



The Federation of
Fairfield and Colneis



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to another addition of our newsletter - as always, it is jammed full of all the exciting opportunities that the children have been taking part in this term. I am sure you will enjoy reading about such varied activities - from ducklings in Reception to Tudor week in Year 5 and everything in between!

It is also the time of year that children will be undertaking their end of year assessments. Our Year 6 children have just finished taking their National SATs tests and we were very proud of the way that they engaged with these. There was an incredibly positive atmosphere across the year group and they all gave themselves the best possible chances of success. Our Year 2 children are currently taking their assessments and other year groups, including phonics in Year 1 and the multiplication check in Year 4 are to come. Life will throw children these experiences and as they go through Primary School they also give us an opportunity to help children prepare for the feelings that they may get during these times in a positive and supportive environment.

I hope that you are able to enjoy a good half term break. A reminder that we have a PD Day on Monday June 3rd and so the children will be back in school on Tuesday June 4th.

Best wishes,

Mr Mark Girling

Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2024

News from Nursery

Earth Day

We love to explore nature, and Earth Day is a great way to raise awareness of the importance of taking care of and nurturing our environment. The children explored the lifecycle of the sunflower and enjoyed planting their own sunflower seed. They also enjoyed creating some spectacular Earth Art using tissue paper and water spray bottles.

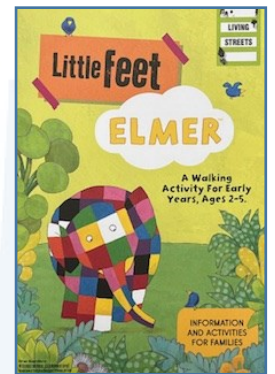


Little Feet Project 2024

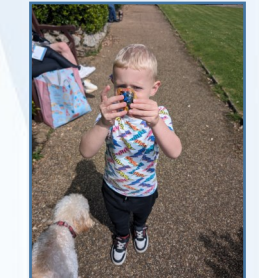
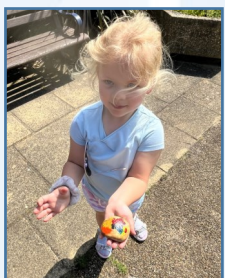
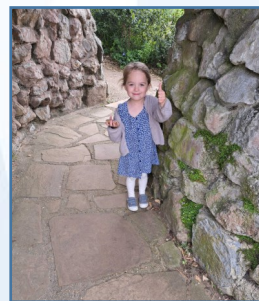
We are really enjoying the Little Feet Project and are definitely embracing every opportunity to adopt healthy walking habits. This year's project is themed around everyone's favourite patchwork elephant—Elmer.

The children have been busy creating their own herd of Elmer's using recycled milk bottles.

The colourful herd has ignited their imaginations and we've had some lovely story telling!



Recently, each of the children enjoyed painting a stone which was then hidden in the Spa Gardens for them to find. We had lots of fabulous feedback to say how much the children and their families had enjoyed this activity.



News from Reception

An egg-citing delivery.....

The children were very excited when we received a very special delivery...5 eggs! But what was inside???

The children made predications about what they thought was inside, was it ...a chick? A turtle? A snake? An elephant? A rabbit? A unicorn? A duck? A hamster? They drew a picture and wrote what they thought it was.

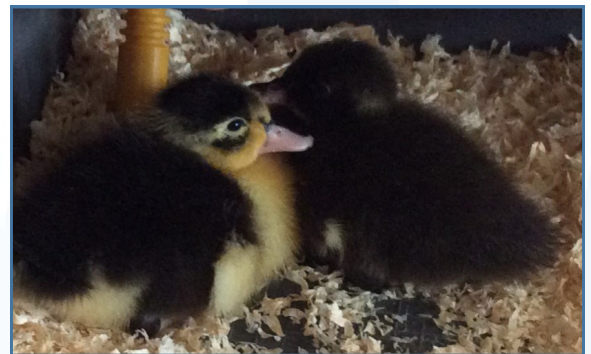


It was ducklings!!!

