



The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



It is time for another one of our newsletters - they do come around quickly!

I hope that you can take the opportunity to read through all the fantastic opportunities that our children are getting across our schools. On looking through the newsletter myself I was struck with the number of sporting events that children get to access. We really believe in giving children a chance to experience a broad and varied curriculum and are very proud of our PE and sport offer. Whether it is through increasing chances for children to participate, or for them to experience competitive sport, there are opportunities for everyone.

We are also proud of the fact that we are one of the few schools that have our own swimming pool. As a school in a coastal town, we believe it is such an important life skill for children to be able to swim and we take that responsibility seriously.

Enjoy your half term break when it arrives.

Best wishes and kind regards

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

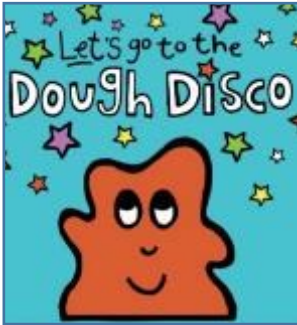
February 2023

News from Nursery

Dough Disco

We have introduced the children to a new weekly pen pals activity.....Dough Disco!!

Dough disco involves moulding playdough in time to music and performing different actions in time to music such as rolling it into a ball, flattening it and squeezing it. This activity helps to strengthen children's fine motor muscles to enable them to develop their pencil grip.



Lunar New Year

The children enjoyed exploring lots of activities to increase their knowledge of this special festival. The week culminated in a very exciting lion dance. The children dressed up in brightly coloured clothing and used drums, cow bells and cymbals to drive away bad luck.



Come rain or shine

It's lovely to see the children enjoying the new nursery garden and exploring their friendships. It's a joy to watch them play and explore together and being outside allows them to develop friendships with children that they may not usually seek out. They are demonstrating excellent social skills; sharing, taking turns, co-operating, listening and managing friendship difficulties. This shows that the children feel a real sense of belonging.



News from Reception

Chinese New Year

The children have been exploring traditions to celebrate Chinese New Year. They learnt that children would help to clean and decorate their homes, wear special clothes and eat special foods. We explored other traditions through crafting including making lucky dragon puppets, red money envelopes and lanterns. We also learnt about the Great Race which determined the cycle of animals used for each new year, this year being the Year of the Rabbit.

Children used puppets and an ice experiment to explore ordinal numbers, calculating the 1st to 12th winning positions. Children enjoyed dragon dances and performed the Happy New Year song (Gung Hay Fay Choy) on Fun Friday. The celebrations were concluded with a lantern parade and fireworks artwork.



Health Week

In January we enjoyed a variety of activities to help us think about taking care of our bodies and minds. We played 'keepy uppy' with balloons on Fun Friday as well as making healthy fruit kebabs. Children enjoyed mindfulness activities including yoga and mindfulness colouring. We were also visited by a dentist who helped us to think about foods that are kind or harmful to our teeth. We also practised good teeth brushing techniques under the guidance of the dentist, Dr Hamilton.



News from Year 1

Topic this half term—Antarctica

Geography

This half term the children have enjoyed learning about the continent of Antarctica. We looked at maps and a globe and identified the 7 continents.

We have learnt it is an island and that it is the driest, windiest and coldest place on the planet. We learnt about the animals on and around Antarctica. We learnt there are 7 different types of penguins, with Emperor penguins being the largest. The children were amazed to find out that an Orca (Killer whale) is actually part of the dolphin family and not the whale family!



Geography / Art

We set the children a challenge to create their own map of Antarctica. They used a map to identify key features and landmarks and made these with art materials and added them to their own maps.



Art

In art we made 3D penguins using a range of art and DT skills, including rolling a tube and cutting shapes. The children followed step by step instructions to make their penguin. I think you will agree, they look great!



Special Visitor

We were very lucky to have a visit from Josh. He is a Royal Navy Diver. He came in to tell us about his 5 month trip to Antarctica. The children asked him lots of questions and it was really lovely for us to talk to someone who has actually been there.



History

As part of our Antarctica topic we learnt about a significant person from history, his name was Ernest Shackleton. He was an explorer who visited Antarctica in the early 1900's. We looked at photographs, books and watched video clips to learn more about him. We



thought about questions to find out more information and explored past and modern day equipment and the technology available. We used Captain Preet Chandi's recent expedition to help us with this.

News from Year 2



Futsal competition!

The children made us really proud last week as they competed in an Under 7's Futsal Festival at Inspire Suffolk.

