

NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Whole School Update



Despite the weather, it has been wonderful to have all our children and staff back in school and working so hard. It is almost beginning to feel a little bit normal again.

During the Spring term, we have worked hard to 'recover' our curriculum and have been so impressed with the attitude towards learning and the support that we have received from our families. As a result, children have made good progress this term; in particular, a focus on presentation and handwriting has really worked well.

As you know, we have welcomed two new guinea pigs to our school family—Chewbacca and Han Solo have settled in beautifully and seem to thrive on 'zooming' around at speed within their cage.



We have also welcomed some new children to our school both during this term and throughout lockdown and they have now made friends and found their way around school - it is as if they have always been with us. Having Mrs Saunders and Miss Beaney back from their respective maternity leaves has completed our Sandhurst family once again. Finally we have been fortunate enough to have student teachers from Canterbury University and we wish Miss Piper well as she return to campus to finish her studies before starting a new teaching job in the Autumn.



After half term, we hope to move to two larger school bubbles - 'old school building' and 'new school building'. This will enable the school to increase activities such as assemblies, some after school clubs and two sittings at lunch once more. Playtimes and lunchtimes will also provide the opportunity for more children to play together on the field. We also hope to welcome parents and governors back into our school for meetings, play performances and other celebrations. Exciting times!

Potter Class Update



Potter class have thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to Forest School.

Miss Abel has shown us how to be safe and all the children have steadily grown in confidence to try new things. Our favourites so far have been bug hunting, mud sliding, bridge walking, tree climbing, den building and using the tools.

Every week, the children can hardly contain their excitement; it is just so wonderful to have the opportunity to share this wonderful experience.



The children have developed their balance and co-ordination through Multi Skills circuits this term. Mr Digby is always so complimentary about the children's listening skills.

Our main theme this term has been animals. We have thought about caring for pets and grouping animals in their habitats.



Our Maths has continued to focus on key concepts such as addition. We have found the 'first, then, now' table a great tool to help us build a number sentence.

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Nightingale Class Update

What a wonderful term we have had in Nightingale class. We are pleased to be celebrating some super progress in our learning this term. The children have mastered some tricky topics in maths, such as multiplication and division as well as fractions. There has been lots of cutting biscuits to support our learning!



The children have thoroughly enjoyed our topic of 'chocolate' and have created some excellent work. We have learnt to read an Atlas and how to find the tropical, cocoa producing countries. We learnt all about the cocoa farming industry and can understand some of reasons why Fairtrade products are a positive thing.

Growing our own beans in science has been a lovely activity and has given us even more opportunities to get outside! The children have amazed me with their willingness to suggest ideas for plant survival and have really enjoyed looking closely at the different parts of plants. Thank you for the continued support at home with reading and spelling. It is having a fantastic impact in the classroom.

Have a lovely half term break!



Darwin Class Update



Darwin Class has had a fantastic term. We have got back into the swing of things and worked very hard across the board. I'd like to celebrate the progress we have made in many areas, but particularly in reading. We have worked hard on reading daily and completing comprehension weekly. I would just like to thank the parents for

also working hard on reading at home! It is much appreciated.

Another thing we would like to celebrate is Miss Piper, our student teacher, who has been with us since January. Thank you for all your hard work, we have enjoyed you teaching us in Darwin!



Our favourite subject has been science! Darwin Class has have enjoyed learning all about the human body and what's inside it. We have learnt about bones, muscles, organs and, in particular our lungs.



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Pankhurst Class Update

What an amazing term five Pankhurst Class has had! I just want to start by saying what a warm welcome all the children have given me after returning from my maternity leave.

What a busy term we have had! We have covered an array of maths topics over the term from decimals and fractions, to calculating area and perimeter. The children are really starting to understand why we teach all these subjects and how these skills transfer into real life. We discussed the importance of being able to calculate area so that we can re-carpet our houses when we are older. The children understand that telling the time is so important, because it is a concept we use throughout our daily lives (I have told them they can no longer ask 'how long till dinner?'). Children also realised the link between decimals and money, after many shocked faces when they discovered that contactless wasn't the only way to pay (#pandemicproblems).

In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed studying our class text 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. The children were shocked when I revealed that the book had no words and just pictures. It has been wonderful watching the children's imaginations come alive as they have explored the many possibilities that a wordless book has to offer.