The children have enjoyed watching our ducklings grow and develop. Every morning the first thing they do is go to the enclosure and check in on them!

The children have had the opportunity to learn about the duck life cycle and how to care for ducklings.

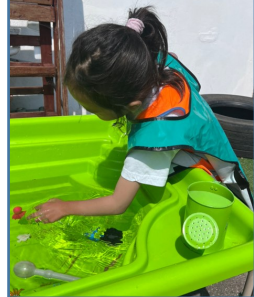
Those who wanted to, have been able to hold a duck. We have also been able to watch them swim and dive in the water!



News from Year One

Learning Through Play ~ Science and Maths

The children have been using the outdoor areas to support our work in maths and science. Children have been focusing on fractions using halves and quarters and capacity explorations with full, half-full and empty containers. Children also have been exploring plants and how they grow by planting seeds.



RE ~ A Jewish Sukkah

The children have been learning about the Jewish hut used for meals, and sometimes to sleep in, during the week-long festival of Sukkot. Children decorated their paper structures with fruits, flowers and bunting. Paper weaving skills were used to weave their roof, as families would do with plants. They looked fabulous when finished!



Library Visit ~ Exploring Chapter Books

The children enjoyed learning about how the books are organised at the library. They listened well to the story and demonstrated good skills in discussing story events.



News from Year 2

Science – Keeping Plants Healthy

This term we have been learning about what plants need in order to grow healthily. We started by recapping what the main parts of a plant are and their functions. We made posters to help us embed our learning. Next we set up an investigation to see how a seed grows into a plant. We thought about what a seed might need to help it germinate. We made careful drawings and planted our seeds in pots. We will be making observations and recording our findings up until half term when the seeds will go home with the children. It would be lovely to see some photos of how the seeds grow into plants and whether your child planted a flower seed or a vegetable seed.



The Ipswich Transport Museum Trip

The staff and children recently ventured out of Felixstowe on an adventure. For some of the children it was the first time that they had travelled on a coach with their classmates and there was much excitement.

The children were exceptionally well behaved, asking and answering questions politely. The visit really brought to life the topic that they had been studying in history based on transport. They showed the volunteers at the museum how much they had learned about how different modes of transport had changed over time to the present day. As part of their follow-up work the children will be writing a report about their visit and they will have plenty to write about.



News from Year 3

This term we have been busy with our Rainforest topic. We have learnt where we would find them around 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 around them.

In Art, the children have used their sketching and collage 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. In Outdoor Learning, we have been learning about rainforest animals and products of the rainforest.

Finally, we had a fantastic trip to Colchester Zoo. The children were exploring the zoo, looking at the animals and finding facts about them. They learnt about why animals are endangered and taking part 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

We are all Rockstars Now!

With the Year 4 Multiplication Check not long after half-term, we are all busy practising our skills. Each class is using Times Tables Rockstars every day to test their knowledge and it has been wonderful to see the children's focus and delight in improving their scores.

We are using 'Sound Check' to practise as this replicates the real Multiplication Check. Keep going Year 4— you are doing great.



Food and Farm Fair

The first day back of the summer term saw Year 4 head off to the School's Food and Farming Fair. It was a fantastic day but very, very chilly!

The children loved all the exhibits including; free sausages and a demonstration of how they were made, a sheep show where we were shown how they are sheared and a fantastic dog show. The hounds were a big hit with all the children, with one 4 legged friend determined to eat our packed lunches.

The police dog handlers were incredible and the children enjoyed watching the dogs overcome a 'robber'!

We all loved the signs of spring and new baby animals. Making Lego farms was also a real favourite with the children.

You can read all about the children's Farm Fair highlights in their English Diaries, which they have recently finished writing.

You will be impressed and entertained!



Landguard Nature Reserve

Year 4 had a wonderful time at Landguard Nature Reserve . The children learnt about how long it takes for litter to degrade and were flabbergasted by some of the statistics — it takes one million years for glass to break down!!!!

