



The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year!

As always, I hope that you enjoy reading about all the various opportunities that our children continue to experience across our schools. We always enjoy putting these newsletters together as they showcase such a rich and varied curriculum offer.

You will, of course, see reference to Christmas and it has been a real pleasure to welcome parents back into school to see our various Christmas performances. It is such an important experience for children to perform in front of an audience, not only does it help build confidence but it gives children the chance to feel the applause of a crowd. I am sure you will join me in congratulating all involved!

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Fairfield and Colneis, may I take the opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a successful 2023.

We look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Wednesday 4th January.

Best wishes and kind regards

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2022





News from Nursery



The Elves and the Shoemaker

We have enjoyed sharing this traditional tale and highlighting the gift of giving. Tap and Stitch visited our Nursery and were pleased to send notes to children who they 'caught being kind'. The story inspired a shoe shop role play area and we made a simple graph to discover which shoe fastening was the most popular.



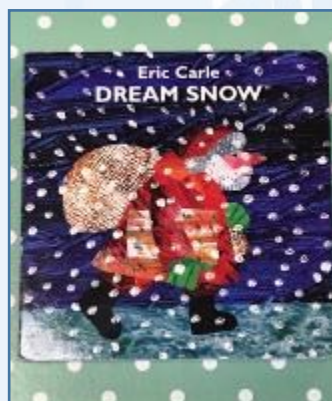
Repeating pattern elf hats

Children's ability to see patterns forms the basis of early mathematical thinking. We created our paper plate elf hats using a simple repeating pattern. The children were confident and able to repeat a sequence pattern of two colours: red and green.



Dream Snow: Honey on Toast

In Nursery, we love to share the book Dream Snow, by Eric Carle. After a busy day on the farm, the Farmer likes nothing more than to sit in his favourite chair drinking hot peppermint tea and eating honey on bread. We gave the children the opportunity to develop their independent skills, using a knife to spread butter on a slice of toast and to give honey a try if they hadn't had it before. The children did a marvellous job and enjoyed this little treat.



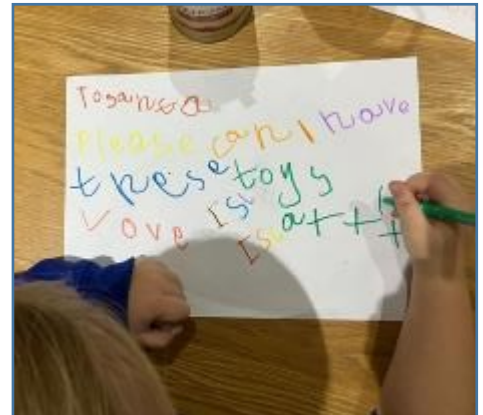


News from Reception



Letters to Santa

The children have been busy writing letters to Santa during free choice play sessions and at home. We have been talking about the journey our letters will take from the post box near School to the North Pole. Many children were also keen to talk about their experiences of writing letters and Christmas cards.



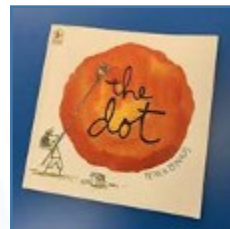
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

The children have been enjoying Christmas crafts including cutting paper snowflakes, making potato masher snowmen designs and decorating trees. We were delighted to share some of our crafts with the community creating the Co-op window display.



The Dot

We used the story 'The Dot' as inspiration for artwork, both indoors and outdoors. Children used natural objects to make imprints in clay, including creating textures from natural objects with flowers and twigs. There were also man-made objects available such as toy animals and Lego bricks. Children were invited to paint dots by exploring colour mixing. We will continue this collaborative art project in the new year.





News from Year 2



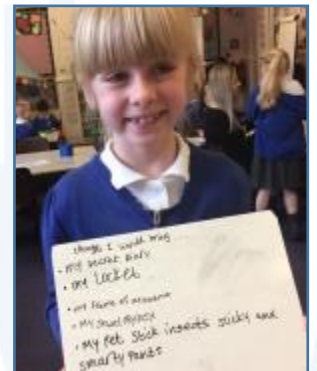
Superstar performers in 2F!

