



The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,



Welcome to another (and penultimate) edition of our newsletter! As always, I am sure you will be delighted to see such a rich range of learning opportunities taking place. Over the term we have already experienced Bee Day, Victorian Day, Coronation celebrations, trips out and our usual wide range of PE events to name but a few. Please do take the time to read what all year groups have been up to as this will give you a flavour of what it is like to be a child in our school.

We are at the time of year again when we are thinking about transition into new year groups (and in some cases new schools). Change in life is inevitable but we look to handle this transition in as positive and supportive a way as possible. Although we know that children may be sad to say farewell to adults that they know well, there is also excitement at what the next stage holds for them. I am sure they will enjoy meeting their new teachers and adults in the final half term of the year.

I hope you all enjoy a happy and restful half term break. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes and kind regards

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2023

News from Nursery

Dinosaurs

The children have become Palaeontologists as we continue to explore our Dinosaur theme.

They have made their own fossils using clay and are enjoying identifying fossils in our Fossil Hunter role play area.



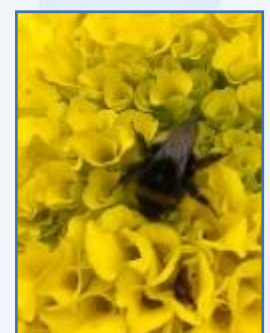
Free Play

We are lucky to be able to give the children the freedom to explore the Nursery and to choose what to play and who to play with. Through this they are learning that their own interests and desires matter. Free play is about exploring, experimenting, discovering and learning.



World Bee Day 2023

It was World Bee Day on Saturday 20th May 2023 and we have been busy raising awareness and learning all about these rather special insects. The children have looked at the parts of a bee and learnt exciting new vocabulary. They were particularly fascinated to discover that a bee sees colours very differently to us and that there is even a special colour called 'Bee Purple' that only bees can see! This inspired us to create our own flower artwork. We used natural materials to create our own pinecone bees and coloured our own posters.



News from Reception

Reception are great scientists!

This term, we have been focusing on a range of scientific explorations. Children have been exploring materials with some great weaving on the back green. We have started our planting project using vegetable seeds and mermaid themed hanging baskets. We have had the wonderful first-hand experience of observing chicks hatching from eggs. The Living Egg Company provided the perfect equipment for observing the growing chicks. The project has generated great opportunities for writing and research using information books and life cycle diagrams.



People Who Help Us - Fire Brigade

Reception had the privilege of visiting the Fire Station to learn about the role of a fire fighter in the community. The children learnt about the specialist equipment and clothing that help the fire fighters to rescue and protect people and animals. They discussed staying safe near fire and how to call for help using 999. Children were then able to explore the fire engine and to use the hose to aim water at the rescue tower.



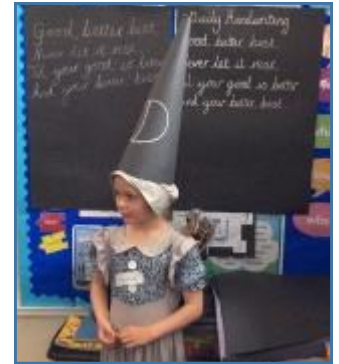
News from Year 1

Topics this half term: The Hungry Caterpillar story, Minibeasts and Victorians

Victorians

The children have been learning about schools in Victorian times.

We learnt that the teachers were very strict and punished children with a cane if they did not listen. Children had to wear a dunce hat if they made a mistake. We have compared school now to school in the early 1900's and the decision was unanimous; all children are glad to be in school now because they feel supported and it is more fun. The children got to experience a Victorian school on Victorian Day!



Visiting the school pond

We had an exciting visit to the school pond. The children were very excited to find tadpoles, water fleas and a newt in the pond.

We took turns to have a close look at what we had discovered and talked about how the creatures move through the water. The children asked lots of questions and are excited to go again soon!



Art—Sketching

The children have worked very hard on their sketching skills to draw a section of our school building. They took time to look at the outline shape and then attempted to draw this with a light pencil stroke. They then looked closely to add details. The following week the children used water colours to add colour to their sketch.



News from Year 2

Coronation Celebrations!

The children in Year 2 have loved learning about the Coronation of King Charles III and his wife Camilla. They asked King Charles (Mr Rimmer) lots of questions in our special assembly and enjoyed making and wearing their crowns in school. They made Coronation biscuits and completed a range of activities to learn about this historical event!



