



HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2023

Imagine Believe Persevere Achieve

DEAR PARENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023 has started well at Parkwood with lots of exciting learning. We all look forward to the end of winter and warmer and longer days ahead. Until then, please keep wrapped up warm.

TRUST PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WESTBOOK TRUST

We are really proud and pleased to let parents know that our staff are working alongside The Westbrook Trust in order to provide good school to school support for the rest of the year. This means Parkwood is essentially a satellite to the Trust but we will be fully involved in Subject Reviews, Peer Reviews of whole schools, Trust events and Training and lots of other exciting and helpful work for the remainder of this academic year and perhaps beyond. It was great to sign off the Trust Partnership Agreement, with Ollie Allen, the CEO of the Trust and Terry Wildman, the Chair of Governors.



SCHOOL PRIORITIES AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Smart School Council was this week discussing our current school 'Rainbow' priorities, which are the headlines of our School Improvement Plan. They had to decide whether 'Reading, Reading, Reading', or a 'Broad and Balanced Curriculum' or 'Good Physical and Mental Well Being' were the most important to them. Their comments were really helpful. Next month, our Parent Council meets again and we will also discuss our school priorities with them.

SMILE AMAZON

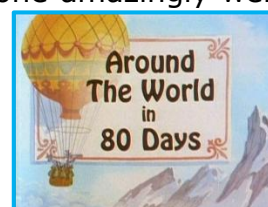
For those who have been using Smile Amazon to support the school, via the PSA, it looks like Amazon are stopping the service on 20TH February. This is a great shame as it was an easy way to donate, without it costing you anything. The good news is that Amazon are donating the equivalent of three months worth of whatever was donated in 2022, as a sign of good will. Thank you to all those who helped in this way.



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

As we approach the last two weeks of walking, the children have done amazingly well, collectively. As of last week, there had been nearly 11,000 miles of daily miles and family walks and another 6000 miles of walking to school.

There is more to add and hopefully there can be one last push across America and the Atlantic. Thanks for your help and the children's many miles.



CURRICULUM UPDATES

PLAYGROUND

The playground markings have now been completed and the children are thoroughly enjoying playing on them. The fun the children have gained from the markings are worth every muddy lap! Look out for pictures on Facebook coming soon.

FOUNDATION STAGE

Children have returned to such a busy term! They have been proudly sharing their photos with us on Tapestry and it has been so lovely to hear about their Christmas celebrations and activities during the holiday. We started the term by packing our rucksacks with binoculars and warm clothes, and taking off to the Arctic!



We have learnt about polar bears and built igloos for arctic animals. Some of our small world toys become trapped in thick ice, and we challenged the children to work out different ways of melting the ice in order to rescue them. Our book, 'Secrets of Winter', inspired us to investigate the environment around us, and this led us to Foxburrow Woods to look for signs of winter. We also found spider webs, squirrel dreys, mushrooms, and lots of mud!

Fireflies and Bumblebees have also started cooking. Tying into our Food For Life activities, we will be learning about different foods and where they come from. The children will be measuring, pouring, mixing, scooping, smelling and tasting, cooking something new in small groups every fortnight. We've started making potato cakes, or Tikka Aloo, this week and are very proud of our little chefs. 😊

Later in the term, we will be learning about people who help us. We are very lucky to have a few real life superheroes coming in to surprise the children, which will be very exciting!

YEAR 1

It was great to see how quickly the children settled back into school after the Christmas break and it is amazing to think that the term is almost halfway through already. We continue to see the children working very hard with their reading and writing during Read Write Inc. sessions and hope you are also seeing the improvements at home. Again, a big thank you for all your hard work listening to the children reading. Maths has seen the children moving onto larger numbers thinking about more and less before we start to add and subtract with these. With lots of the children also accessing their maths through Numbots, they are certainly working hard.

Our topic for the terms 3 and 4 is based around history and discovery. This term we are finding out about a true Victorian heroine, Grace Darling. Even though she might not be the first name that would skip of the tongue when thinking of a famous person, the children are enjoying finding out about her life and what she did to become famous. While exploring her life the children will be using drama and role play, joining materials to make lighthouses and learning about colour mixing to help in producing their pictures.



The children have also continued to learn about programming and algorithms computing while using virtual Bee Bots. We will be explaining how they are controlled, writing algorithms and programming instructions to move them to different places.

So as another term moves forward we look forward to seeing what new learning the term will bring.