We were incredibly proud of our dancers for their performance. They worked so hard to learn their routine and they performed it beautifully.



Historians in the making...

Our children have loved learning about The Great Fire of London and being able to develop their History skills. They have asked questions, used a range of sources to carry out research, have answered their questions and created non-fiction fact books about what they have learned. Their non-fiction fact books look incredible! We have enjoyed using this topic within our Art and Reading lessons too to create some beautiful artwork and to explore diary entries.



Purple Mash Pros

In Computing lessons the children have been learning how to use Purple Mash. They have really enjoyed using it in our provision during our Great Fire of London topic as there are lots of quizzes, games and activities for them to use. We have been impressed with how much they can do independently! Well done Year Two.





News from Year 3

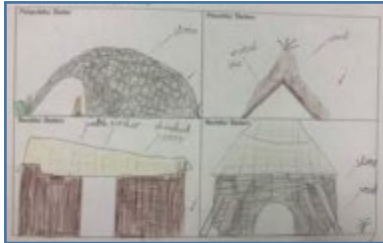


A great start!

The children have continued to settle brilliantly at Colneis. It has been great meeting those who attended the parents evening, in person or online, to discuss your child's progress. So far we are pleased with the attitude and manners across the year group and look forward to planning school trips in the Spring term. We are also very proud of the children's recent performance at the Carol concert.

Topic

This term the children have enjoyed travelling back over 10,000 years to the times of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Using secondary sources of information, the children have learnt about these periods of times and have been making comparisons about aspects of their lives: homes, clothing, food, tools, weapons, battles and significant historical figures such as Boudicca.



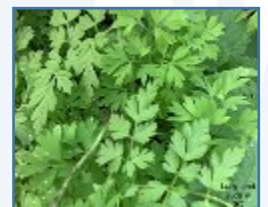
Physical Education

Year 3 have enjoyed taking part in PE and swimming lessons this term. It is brilliant that they have an opportunity to experience various sports at Colneis. In gymnastics, Year 3 have been learning to incorporate balance and movements to create a sequence. The children have put together a routine in small groups and performed this to the Greatest Showman music.



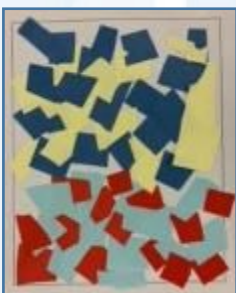
Outdoor Learning

The children have had the opportunity to plant seeds to grow in our new raised beds and have been carrying out a bean experiment to observe the process called germination. The children have also been learning to take photographs of our natural surroundings.



Art and Design

The children have been learning about Kurt Schwitters, an artist who was famous for his work using the technique of collage. They have learnt to layer a variety of materials, to use different textures, to use complimentary colours and to design their own images.



Special visit - 3C were very lucky to have a special visitor show their extensive fossil collection. We are lucky to be able to have visitors to share their knowledge and experience with the children.





News from Year 4



Science Visitor

Just before the half term break, all of Year 4 were fortunate to spend a session with a visitor from 'Hands on Science'. This was a practical session where the children developed their understanding about how we hear and why bats ears are able to hear so well. The children enjoyed making a whistle to take home with them!



Music

We have enjoyed developing our learning on the Glockenspiels. We have developed our understanding of rhythm and keeping in time and understanding the different symbols for a 'rest' and the timing that is associated with it.



Greek Week

During Greek Week the children participated in a number of activities. We made headbands, bracelets and face masks in the style of the Ancient Greeks. We learnt about the early Greek Language and tried to write our name in Greek!

The week ended with a re-enactment of the Greek Olympics and a Greek Play Performance where the whole year group performed to one another.





News from Year 5



History: Ancient Egypt

During our trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum, the children had the opportunity to see a 3,000 year old mummified body. In school, the children then explored the mummification process and carried out their own mummification on a doll. As part of this, the children used a cocktail stick to remove the brains, removed the other organs and placed them in canopic jars, washed the body in water, salt and spices, and finally wrapped the body in loo roll before laying it to rest in a sarcophagus.



