



The Federation of  
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the most recent edition of our newsletter - as is customary, please do spend some time having a look at what all the year groups have been up to over the last half a term, it has certainly been a busy one!

We are very proud of our curriculum and through this newsletter you will see a real broad range of opportunities that are available to the children. We have author visits, trips out of school and themed weeks to name but a few. All staff are committed to building in as rich a variety of learning opportunities as possible and we are pleased to be able to share these with you.

Although we are still looking forward to being able to share our recent Fairfield Ofsted inspection report with you, we are delighted with the way the children have conducted themselves over this term. They are working incredibly hard, both within their lessons and also with the way they model and demonstrate our school values. I always continue to be impressed and delighted to see the ways in which they look to make the best of every day.

I hope you all have a good Easter break and we will look forward to the children returning to school on Tuesday 18th April.

Best wishes and kind regards

*Mr Mark Girling*

Headteacher

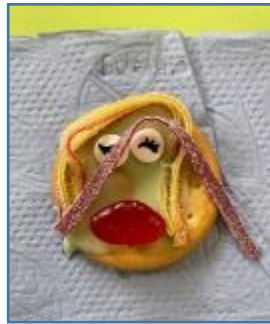
**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**March 2023**

# News from Nursery

## The Three Billy Goats Gruff—Bridges and Trolls

Our traditional tales topic has seen us explore the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children had so much fun exploring bridges through physical discovery, as well as expressive arts and design. They enjoyed creating their own process art, using masking tape to create super bridge paintings and have explored new vocabulary: under and over, above and below.



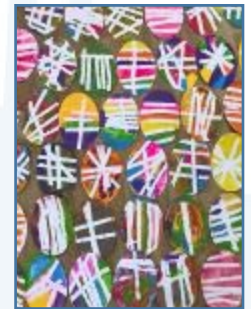
The troll really grabbed the children's attention and so, we completed some non-standard measuring and made some very exciting troll face biscuits.

## Easter Around the World

The Nursery children have been finding out all about how Easter is celebrated in different countries around the world. We began by discussing the origins of this very important Christian festival and how we celebrate here in the United Kingdom. We sang the rhyme 'Hot Cross Buns' and the children began making their own Easter egg greetings cards.



On Tuesday, we visited Bermuda and looked closely at the amazing kites that are flown at the beach on Good Friday. We made our own special kites using paper to fly in our Nursery kite festival.



Wednesday took us to Finland and we learnt that children dress up as witches and visit their neighbours, tapping a willow branch on the door and saying a rhyme. The children decorated a small willow stick to bring luck to their families and homes.



On Thursday, we travelled to the United States of America and had our very own egg roll relay race on the back green. The children loved using the wooden spoon to roll their plastic egg along the ground.



Bulgaria was our last stop on Friday. We explored the tradition of decorating eggs and the importance of the first egg being painted red. The red egg is then rubbed on the forehead and cheeks of the children in the house to bring them health and happiness for the year ahead.



**Happy Easter to you all!**



# News from Reception

## Exploring number patterns

The children have been exploring visual representations of numbers, how we can make quantities using fingers, objects and part-part-whole diagrams. There have been opportunities to use the counting resources in our number time sessions as well as songs to embed the number bonds. Children have been exploring number bonds and doubles using the outdoor equipment in hoops, small whiteboards and through artwork.



## Story telling

This term, we have been focusing on oral story telling skills. We have used familiar stories including We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Ugly Duckling. The children have been exploring story maps by sequencing events. They have taken on the role of characters and performed the story as a class and in small groups during free choice play. Some children have been applying their early writing skills to write captions for the traditional tales. They have enjoyed exploring the Bear Hunt story settings using sensory collages during Fun Friday's outdoor session. They used the grass, mud, leaves, sticks and stones for their story strip. They then explored adjectives to describe the settings.

The children have produced some lovely maps for their story ideas.

We enjoy using the adventure playground and the gym trail on the back green to support our motor skills.



# News from Year 1



**Topics this half term - Shanghai, Oceans, David Attenborough.**

## Geography

This half term the children have enjoyed learning about Felixstowe and Shanghai. The focus of our learning has been to identify the human and physical features of our local environment and compare them to those in Shanghai, China.

We enjoyed a trip to the beach and saw a number of human and physical features first hand, including the natural coastline and the man made pier.

## Oceans

The children have enjoyed learning about the oceans of the world. This led us to think about how we can care for our oceans. The children made posters to share their ideas of how we can help stop ocean pollution. We read the stories: Just One Child, Harry Saves the Ocean and A Planet Full of Plastic.



## Maths — Measuring

This half term we have had a focus on measuring. We have explored height, length, weight and volume.

The children have been comparing measurements and have been focusing on using the correct words for the correct measurements. For example, for height we used tall, taller, tallest, short, shorter and shortest.