They developed their teamwork, sportsmanship and resilience skills when playing against their competitors.

Australia topic

This half term the children have loved learning all about Australia and Aboriginal tribes. The children spent time investigating key words and phrases linked to our new topic using their Vocabulary Victor skills. They listened to a range of Dreamtime stories which they then had a go at rewriting. They loved sharing their learning with the other classes as they all learned about a different Dreamtime story. They've had art, geography, reading and PSHE lessons all linked to our topics. We have been learning about animals that live in Australia and writing a non-fiction fact piece. We will be celebrating the end of our topic through Australian art lessons.



Maths Workshop

We loved having parents in for our Maths workshop on Monday. They had a chance to explore our new Maths resource, Times Table Rockstars, and parents had the opportunity to come to class and see how we solve calculations with their children.

Thank you to all of the adults who attended, it was lovely to see so many faces there!



News from Year 3

The children have been working hard to improve their Literacy and Numeracy skills this term. They have continued their Invaders and Settlers topic, learning about how the Romans changed Britain, which they all seem to be enjoying. We are looking forward to our Roman day on Monday 6th March. Please may we ask that you continue to help your children at home with reading, revision of times table facts and practise of spellings. Thank you for your support and we hope you enjoy seeing some of the work the children have been doing in Year 3.

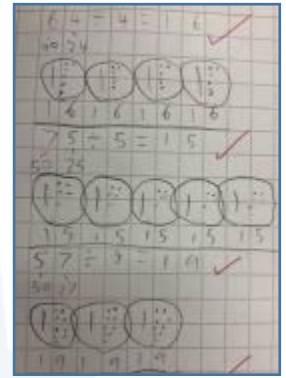
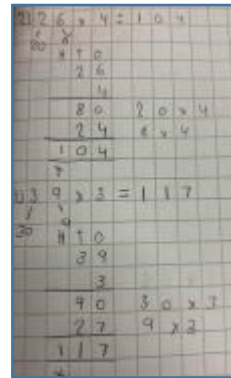
English

In English, we have been learning to use a thesaurus to expand our vocabulary. We have written wanted posters of Boudicca and a persuasive poster to sell a Roman Villa.



Maths

In maths, we have been putting the children's times table knowledge to the test over recent weeks. The children have been learning to multiply and divide numbers using formal methods.



Science

This term, Year 3 have been learning about healthy lifestyle choices and how bones and muscles work. The children have been investigating whether there is a correlation between the length of their femur and how far they can jump.

Art and DT

We have been learning how to mix paints to create different tones and shades of colour. The children have recreated the Van Gogh Starry Night painting. They have also been making fruit salad as part of their science, DT and PSHE work.



News from Year 4

Outdoor Learning

In our outdoor learning sessions with Mrs Churchyard this term we have been noticing the changes in our trees over the winter months. We have used a key to identify the trees. We have also explored our outside space by creating food chains, beginning with a plant (producer) and ending with the predator.

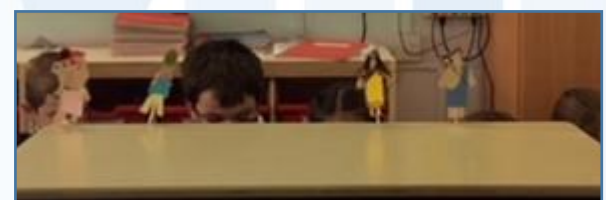
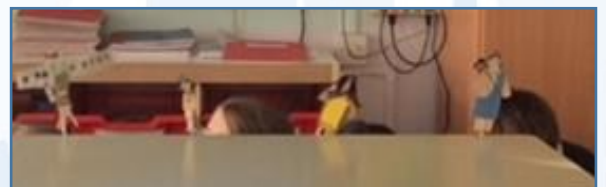


Music

This term the focus has been 'Mama Mia' by ABBA. We have enjoyed learning the song, considering the rhythm and tone. We have used glockenspiels and recorders to create an accompaniment to the song.

RE

In RE this half term, we have been learning about the Hindu religion—particularly the story of Rama and Sita. We have been considering the importance of this story to the Hindu belief. In class we made puppets of the characters and then re-enacted the story in the form of a puppet show.



News from Year 5

Visual Impairment Peer Awareness Training

The children participated in visual impairment peer awareness training in January, with the aim of providing them with an opportunity to experience how those people who are severely sight impaired manage their daily lives. The session was split into three parts, which included mobility work, group and partnered blindfold exercises and braille activities. This learning experience was both thoroughly enjoyable and valuable, particularly in terms of increasing awareness.