Science - plant investigations

The children are super scientists and have been really interested in learning about the lifecycle of a plant and what they need to survive. The children have planted their own seeds and are loving watching them grow and completing their plant diaries each week. We are also carrying out an experiment to see whether plants with no light, no water and no space are able to grow. We will see what happens!



PE superstars

Year Two have really enjoyed their PE lessons and have loved doing a range of activities. They've been doing dance, cricket, games, cheerleading and some children took part in dodgeball and cricket tournaments.



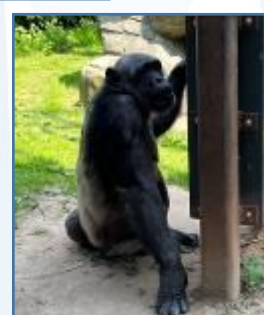
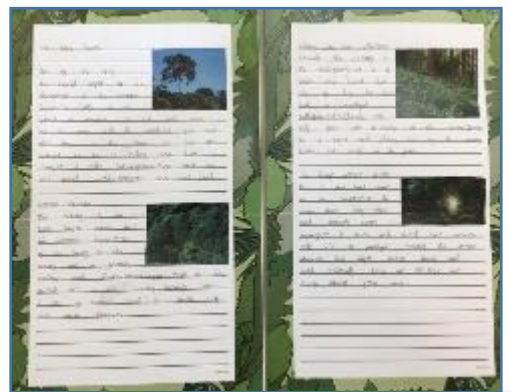
News from Year 3

This term we have been busy with our Rainforest topic. We have learnt where they are in the world and why they have an important part to play in our everyday lives. We have used a cross curricular approach to this topic so we can continue to build the children's knowledge about the natural world.

In English and topic lessons, we've been learning to write information texts, researching information using safe and reliable sources. The children have written excellent pieces about the layers of the rainforest and rainforest animals.

In Art, the children have used their sketching and collage skills to create leaves and flowers to build our displays! In Science, we are learning about the structure of a plant and the role they play in the pollination process.

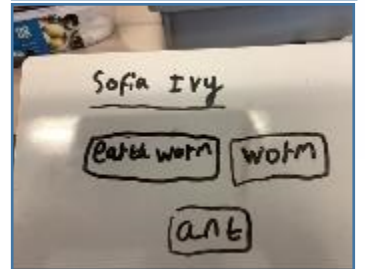
Finally, we had a fantastic trip to Colchester Zoo this week. The children were exploring the zoo, looking at the animals and finding facts about them. They learnt about why animals are endangered and participated in workshops about the layers of the rainforest. It was a brilliant day and we look forward to doing it all again next year! I would also like to say a massive thank you to our volunteers and for people who offered to help. We really appreciate your support and we are sorry we couldn't take more of you along with us.



News from Year 4

Outdoor Learning

In our outdoor learning this half term we have been learning to use a key to identify creatures found in the Wildlife Area. We have also been able to watch our planted wheat grow. The recent wet weather has kept them well watered!



Landguard Nature Reserve

Before the Easter Holiday we visited Landguard Nature Reserve. We learnt about how long it takes different items to decompose in the water and why it is so important to take our rubbish home to help protect the wildlife and sea creatures. We spent some time looking for creatures on the beach and litter collecting.

Food and Farm Fair

At the beginning of the Summer Term we were fortunate to be chosen to attend the Food and Farm Fair. The rain held off and we were able to learn about where our food comes from and meet some animals. Some of us were even lucky enough to meet Royalty!



News from Year 5

Maths: Angles

The children have been learning how to draw and measure angles using a protractor, whilst understanding the difference between acute, obtuse, reflex and right angles. They then progressed to learning some key angle theorems including how to calculate the missing angles around a point on a straight line and around a point in a full turn.



The Coronation of King Charles III

As Britain enters a new era with the coronation of King Charles III, the children were taught about the role of the British monarch in representing Britain and its values. By investigating key themes from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, the children explored the values represented by Queen Elizabeth during her reign and considered how she communicated those values through her actions. The children drew comparisons to our school values. They then produced a proclamation speech for King Charles, some of which were then presented in assembly.