YEAR 2

In Year 2, we have been focussing on the three concepts truth, fairness and trust whilst exploring the question 'should we always believe what people tell us?' In our project lessons, we have been exploring life in London in 1666 and learning about The Great Fire of London.



This is a project that has inspired the pupils' curiosity and has led them to want to know more about the past.

In science, the children have been looking at a variety of materials, thinking about properties and suitability as well as thinking about how they can change.

In Term 2, the children worked hard at raising funds so that each class could adopt an animal of their choice from Howlett's Zoo. We did it! Each class has their very own animal (Mr Bear, Amber and Ginger), which all are delighted to go on adventures with the Year 2 children at the weekends.

YEAR 3

Year 3 have started their pre-historic Discover journey with farming in The Stone Age through the concepts of influence, wealth and community alongside the enquiry question 'How do people from the past affect our lives to day'. We shall continue our exciting journey through the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and Romans over the next term. We are furthering our learning in this area through English and Reading where our texts are Stone Age Boy and a non-fiction book on finding out about the Stone Age.



Linked to this, in science we are studying and observing rocks and soils. In PSHE, we are really beginning to understand what a community is and what it feels like to belong to one. In music, we will be using the glockenspiels and the notes from the pentatonic scale in the Star Studio to create our own compositions linked to the Chinese New Year.

YEAR 4

Year 4 have started their adventure into the world of Ancient Greece. They have started to engage with our enquiry question 'Should we accept our place in society?' by exploring the concepts of duty, democracy and rights. Reading lessons have provided valuable opportunities for learning more about the Greek gods and goddesses and, in English, they have started to read 'The Legend of Podkin One-Ear' by Kieran Larwood. To enhance their learning, children have taken part in a drama session in our STAR Studio, run by Mrs Miller, and we most certainly have some budding actors and actresses in Year 4! This term is an exciting one, with an Ancient Greece workshop day planned (further information has been sent out to you) as well as the opportunity to make their very own Greek pots.



YEAR 5

In Year 5, this term's 'DISCOVER' topic is centred around The Victorians. Our reading texts are Street Child by Berlie Doherty or Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. We have also



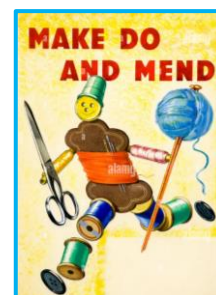
been exploring Eyewitness Victorians as a non-fiction text. Through History, we will be studying the lives of the Victorians and events that took place in that era, comparing this to our lives today. In science, we will be studying the different types of materials and states of matter. The STAR Studio lessons will be focussing on The Victorians, where the children will be role playing particular events based on the text we are reading. The children have been really enjoying their

swimming lessons so far this term too!

YEAR 6

In year 6 we have taken a step back in time to the 1930s and learnt about how Britain prepared for war. In a very short period of time, we have already learnt a lot through our Reading and History lessons.

Soon, we will be in role as evacuees for a whole day (January 24th), where the experience will inspire the children's writing - we can't wait to see them in their 'Make Do and amend' costumes. Next term, we will visit Chatham Dockyard for our educational visit.



CROSS COUNTRY

The cross-country team were amazing again in their second event of the season. The Year 5 boys finished third, Year 6 boys second, Year 5 girls won and so did the Year 6 girls!



There were amazing individual results too, with Chloe and Paige winning silver medals, while Aimee and Luc were awarded gold medals!

The team were great ambassadors for the school and we are very proud of them all.

STAR STUDIO

The Star Studio is time travelling to Ancient 'Groovy' Greece, 'Vile / Victorious' Victorian Britain and to the 'Woeful' Second World War with Years 4, 5, 1 and 6. Through exciting music, improvisation and scripted drama, the children are enhancing their historical learning which contributes to the class 'DISCOVER' project this term.



Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue our journey through Term 3.

MR A MOIR
HEADTEACHER

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

26 th January	Sir Teach-a-Lot Year 4 only
3 rd February	Number Day
8 th February	Parent Council Meeting 2.00 – 3.00pm
9 th February	Disc-Glo – Foundation Stage, Year 1,2 & 3 straight after school until 5.00pm Disc-Glo – Year 4 – 6 @ 5.20pm – 7.20pm
10 th February	Last Day of Term 3
20 th February	Start of Term 4 – Children back to School
21 st February	Parent Consultations 3.00 - 7.00pm
27 th February	Book Week
28 th February	Library Visit – Foundation Stage Parent Consultations 3.00 – 6.00pm
1 st March	Library Visit – Foundation Stage
2 nd March	World Book Day