We have explored capacity, identifying full, empty, nearly full and half full. When exploring weight the children have used heavy, heaviest, light and lightest.

## Art—Andy Goldsworthy

The children have created art inside using objects from around the classroom and outdoors using natural resources. These were all inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.





# News from Year 2

## Ipswich Transport Museum

Our children have loved learning about transport and explorers this term. We celebrated the end of this topic with a trip to the Ipswich Transport Museum. The children loved seeing the collection of vehicles and could see how transportation has changed over time. The children loved getting off and on the buses and fire engines!



## DT—moving vehicles project

The children have really enjoyed their moving vehicles project this term and have been keen to learn about the design process. The children have researched vehicles and have investigated what parts a vehicle needs to move. They had a go at planning and designing their vehicle. Once their designs were in place, they started building the chassis, axles, cab and body of the vehicle. Finally, they thought about how to make it look aesthetically pleasing. The finished results were awesome. Well done Year Two!



## World Book Day

Year Two enjoyed celebrating World Book Day this year and celebrated with a trip to Felixstowe Library. The children loved getting a chance to explore the books and to listen to a story.

The children looked fantastic in their outfits and they created some beautiful artwork. Thank you for your continued support.





# News from Year 3

This has been a very busy term for the children which has been full of fantastic experiences. We started the term with a Roman Day where children took part in a range of activities such as using Roman numerals, playing Roman games, learning about Roman religion and engineering. In the afternoon we performed our dances and ate traditional Roman food. The children also made a great effort on World Book Day. They all looked fantastic!



More recently the children have experienced a Science week. The children were learning about 'connections' and had a friendly competition to build a bridge made out of paper. Some children were selected to present our findings during an assembly. Some bridges held nearly 2kg! Wow!

All of Y3 had the opportunity to work with Ipswich Town Football Club to play some fun games. They didn't let the bad weather affect their session and enjoyed their time in the hall. Some were even lucky enough to enjoy the game at Portman Road.



In Science, the children made models to replicate how the muscles are connected to bones and how they move our limbs.



In Outdoor Learning, the children were playing games to understand the pollination process and how hard bees work to find nectar.

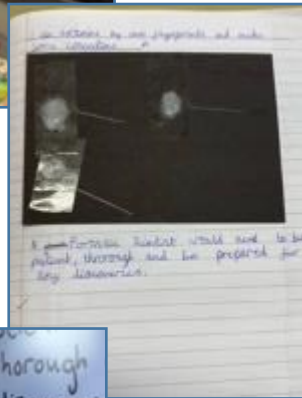
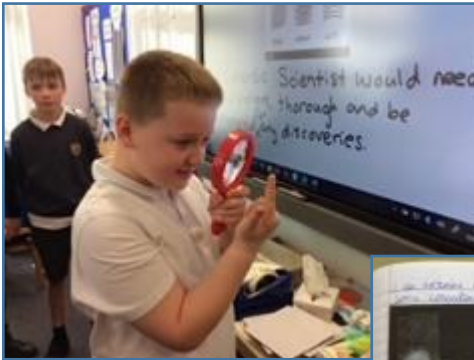




# News from Year 4

## Outdoor Learning

In our Outdoor Learning sessions with Mrs Churchyard this term we have spent time searching for mini beasts and using a key to identify them. We have also planted some seeds that we shall watch grow over the next few months. We have sewn some pants...yes pants! The purpose of this is to observe the effect of the soil on the pants (cotton material). We have made our predictions and shall dig them up in 8 weeks time and see who predicted correctly!!!



## British Science Week

British Science Week was celebrated in school between the 10th and 19th March. The theme this year was 'connections'. In Year 4, we became Forensic Scientists and took our own fingerprints. We used a magnifying glass to study our fingerprints and observed how unique they are to each of us.



## World Book Day

On Thursday 2nd March we celebrated World Book Day in school. Each class made a special effort to dress up as a book character and we enjoyed guessing each other's character; even Hedwig made an appearance! As part of our day we spent time enjoying and reading our books.



# News from Year 5

## Outdoor Learning

The children have been making use of the school wildlife area and pond to explore the lifecycle of a frog. As part of a treasure hunt, the children gathered information about amphibians including where they live, what they eat and how they reproduce. The children then made observational drawings of frogspawn taken from the pond. In order to continue their observations, a tank of the frogspawn has been placed in the classroom in the hope that the children will be able to see the development of tadpoles, and ultimately frogs.



## History: The Tudors

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their historical learning this term, which culminated in a week of activities linked to the Tudor period. During Tudor Week, the children designed and made a Tudor bag including making a rope strap and preparing vegetable dye to colour it with; prepared, cooked and tasted Tudor pottage (vegetable stew); performed their Romeo and Juliet playscript and learnt about Tudor medicine and Tudor money. As always, thank you for the enormous effort made at home with preparing Tudor costumes; we appreciate it very much.