The fun doesn't end with Maths and English; Pankhurst has been working hard across the whole curriculum. I will now share with you some of the children's views on the things they have enjoyed in the wider curriculum.

Logan: "I liked using code in computing lessons to make my own video game."

Olivia: "Pinning the organs on the apron was really fun in science." (Not real organs I promise)

Tyler: "We have been using proper tennis rackets in tennis, I can actually serve."

Ben: "Forest school was amazing, I built a huge fire."

Aya: "I loved making the dot art of the River Thames." (We learnt about pointillism)

Cameron: "un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept." (Cameron did keep counting to 20 but I think you got the gist)

Franco: "Trying the Jewish bread was so much fun!" (We learnt about Shabbat and got to try Challah bread)

Well done Pankhurst on an exceptional term - keep up the hard work!



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Shakespeare Class Update



Shakespeare Class has been busy, busy, busy this term. The children have become masters of fractions, decimals and percentages and are now working hard on measuring and drawing angles. Like most other classes, we have been using the book 'Journey' for our English and have written setting descriptions, diary entries, our own version of the story and newspaper reports.

We have also been getting creative, as you can see - we have made 3D representations of the journey of a river, have painted in the style of David Hockney, created art work based on the indigenous people of the Grand Canyon and made our own 'failed projects' based on a book we used in PSHE. Mrs Bromfield has been very impressed at how well we have worked together on these projects.

Finally, we must say a sad farewell to our lovely Miss Lawrance who is leaving us at the end of term to have her baby. We wish her lots of luck and know that she will be back to visit us once little Ace arrives. Thank you, Miss Lawrance and also Mrs Lawrence and Miss Brinsley for all the hard work you do for Shakespeare Class. xx



Churchill Class Update

Churchill Class has absolutely loved the Forest School sessions this term. Each week, Miss Abel has set the class a variety of challenges. These have included digging for clay and using the clay to make pottery; using the tools to make bow drills; and even making their very own rope ladder. Alongside Chef Digby, the children have loved cooking up their snacks on the campfire each week! We have been very lucky to have Mr Wiggins join us for our sessions and sharing his expertise with us. too Thank you so much to the forest school team, Miss Abel, Mr Digby and Mr Wiggins for the fantastic sessions, an amazing end to Churchill's Forest School adventures!

We hope you have a restful half term, Churchill Class, and return ready for your very busy last term as we prepare to say goodbye and celebrate you all!



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Term Dates

Term 6

Starts Monday 7th June 2021
INSET **18th June, 19th, 20th, 21st July 2021**
Ends Friday 16th July 2021

Term 1

Starts Thursday 2nd September 2021
INSET **Wednesday 1st September 2021**
Ends Friday 22nd October 2021
Holiday Monday 25th October 2021 - Friday 29th October 2021

Term 2

Starts Monday 1st November 2021
Ends Friday 17th December 2021
Holiday Monday 20th December 2021 – Monday 3rd January 2022

Term 3

INSET **Tuesday 4th January 2022**
Starts Wednesday 5th January 2022
Ends Friday 11th February 2022
Holiday Monday 14th February 2022– Friday 18th February 2022

Term 4

Starts Monday 21st February 2022
Ends Friday 1st April 2022
Holiday Monday 4th April 2022– Monday 18th April 2022

Term 5

Starts Tuesday 19th April 2022
Bank Holiday **Monday 2nd May 2022**
Ends Friday 27th May 2022
Holiday Monday 30th May 2022 - Friday 3rd June 2022

Term 6

Starts Monday 6th June 2022
INSET **17th June, 21st July, 22nd July 2022**
Ends Wednesday 20th July 2022

Diary Dates

18 th June	INSET Day
22 nd June	New intake visiting
24 th June	New intake parents evening – 7.00 p.m.
25 th June	Sports Day
2 nd July	Reports to parents
5 th – 9 th July	Meet the Teacher – after school (New Teacher / Class)
6 th July	Y6 Dress Rehearsal
7 th July	Y6 Performance to Parents 7.00 p.m.
8 th July	Y6 Performance to Parents 7.00 p.m. New intake visiting (Teddy Bears Picnic)
9 th July	Year 6 Leavers Church Assembly – Mission Church 9.30 a.m.
12 th July	Move Up Afternoon
13 th July	Year 6 Dinner – 6.30 p.m.
16 th July	Y6 Leaver's Assembly - 9.15 a.m.