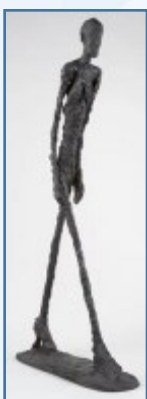
Science: Forces and Air Resistance

Bringing science to life, the children made parachutes in two different sizes to test whether a larger parachute would fall to the ground more slowly than a small one due to the effect of air resistance. The children were supplied with plastic bags, string and washers and then used their scientific knowledge to design a fair test. Having made suitable predictions, the year group gathered in the hall and conducted six tests in order to prove if air resistance was greater with a larger parachute.



Art: Alberto Giacometti

Focusing on the work of Swiss sculptor, Alberto Giacometti, the children have been making their own figurative sculptures. This involved: bending wire to form the basis of the body; using Modroc to wrap around the body and, finally, painting the figure in metallic coloured paint.



News from Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy term learning. They have worked incredibly hard in all subjects and the teachers are impressed with all their efforts.

Dance

This half term, 6RW and 6S have been working on a James Bond themed dance and performed to the other Year 6 classes.



6J have worked hard to learn their showcase dance. They performed brilliantly at Felixstowe School in front of an audience.



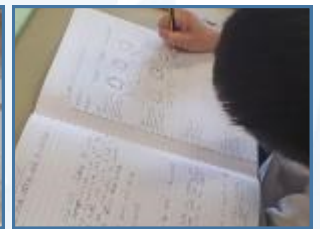
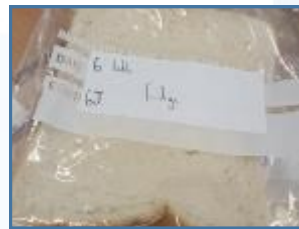
Design and Technology

In DT, Year 6 have been designing and constructing their own Jack in the Box. They have accurately measured the card and wood and are now beginning to saw and hot glue the frame.



Science

In Science this term, we have been learning about Micro-organisms. We set up a bread experiment to investigate where mould grows the best.



Christmas Carols

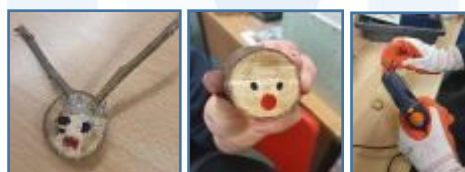
Year 6 visited St Andrews Church where they shared Christmas readings and performed a variety of songs. It was a lovely experience for the children.

'Merry Christmas Everyone!'



Outdoor Learning

Year 6 have enjoyed taking part in a number of outdoor learning sessions this term. These sessions included science based activities as well as some art and design and technology activities.





Extra News



Thank you to Lions International

We would like to say another big thank you to Lions International who recently visited Fairfield Infant to promote looking after the environment. Club President David Cole and his colleague Ernie presented some of our Year 2 children with a set of books for our school library.

Christmas Tree Festival

We hope you had the opportunity to view the Fairfield Christmas Tree that was recently displayed at the Christmas Tree Festival held at Felixstowe Salvation Army. The children enjoyed creating decorations for the tree and took inspiration from the story of 'The Spider and the Christmas Tree'. Special thanks to Mrs Barker for co-ordinating our tree.



Felixstowe Remembrance Service

Children from both Fairfield Infant and Colneis Junior recently attended the Remembrance Service held by the Mayor at Felixstowe War Memorial. The children represented the school beautifully.



Paarlauf - 18.10.22

One of our Felixstowe pyramid competitions and always well attended. It was wonderful to have so many parents there supporting us too! A wonderful effort but most importantly, with smiles on their faces the whole time! We finished third in this competition but well done to SET Felix, the overall winners.



Felixstowe Rotary Football Tournament - 19.10.22

A very impressive effort from both of our teams today! The A team managed to go through the competition unbeaten playing four games in the group stage, winning 3 and drawing 1. Our B team performed brilliantly in their league, finishing runners up. This meant that the two teams had to play each other in the semi finals!

The A team ended victorious, winning the final against Trimley St Martin 5 - 0. Congratulations to all the boys, especially Ollie (our captain, top goal scorer and best overall player) and Toby for an exceptional performance as goal keeper in the B team!