## STEM Challenge Day

Thank you to Ava, Logan, Florence and Jenson for their enthusiastic participation in the Ipswich High School STEM Challenge Day, in which they designed their Geodesic Dome for future living.



## World Book Day





# News from Year 6

This half term, Year 6 have enjoyed a variety of cross-curricular activities.

## English

The children have continued to learn about World War Two. We have recently learned about The Battle of Britain and The Blitz. Children wrote a newspaper report and enjoyed presenting them using the Chromebooks.



## DT

In Design and Technology, we have planned and made a clay desk tidy with a World War Two theme. The design brief was to hold a pencil and other smaller stationery items.



## Local Author Visit

On Monday 27th February, Jean Macpherson, a local author visited the pupils. She shared how she became an author and the process of looking through primary and secondary sources to inform her writing.



## Science Week

The theme for this year was 'Connections'. Year 6 children took part an experiment and the question they were given was 'At what temperature does yeast grow best?'. They investigated using plastic bottles, yeast, sugar and different temperature of water. They used their observing and recording skills.



# PE

## U11 Basketball - 31.1.23

Another development competition this time. A good mix of ability in our team, with some children less experienced but who grew into every game and were loving it by the end! They competed well and were always ready to shake hands at the end of each game.

There was a representative from Suffolk Basketball there and we had 3 players scouted, who have been invited to attend trials in April. Well done to Henry, Mya, Fanrui and the whole team!



## U9 + U11 Futsal development - 7.2.23

We are extending our relationship with the high school again and PE and sport is such a perfect opportunity for this. We were able to send two groups of children to Felixstowe School to compete in a futsal development competition with the other Felixstowe schools. Emphasis on enjoyment and improvement, they all enjoyed themselves and came back very happy!



## U7 Development Futsal - 2.2.23

We are trying so hard to increase the competition offer to Fairfield and were so pleased that Miss Fuller was able to take a group of Year 2 children off to Futsal. They did so well and represented the school beautifully.

## FX Swimming - 8.2.23

This is always a tightly contested event amongst the Felixstowe schools but because of our swimming pool, we always have a slight advantage.

Mr Scott took a talented group of Year 6 children to the leisure centre where we were able to return with the trophy as champions!

Congratulations all involved!



# PE

## Dodgeball - U9 - 23.2.23

This was a compete event. We sent a very competitive team to this event and they performed brilliantly!

They finished top of their group, winning three games, drawing one and losing one. This put them through into the final. We lost that 2-0 to a very good Hadleigh team, but a fantastic achievement and a silver medal finish! Well done!



## Girls football - U9 - 8.3.23

The biggest achievement on this day was probably surviving the weather! The same girls attended this event in the Autumn and you can see how much they have improved. Although freezing, they played with a great spirit and were so supportive to the other children they were playing against!



## Panathlon Swimming event - 10.3.23

These are such brilliant events. The people at Panathlon challenge and support the children so well and the children had a wonderful time. They competed in a number of different events and their points were tallied up as a team. Overall, they finished second by one point, earning themselves a silver medal! Well done to all involved!



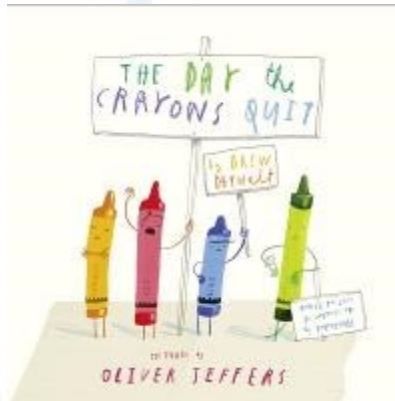


# World Book Day 2023

## The Day the Crayons Quit

This year for World Book Day Fairfield's theme was based on the book by Oliver Jeffers, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. The children dressed up as their favourite colour from the story and were encouraged to wear accessories to show off their colour.

The children looked absolutely amazing and loved wearing their outfits!





# World Book Day 2023

## Library visits

The children in Reception, Year One and Year Two had the opportunity to visit Felixstowe Library to celebrate World Book Day. They had the chance to explore books, talk about how to become a member and listened beautifully to a story read by a librarian.

Thank you to all of you who supported us on the walk to and from the library.



## Book swap and artwork

The children all brought in a book so that they could have a book swap with their year groups, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children also brought in artwork to celebrate their chosen colour and we were blown away by their creativity.



# Term Dates

## Current Academic Year: Term dates for 2022-2023

### Autumn term:

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

### Spring term:

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

### Summer term:

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

## Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2023-2024

### Autumn term:

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

### Spring term:

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

### Summer term:

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