Outdoor Learning: Seed Planting

With a link to this term's science topic of 'Living Things and Their Habitats', our first outdoor learning session involved the children sowing a range of seeds. They worked in groups to read and interpret planting instructions for six different flowering plants. They then individually planted a nasturtium seed. The children have been monitoring the progress of development over the course of this half term.



News from Year 6

The Year 6 teachers are very proud of how hard all of the pupils have worked this term

Rounders

This half term, we have enjoyed playing rounders. The pupils have developed their knowledge, skills and tactical awareness of the game following the British Rounder Rules.



The Blitz

Continuing our topic of World War Two, the children created 'The Blitz' silhouette pictures.



SATs Breakfast

In the week beginning Monday 8th May, the children were invited in to school early to attend breakfast club; it was lovely see them interacting with their friends before school in a relaxed environment. One of the highlights of the week was seeing their attitude and focus towards the End of Key Stage 2 Assessments. We know they all tried their best and looked forward to a little treat after each session.



Summer Term House Captains

Congratulations to this term's House and Vice Captains for successfully being voted to represent their House! They are proudly leading their Houses and are most definitely great role models to the rest of the children at our school.

PE

U11 - Dodgeball Development - 14.3.23

A team from Year 6 took part in this event with Mr Scott. They performed really well and enjoyed their experience.

Dodgeball is always a favourite of the children. It is the only thing we go to where they are told they can throw something really hard at someone else!

Futsal - Develop - 20.3.23 AND Futsal - Compete - 20.3.23

We took two boys teams to this event and they performed brilliantly! Both teams worked really hard across the whole event. The development team were there to gain some experience and have fun. They definitely did that and came away really proud of their performances.

The compete team played well, winning a few games on their way to a third place finish in their group.



Futsal - Develop - 21.3.23

A fantastic tournament. Again, we took a development and a compete team. The development team came together really well, supporting each other and cheering each other on from the side lines. It was a lovely atmosphere!

The compete team performed brilliantly, finishing 3rd place overall and qualifying for the County finals! A second visit to County finals for these girls!



U9 Dodgeball Development - 23.3.23

Another development tournament, this time for the Year 3 and 4 children. They had a great time and demonstrated exceptional honesty and fair play throughout the whole tournament.

Well done to all who attended!

PE

Cross Country—29.3.23

Year 4 Team: What a fantastic job these children did! Some incredible finishes across a very difficult course! The boys worked incredibly hard, finishing in 15th place overall as a team.

The girls outperformed everyone! With finishes of 2nd, 4th, 11th and 12th the girls performed better as a team than anyone I have ever taken to this event! They were the best performing Year 4 girls team at the event! Well done girls and be ready for staying together as a team for the next few years!



Year 5 Team: A brilliant effort from the Year 5 team too! The boys had some high finishes in the race, Logan finishing 6th and leading the team to a 7th place finish.

The girls worked as hard as everyone else. They had a 26th and 33rd place finish but as a team, did enough to finish 9th overall. Well done!



Year 6 Team: Both teams did really well, with 14th being the highest individual place.

As teams, the boys finished 26th overall and the girls were able to finish 14th.

Regardless of any individual performances, they performed so well, supporting and cheering each other around the course and all completed it! Well done to all children!



PE

Dodgeball County Finals - 25.4.23

The Year 4 team performed really well in their local tournament, winning their group and finishing second overall. County finals were in Bury St Edmunds and brought together the best teams in Suffolk. They played really well, finishing runners up in their group. Unfortunately, only the top teams in each group progressed to the semi final but this was an achievement



Clip and Climb - Rotary sponsored event - 21.3.23

An enrichment event organised by the Felixstowe Rotary Club. We have a wonderful working relationship with them and our children regularly benefit from their generosity.

These children were given the opportunity to go for a climb and we try to offer this out to children that have not been before. They had a wonderful time!



Rotary Football competition - 22.3.23

The boys did an amazing job! Another event organised by the Felixstowe Rotary Club, with support from Ipswich Town.

A really close competition throughout. They finished second in their group and had to play a semi-final against Colneis B team. The A-Team prevailed and went on to beat Trimley St Martin in the final on penalties! A very nery affair!

Bowling Panathlon - 26.4.23

This Panathlon event is organised by our School Games Organiser with support from the Panathlon organisation. These events support children who may not have access to regular competitions that we take part in.

The children that attended had a wonderful time, with both Jasper and Jordan scoring over 100 points!

Well done to all who attended!



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