

@Wallisdean

NEWSLETTER—SPRING 1—2023



Dear Parents/Carers

The children started the term with energy and were willing to learn. We have all been focused on core subjects, but also well-being and fun. We have had trips going out and companies in to entertain and educate the children and, as we come to the end of another busy, eventful term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Reminder: We expect all children to be in correct and full school uniform including the correct footwear. Unfortunately we have had an increase in children coming in to school with shoes that do not meet our federation criteria. Due to this we will be monitoring school shoes on return after Half Term to see if we need to return to black shoes only and allowing children to change into their PE shoes for football. Please also make sure that your child always has their water bottle in school.



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Number Day fundraiser for the NSPCC across the Federation on Friday 3rd February. We had a great day of mathematical activities and the children really enjoyed their workshops.

Altogether we raised £244.41

THANK YOU!



Chartwells have run some exciting menu options this term alongside their All American Themed day. This was a huge success within the federation and all of the children loved the opportunity to win the golden ticket. Keep your eyes posted for further exciting Themed days.

You may remember from our Christmas newsletter that we had a winner of the Christmas card competition for Hampshire Children's Services. The prize was an amazing set of art materials - pencils, paints and a sketching book for her to practise her creative skills. Well done and thank you Hampshire Children's Services for this opportunity and amazing prize!



attendance MATTERS

Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to your child's educational progress. Holidays during term time are not permitted, and a Penalty Notice may be issued for £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school. Medical appointments, if at all possible should be made outside school hours. If an appointment is during school hours, please provide medical evidence to the school office. Siblings of children attending medical appointments should remain in school.

On behalf of myself and all staff across the federation, we'd like to wish all our families a safe and restful half term.

Mrs Cammish



Pre-School

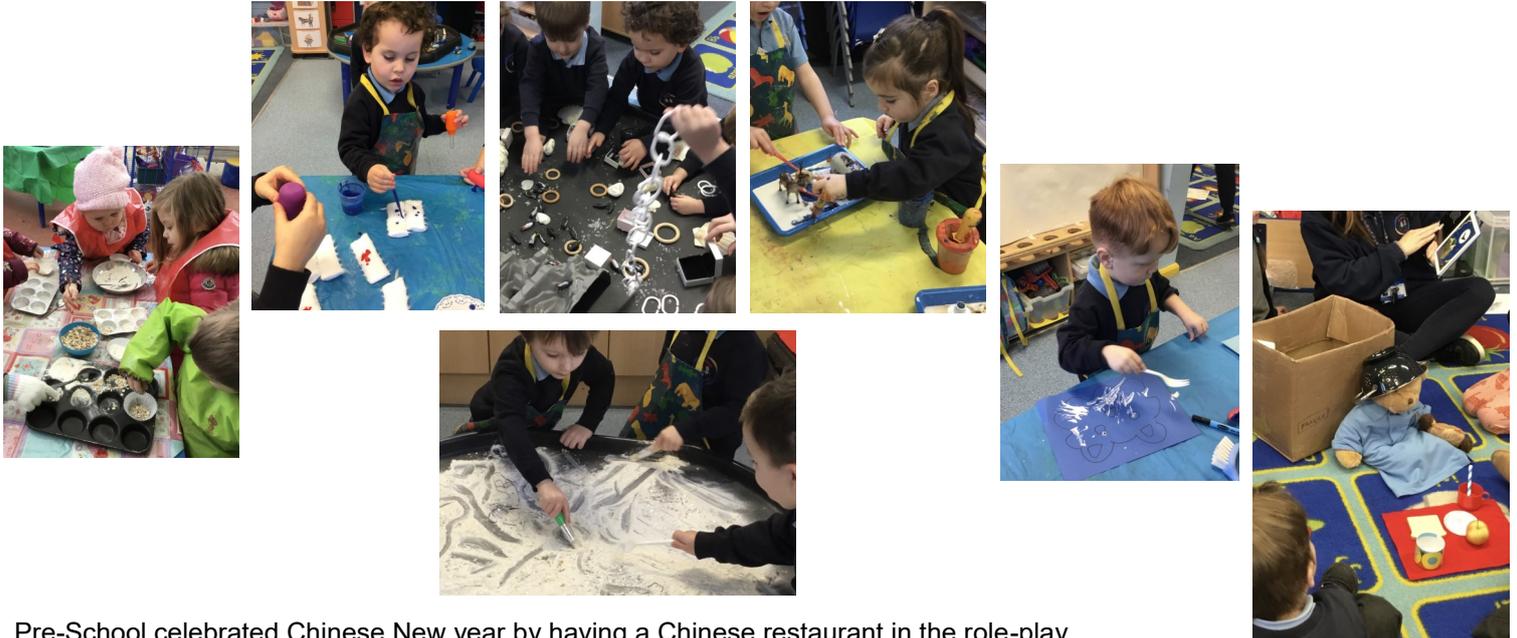
Our topic this half term has been 'Winter'. The children have been experimenting with ice and looking at the different properties, for example frozen/melting and enjoying playing with ice activities such as trying to break the ice and rescuing the animals inside and painting with the ice.