Football playoff final - 08.11.22

What a game! The girls braved some horrendous weather that delayed kick off for 10 minutes!

Soaking wet and a little cold, nothing could stand in their way. A very solid game, yet again winning without conceding a goal. A wonderful 2 - 0 win and on to the county finals!!

A fantastic achievement girls!



PE



KS1 Panathlon - 4.11.22

The boys did wonderfully at this event. They competed with smiles on their faces and listened so well to all of the instructions.

We never pay too much attention to points but were so happy to be the overall winners of this event! Well done Fairfield!



Sportshall Athletics - 10.11.22

A brilliant competition at Westbourne Academy. The children all took part in different field and track events in quite a small and manic environment. The events all happen in different parts of the hall with some focusing on individual performances and the track events more focused on the team. As ever, all were excellent role models, representing the school well.

Football @ ITFC - 16.11.22

A friendly competition at ITFC. The girls played lots of matches and they grew in confidence with every fixture. They worked well as a team and each started to take more and more responsibility for their positions as the games went on. They finished with a record of 7 wins and 1 draw from 8 games. A fantastic achievement!



KS2 Panathlon - 25.11.22

A really lovely morning. The children all competed in exactly the right spirit with as much focus on fun as possible. They listened beautifully and all enjoyed every activity. Well done for representing the school so well everyone!



Premier Showdown—21.11.22

I am so pleased that we are able to offer this opportunity to the children again this year. Those that have been involved in the past have always spoken so wonderfully about the experience of performing on stage and here we are again!

1D, 2F, 5T and 6J all did an incredible job. There was such excitement in the build up and a lot of nerves in the dressing rooms beforehand.

Once on stage, they transformed and every child did themselves proud. Well done to all classes.

Felixstowe School provided an incredible space for us to put on the performance and I would like to thank them and Premier Education for their support in putting on this event!





Music



Colneis' Music Concerts

It's been a musical December for Colneis...

The children started the month spreading Christmas cheer when they performed their carol concerts at St. Andrews Church. With proud smiles on their faces, the parents were entertained as the children beautifully sang carols and songs, as well as telling the Christmas story through poetry.



At Colneis, children have the opportunity to learn to play the violin in small groups. For children from Year 4 onwards, we also offer the chance to learn to play the guitar. All of our aspiring musicians have worked really hard this term. To showcase everything that they have learnt so far, music performances were held in our school hall. The rest of the children in the school and parents thoroughly enjoyed two successful music concerts.





Term Dates



Current Academic Year: Term dates for 2022-2023

Autumn term:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Start of Autumn term: | Monday 5th September 2022 |
| Half term: | Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October 2022 |
| End of Autumn term: | Friday 16th December 2022 |
| PD (non school) days: | Thursday 1st September 2022 Friday 2nd September 2022 |

Spring term:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Start of Spring term: | Wednesday 4th January 2023 |
| Half term: | Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023 |
| End of Spring term: | Friday 31st March 2023 |
| PD (non school) day: | Tuesday 3rd January 2023 |

Summer term:

| | |
|--|--|
| Start of Summer term: | Tuesday 18th April 2023 |
| May Bank Holiday: | Monday 1st May 2023 |
| Coronation of King Charles III: | Monday 8th May 2023 |
| Half term: | Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2023 |
| End of Summer term: | Friday 21st July 2023 |
| PD (non school) days: | Monday 17th April 2023 Friday 26th May 2023 |

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2023-2024

Autumn term:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Start of Autumn term: | Wednesday 6th September 2023 |
| Half term: | Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023 |
| End of Autumn term: | Wednesday 20th December 2023 |
| PD (non school) days: | Monday 4th September 2023 Tuesday 5th September 2023 |

Spring term:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Start of Spring term: | Thursday 4th January 2024 |
| Half term: | Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February 2024 |
| End of Spring term: | Thursday 28th March 2024 |
| PD (non school) day: | Wednesday 3rd January 2024 |

Summer term:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Start of Summer term: | Monday 15th April 2024 |
| May Bank Holiday: | Monday 6th May 2024 |
| Half term: | Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024 |
| End of Summer term: | Friday 19th July 2024 |
| PD (non school) days: | Friday 12th April 2024 Monday 3rd June 2024 |