards

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

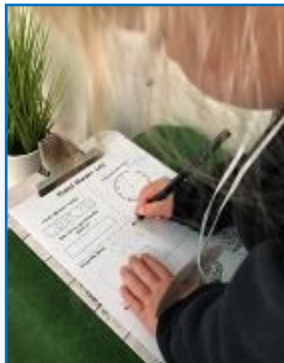
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2021

News from Nursery

Investigating Dinosaurs

The children have been learning about eggs, linked to Easter symbols and life cycles. There was an exciting discovery one morning when a large nest of eggs appeared on the carpet. Children used the magnifying glasses to investigate the eggs. Children then discovered that they were likely to be dinosaur eggs (Mrs Comber did have to explain that they were not actually real eggs as the artefacts and photo shopped images had been made so realistically!) There has been some great dinosaur work including counting quantities of eggs, dinosaur themed cosmic yoga and small world play using swamps. Children also explored the size of a T-Rex's footprint with some great measuring opportunities.



The children became fossil hunters finding clues about the past. They made clay fossils after studying two real fossil ammonites. The children instinctively manipulated the clay's sensory properties. 'Dinosaurs' has certainly been a very popular topic with some great learning through play!

Our Earth Day Promise

Nursery celebrated World Earth Day on 22nd April.



The children spoke about the importance of growing plants and the benefits that plants bring. Children have been busy planting seeds including sunflowers and vegetables for the growing box. On Earth Day, children thought about ways to protect the earth. Their ideas included growing plants, picking up rubbish in the environment and always placing rubbish in the bin.



News from Reception

Fun Friday

The children have enjoyed our Fun Friday events with a gross motor focus. It has been a good opportunity to explore our back green. The day includes ample opportunities to be active with running races, parachute games and travelling along the gym trail equipment. There have also been opportunities for crafting and construction. Children have also enjoyed wellbeing sessions with cosmic yoga and singing.



The traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk' has been a theme for our activities. Children have been drawing with masking tape to create the Giant's castle. They have planted bean seeds and will be watching to see how long the beanstalk takes to reach their castle. During 'Fun Friday' sessions, children have been decorating milk bottles to create hanging baskets for our outdoor area. The children have used bean, sunflower and marigold seeds saved from last year. We are eager to see our plants grow as the summer progresses.



Dinosaurs, Fossils and Volcanoes

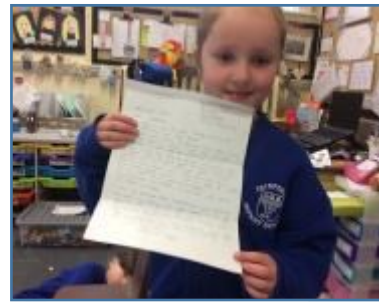
The children have been learning about Dinosaurs this term supported by information film clips, small world play and camouflage artwork. Children have explored the features of dinosaurs. Children worked as palaeontologists, excavating bones (chocolate chips) from the ground (a cookie). In science, each class has made their own clay fossils and volcanoes.



News from Year 1

Flat Stanley Project

As part of our Geography topic learning about the UK's four countries and capitals, we shared the story of Flat Stanley. In the story, Flat Stanley got up to lots of mischief and went on many adventures in his envelope. We looked at photos from around the world of where Flat Stanley has been, and the children wrote a letter to a relative or friend talking about our school and local area. They asked their recipient questions about where they live so that we could learn about lots of different places. We had letters posted across the UK and the globe, with many heading to Canada, the USA, Hungary, Poland, France and Australia! We have loved getting the letters back and sharing the responses with the class. It has been fascinating learning about lots of different places around the world!



Understanding Our Feelings

Mrs Shaw held a session for us to help the children understand and recognise their feelings. She taught us about our brain and how it keeps us safe. We looked at what it feels like for our brain to 'flip a lid' which is when our emotions become heightened, and what we can do to help us regulate these emotions and how to make ourselves feel calm.



Community Connections Project

Working with Felixstowe Helping Hands, the children wrote to a member of our local community who has found themselves increasingly isolated over the past year. In Year One we wrote a poem all about the colours of the rainbow such as "A Rainbow is... red like a juicy cherry, orange like the burning hot sun and as yellow as a beautiful bunch of daffodils". Each recipient received a rainbow painting to brighten their day too!

News from Year 2

Fossil Hunters!