History: The Tudors

Welcome to the Tudors. The children began this term's history topic by acting out the Battle of Bosworth, where King Richard III was defeated; the War of the Roses came to an end and the reign of the Tudor family began. As part of their learning, the children had to investigate who killed the Princes in the Tower—a mystery which remains unsolved in the present day. To follow was an initial research lesson on King Henry VIII, where the children became experts in one particular aspect of his life and had to share their findings with the rest of the class.



Science: Dissolving Experiment

Take six everyday items (salt, sugar, flour, rice, sand and jelly) and investigate which ones will dissolve in water—that was the task set for the Y5 children as part of their learning about 'Properties of Materials'. The children made predictions, designed a fair test and recorded their results.

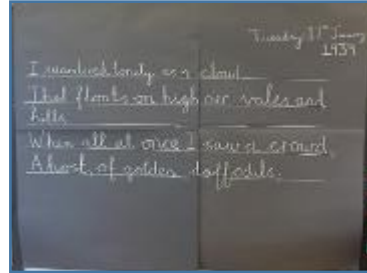


News from Year 6

Year 6 are continuing to work hard and are enjoying their learning, especially our World War II Topic

World War II Day

The children began their day with a long walk to the train station. One of the children explained, 'The train ride was loud and took ages to get to the countryside! When we arrived, the kind ladies of the village provided us with a drink and biscuit before we were then chosen by our billets.'



The school day included arithmetic, handwriting, dictation and reciting a poem. When an adult entered the room, the children were expected to show respect by standing until told to sit. At the end of the day, the children participated in 'drill' - exercises in lines. Throughout the day, there were a number of air raid warnings sounded.



Gymnastics



Basketball

Children from Year 6 represented Colneis at a Basketball event. The children showed excellent sportsmanship and positively demonstrated the school values.

Science

In Science this half term, we have been investigating electricity. We have learned the symbols used and drawn our own circuits as well as investigating the impact voltage has on the brightness of a bulb.



PE

Tag Rugby - 18.11.22

A blended team of children that are already rugby players and a few that are developing their skills. The boys went to Ipswich Rugby Club for a development tournament that was hosted and organised by Northampton Saints. There might have also been a little bit of scouting going on too!

It sounds repetitive, but as all of our children do, they represented the school well, demonstrating our values throughout the entire competition. Well done everyone.



Indoor Athletics - 29.11.22

Years 3 and 5 went off to Felixstowe School to take part in an athletics event. This is a friendly competition, designed to allow the children to experience different activities and see more of the School. We were well supported by some Year 10 sports leaders and the children really enjoyed their time there.



Table Tennis - 5.11.22

This was the first time that we attended Table Tennis. It was very fast paced and the children had to pick it up quickly and get involved with scoring and refereeing. They did really well, winning some games, losing some games but all enjoyed it. We even got to have some Christmas songs on the bus on the way home!



Hockey - 6.12.22

Another Felixstowe School competition - supported beautifully by Felixstowe Hockey Club. We are trying to make stronger links with local clubs and hope that this has enabled a few more children to be excited about joining the hockey club!

PE

Football - County Final - 12.01.23

What a journey! This started back in the Autumn Term with the girls winning their group games and a playoff game too.

The final took place at Needham Market, with the girls battling their way all the way to the final.

They lost 1-0 in the final but what an incredible achievement! We are so proud of this achievement girls!



U9 Futsal - Development event - 17.1.23

A brilliant event. Development festivals are all about the children learning some new skills, supporting each other and most importantly, having fun.

The boys embodied this perfectly. They played well, gelled as a team and all came away with a smile on their faces!

U9 Bowling Panathlon - Development event - 19.1.23

Ms Spurgeon took these children off to Martlesham to compete in a bowling event. They did brilliantly and really enjoyed their afternoon. There were even a few strikes!



U11 Basketball - Competition - 24.1.23

Our wonderful team of Year 5 children attended this event. Extremely competitive and they played really well against mostly Year 6 children. They represented our school perfectly, demonstrated by two fair play player awards at the end! Well done Logan and Lottie!

U9 Futsal - Development event - 26.1.23

The girls played so well! We rotated goal keepers and discovered a little gem in Renae's right foot! Some very close and competitive fixtures, ending with a local derby with SET Felix. This game ended in a 1-1 draw! We need a rematch!



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