Fortunately, the weather has been very cold this half term and has allowed us to go on frosty wellie walks. We had children crunching in the leaves and handling pieces of ice they found. They have used the mud kitchen to make wintery stews and drinks out of mud, leaves and sticks. We have discussed appropriate clothing to wear in the winter and how to keep ourselves warm.



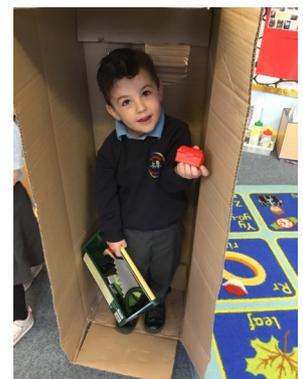
Our Focus Book has been 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. We have enjoyed retelling the story with either story bricks or using props such as cardboard boxes, teddy and picnic items. The children have thoroughly enjoyed playing with cardboard boxes, with some children going to the moon like Baby Bear in the story and other children going to shops in their cardboard cars or trains.

We have had lots of opportunities to mark make this half term, using gloop, flour and ice to make marks, create shapes and patterns. We have also had wintery playdough to create with and icing wintery biscuits was a real treat.



Pre-School celebrated Chinese New year by having a Chinese restaurant in the role-play area. The children had fun taking orders, making Chinese food and serving it to their friends.

In the hall for PE, we had visit from a Chinese dragon. The children helped make the dragon move by walking slowly around the hall to music.

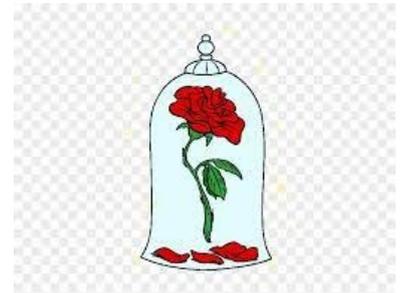


Year R

As a transition into the New Year all year groups read 'The Christmas Pine', by Julia Donaldson, and created some writing for the display in our main hallway. In year R we looked at our Woodland as if we were the Christmas Pine and described what we could see.



Our main topic focus this term is retelling traditional tales and, following the visit of the Beauty and the Beast pantomime, we threw ourselves into role play. We made and drew roses, dressed up as Belle and the Beast and performed on the stage.



We then started to read other Fairy Tales, including: Rumpelstiltskin, Jack and the Beanstalk and The Elves and the Shoemaker. The Elves and the Shoemaker story really fired our imaginations and we went into full production mode, creating shoes to sell!

We have also started to use the Woodland for Forest School Friday, where the children sign up to spend the morning in our woods. They love the hot chocolate to keep themselves warm.



Year 1

Geography

To begin our topic, we discussed different houses and homes and found out that everyone's home is different. We then had a go at communicating geographically to describe the location of our homes. We used words like: near, far, close to, next to, above, behind, in front of. We looked at Google Maps to find different locations, including our own houses and houses around our school. To bring all of our geographical learning together, Year 1 went on a walk around the local area. We used a map to find the correct route around the paths and we carefully crossed the roads. We were on the look-out for different types of houses and homes and if there were any areas of the local environment that needed improving.

Gym

In Gymnastics we have been developing our ability to jump in a variety of ways and land with increasing control and balance. We have also practised stretching and curling to develop our flexibility, practised holding a position whilst balancing on different points of the body and climbing safely on equipment.



Pantomime

We were extremely lucky to have a visit from the Pantomime to watch Beauty and the Beast. Everybody thought it was an amazing show! In English, we have familiarised ourselves with the story of Beauty and the Beast by reading the book, remembering the pantomime and also watching video clips of the characters in the film. We looked at the Beast's life and talked about how he was feeling at different points in the story. We used the Colour Monsters and matched them up to the pictures, we then came up with sentences to say how the Beast was feeling. We challenged ourselves to use 'when' and 'because' in our sentences. As a class we thought of interesting adjectives to use to describe the Beast's appearance and then we used a word bank to create our very own sentences. We repeated this process for Belle too. We have thoroughly enjoyed all of our learning about Beauty and the Beast.



Fire Educational Workshop

This half term we had a visit from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services. During the workshop, we played games and learnt a lighters and matches safety rhyme:

"Matches and lighters never touch; they can hurt you very much."

We also looked at the clothes that a Fire Fighter would wear and we got to see our teacher dressed up as one.

DT

In Design and Technology this half term we have used the boxes that we brought in to create our very own scene from Beauty and the Beast. We chose a character to place on our lever and cut out a floating rose to go onto our winding mechanism. We are very excited to bring our work home and use it to help retell the story of the Beauty and the Beast.



Year 2

Geography

This half term, we started our topic 'Portsmouth, Fareham and Titchfield' with a geography focus. We received a letter from Terry the Tourist, he asked us to find out about these three places so he could plan his next adventure. We explored maps and compasses and learnt all about grid references. We thoroughly enjoyed identifying things on a map. We used this knowledge to look at maps of Portsmouth and identified its landmarks. We then had to apply this skill by creating our own map of Portsmouth using our own key.