As part of our learning about Mary Anning, we became fossil hunters. We were writing a recount of our own discoveries and used role play to help us get into character. We took some of the tools that we needed and hunted carefully to see if we could spot any fossils. When we found one, we carefully brushed away the dirt to reveal a potentially life changing discovery!



Poetry

We have been learning about poetry in school. In the first week we were learning poems and starting to think about performing them to an audience.

We rehearsed using our voice and adding actions to make it more interesting to the audience. Our teachers were all really proud of us for having a go. Public speaking is hard!

Enrichment!

We were very excited to be able to meet with Mr Ross for Enrichment for the first time since the autumn term. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to experience sports that they would usually not have access to. We were able to have a go at Boccia and Goal Ball and the children really enjoyed them both!

2L have also loved having dance this term and performed brilliantly to the Year group!



News from Year 3

Rainforests

We are only 2 weeks in to our new Rainforest topic and the children have already shown a great deal of knowledge. We have been really impressed with their research skills and ability to work together to explore, listen and share the information they have gathered. The children are developing their understanding of physical and human geographical features as well as furthering their ability to use the features of non-fiction text in their own writing. The class displays are progressing nicely and the classes enjoy seeing how they grow each week. Art and DT lessons over the coming weeks will include creating rainforest flowers and animal masks. The children are combining a wide range of skills for this topic and it is lovely to see them having time to work closely with their friends.



Peer Assessment

We are always teaching the children about assessment, showing them how we mark their work against the learning objectives, however, most recently we have been teaching them how to assess their own work. They have particularly enjoyed sharing their work with their peers. We were really proud to hear the children praising one another and giving useful advice as to how they could improve even further.



Light and Shadow—Super Scientists!

Our super scientists have been exploring light and shadow this term. We started by investigating how light travels, which objects block light and which surfaces reflect light. The children enjoyed the shadow hunt outside and spent time designing and making their own shadow puppets. They used the puppets to investigate how the size of the shadows could be changed. They used scientific language to explain how and why their shadows had changed.

News from Year 4

In year 4 we have been extremely busy since returning after lockdown. We have continued our full curriculum, with only a few adjustments due to continuing restrictions.

St Lucia Week - Islands

The final week before Easter was our St Lucia week. This was a super way to finish our Spring term topic and made up a little for so much of it being part of the home learning. One of our activities was to make class 'islands'. We used what we had learnt about physical geographical features to create a 'Caribbean' style island with beaches, volcanoes, rivers and rainforests etc. We then thought about the features that humans would add to the island such as houses, roads, farms, hotels and made these ready to go on the island. We realised that we would have to think carefully about where to put these, and that some natural features could be lost or reduced in size to make way for the human features.



Before adding Human features



After adding Human features

St Lucia Week - Carnival

We finished our week with a Caribbean carnival. We came in colourful clothes and in the morning made head dresses and streamers to wave. First, our procession went around the playground accompanied by some Caribbean music. We then added in our Samba carnival dance routines from our PE lessons and performed them around the playground. In music we had been using percussion instruments to create some 'carnival rhythms' and we then used these instruments outside for some rhythm call and response games. We just managed to get back inside before the rain came!



Since Easter we have been getting started on several new topics. We are now learning about Food and Farming and the children will shortly have their own individual information page project, to research an aspect of food production that interests them. We have also started a new science topic on States of Matter as well as continuing with our maths and English learning.



We are also lucky to have Chloe, a 'Chance to Shine' cricket coach doing sessions for us each Monday of this half term. They have been great fun and the children have thoroughly enjoyed the games and activities which have already really improved their ball and batting skills, with several of them showing an interest in playing more cricket outside school too.

News from Year 5

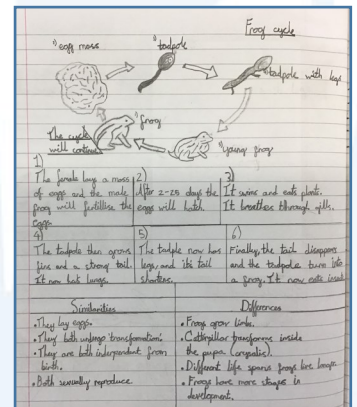
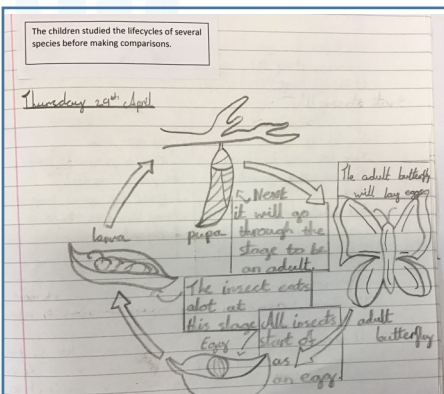
Maths: Measuring Angles

In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of angles by learning how to draw and measure angles accurately with a protractor. In addition, we have been starting to learn how to use 'angle theorems' to solve angle problems.