We also learnt about why the fort is such a special habitat for plants, animals and birds. The site includes a shingle beach and a nature reserve, where many rare and protected species can be found. The children got to see many of the plants that only grow in this special protected habitat and loved finding different shells and stones on the beach.



News from Year 5

Tudor Week

Year 5 have reached another end of term with many experiences.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your amazing support with the Tudor week providing the costumes. Without YOU we wouldn't have had such an awesome week! You can read some of the children's feedback.



Living Things And Their Habitats

Let's pose the question to you, 'What is life?'

Year 5 have been learning about different life cycles and we have some class pets where we can learn closely about the African snails and the stick insects. We have learnt a lot about them.

Science—Changing Materials

Year 5 children have been demonstrating that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes. In this particular photo we can see children investigating what happens when baking soda and vinegar are mixed together—it creates a gas called carbon dioxide.



Multiplying Decimals by 10, 100 and 1000

Year 5 have been learning about decimal numbers; using reasoning to solve real life problems and having some mathematical thinking fun with the game Decimal War.

We also used our Outdoor Learning day to learn about angles in nature, we found tree branches with obtuse, acute and right angles.

We know how to identify different triangles and that a triangle with three equal sides is called an equilateral triangle.

News from Year 6

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

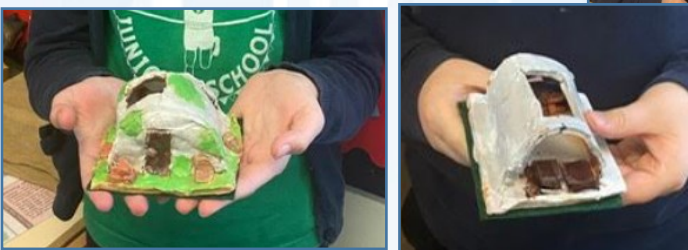
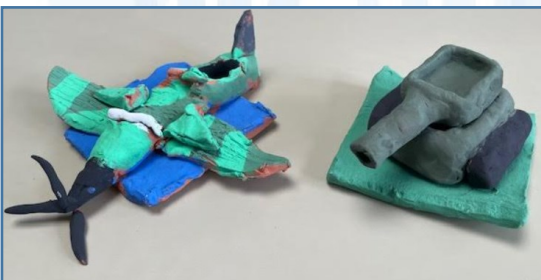
SATs Breakfast

In the week beginning Monday 13th May, Year 6 pupils were invited to a breakfast club before school. The children enjoyed eating multiple slices of toast and it was lovely to see such smiley faces as they were chatting with their friends. Their attitudes towards the End of Key Stage 2 Assessments showed determination, courage and resilience. We know they all tried their best and they looked forward to a little treat after each session.



DT— Clay Desk Tidy

In our DT lessons this term, the children have designed and created a model of a WW2 inspired desk tidy. They planned their design, practised their modelling skills with clay, and then used paints and varnish to complete their desk tidy. Some examples chosen included: planes, air raid shelters, tanks, bombed out buildings and gas masks. Once the children had completed their desk tidy, they evaluated their design and considered 'top tips' for using clay in the future.



Rounders

This half term, we started to play rounders. The pupils have developed their knowledge, skills and tactical awareness of the game following the English Rounders Rules.

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 great role models to the rest of the pupils at our school. There is definitely an excitement growing as we approach sports day!



Term Dates

Current 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

Next Academic Year: Term dates for 2024-2025

Autumn term:

Start of Autumn term:	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Half term:	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
End of Autumn term:	Friday 20th December 2024
PD (non school) days:	Monday 2nd September 2024 Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Spring term:

Start of Spring term:	Tuesday 7th January 2025
Half term:	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
End of Spring term:	Friday 4th April 2025
PD (non school) day:	Monday 6th January 2025

Summer term:

Start of Summer term:	Wednesday 23rd April 2025
May Bank Holiday:	Monday 5th May 2025
Half term:	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025
End of Summer term:	Tuesday 22nd July 2025
PD (non school) days:	Tuesday 22nd April 2025 Friday 23rd May 2025