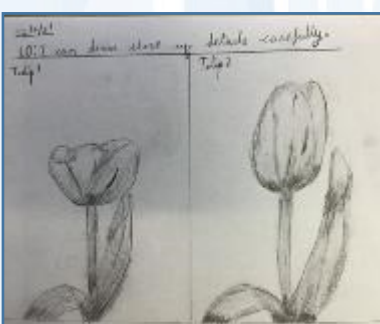
Science: Living Things and their Habitats

Our first week back after Easter saw the children each planting a Nasturtium seed to enable them to observe the life cycle of a plant. Picked for their fast growth, the children have been watering and caring for their seeds. We are hoping that, after half term, we will be able to use various parts of the parent plant to grow new plants. We have also been comparing the life cycles of various species and recording our observations.



Art: Observational Drawings

Through observational drawings of plants, the children have been developing their skills of line drawing, and creating tone through shading with both a pencil and watercolours. We have been extremely impressed with the outcomes.



Lisette



Ronnie



Eva



Millie

News from Year 6

World War Two

Since returning to school, Year 6 have been learning about World War Two (WWII). The children are really enjoying finding out about the topic, not only through history and geography lessons but also in art, design technology and English, where they have produced some fantastic writing — of which we are very proud.

World War Two Day

In April, the children all took part in WWII Day. As well as dressing up, with pig-tails, caps and even gasmask boxes, the children fully emerged themselves in experiencing a day in the life of an evacuee. Whilst taking part in the day's drama, we walked to the train station where the children were hurried onto the train and taken to the countryside. When arriving, after their extremely long journey, they enjoyed a cup of squash and a biscuit before finding out who they would be staying with for the duration of the war.



The children took part in (what would have been) a typical school day. They did a great job rote learning times-tables, writing from dictation and reciting poetry — with the occasional interruption of an air raid siren, meaning they had to continue their learning under the tables.

Clay Desk Tidies

In design technology lessons, the children have been working on producing WWII themed clay desk tidies. After lots of hard work planning, making, painting and varnishing, we are proud to share some examples from the amazing end products!



6J



6RW



6S



Ukuleles

In our music lessons, we have all been learning to play the ukulele. It's been great fun!

Term Dates

Current Academic Year: Term dates for 2020-2021

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term: Thursday 3 September 2020
Half term: Monday 26 October 2020 to Friday 30 October 2020
End of Autumn term: Friday 18 December 2020
PD (non school) days: Tuesday 1 September 2020
Wednesday 2 September 2020

Spring term:

Start of Spring term: Tuesday 5 January 2021
Half term: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021
End of Spring term: Friday 26 March 2021
PD (non school) day: Monday 4 January 2021

Summer term:

Start of Summer term: Monday 12 April 2021
May Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021
Half term: Monday 31 May 2021 (May Bank Holiday) to Friday 4 June 2021
End of Summer term: Friday 16 July 2021
PD (non school) days: Monday 19 July 2021
Tuesday 20 July 2021

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2021-2022

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term: Thursday 2nd September 2021
Half term: Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021
End of Autumn term: Friday 17th December 2021
PD (non school) days: Wednesday 1st September 2021
Friday 22nd October 2021

Spring term:

Start of Spring term: Thurs 6th January 2022
Half term: Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February 2022
End of Spring term: Friday 8th April 2022
PD (non school) days: Tuesday 4th January 2022
Wednesday 5th January 2022

Summer term:

Start of Summer term: Tuesday 26th April 2022
May Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May 2022
Half term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022
End of Summer term: Thursday 21st July 2022
PD (non school) day: Monday 25th April 2022

Our School Values



**Together
we're
better**



SCHOOL CHARTER:

- We always do our best
- We are kind, helpful and gentle
 - We learn from our mistakes
- We are safe because we care for people and property



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