DT

After looking at landmarks in Geography, we decided to take inspiration from the Spinnaker Tower and design and create our own. We had to ensure our designs used different joining, cutting and shaping techniques to make it stable. We tested the strength of our towers by seeing whose tower could hold a marshmallow for the longest time.

English

After coming back from Christmas, we continued to look at the story 'The Christmas Pine' by Julia Donaldson. We decided as a year group that we wanted to retell the story in our own words and then share our outcome with Year R. We were very excited and proud to share our work and Year R were all brilliant listeners.



Pantomime

As a whole school treat, we were lucky enough to see a production of Beauty and the Beast. We really enjoyed watching the performance and joining in with all the songs. After watching, we thought about the morals that run throughout the story and how you can't judge someone by their exterior. Year 2 showed a lot of passion about recognising how a person's qualities come from the inside and how you treat others. We then anonymously picked out a name from someone in our classes and wrote a positive message about them.



Number Day

In order to raise money for the NSPCC charity, our school took part in Number Day. Each of us dressed up in either repeating patterns or numbers and donated money for this cause. To begin our day, we watched a short video of fun maths magic tricks, we really enjoyed trying to work out the answer using our knowledge of numbers. We then completed the 'Getting Home' challenge where we needed to use our times tables to solve the number maze. To end our day we completed Big Maths where we tried to beat our personal best score.

Year 3

Fishkeeper Fry

This half term was one of the most exciting in Year 3 as we welcomed some new fishy friends! As part of an 8-week program, Year 3 have been given the opportunity to look after some fish. The program has been great for teaching the children how to look after animals, as well as teaching them responsibility, including looking after the fish by checking the water levels, feeding them and so much more. Each week of the program, the children have a new focus and this week got to receive our first lot of fish – Danios! We have been making sure that they are fed every day and checking they are still happy in their environment. We are looking forward to next half term when we get more fish!



Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

We were very lucky this half term, to have the opportunity to go and see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at the Portsmouth Guildhall. As part of the trip we had to learn sign language to one of the songs they were performing as well as learning about all the different sections that make up an orchestra. When we saw them perform we could not believe how amazing they were and that you could hear each section of the orchestra in every song. It felt very special to perform the song with them!

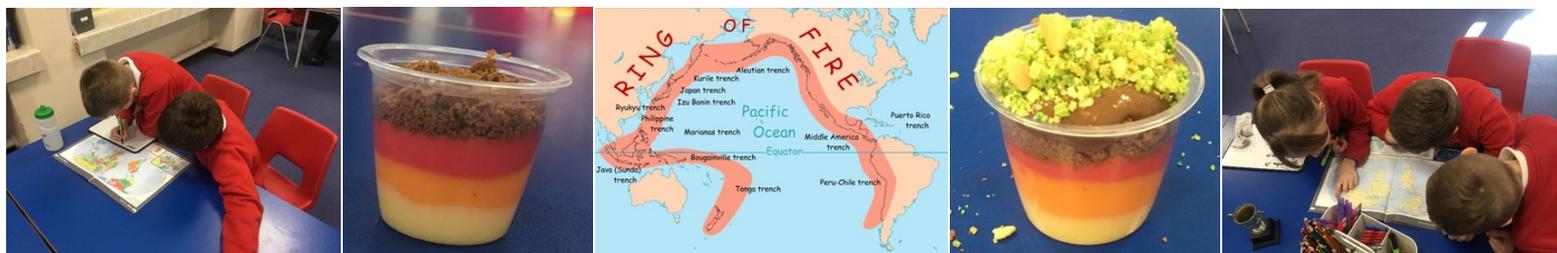


RE

In RE we have been learning about Passover and what that means to the Jewish people. As part of our journey we have been looking at what the words 'freedom' and 'trapped' and what they mean. We then started to learn more about the story of the Exodus from Egypt and the ten plagues. The final part to our journey was learning the celebrations that come from Passover such as the significance of each piece of food on the Seder Table. We found this journey very interesting as we learnt lots of new information about Jewish traditions and other customs!

Geography

This term we have been learning about volcanoes and earthquakes in our Extreme Earth topic! We began our journey with Geography with learning about the layers of the Earth using custard! We also discovered why earthquakes and volcanoes occur as well as where you can find them. We developed our atlas skills by locating different countries where earthquakes occur. The part we enjoyed the most was learning about the Ring of Fire. We couldn't believe that there are 452 volcanoes on the ring of fire and that it is 25,000 miles long!



Year 4

Beauty and the Beast

Year 4 had the chance to watch the Beauty and the Beast Pantomime. This was a very exciting experience and we all enjoyed it.



Safer Internet Day

On Safer Internet Day, parents were invited into school to work with us. We had important conversations about our online lives and listened to other people's ideas. In small groups, we completed different activities including a quiz and sharing our favourite activities that we do online.



The Mary Rose Museum

As part of our Mary Rose topic, the whole of year four went to the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth Dockyard. This was a great opportunity for us to look at the ancient artifacts. In the workshop, we explored a range of objects. Unfortunately, some of them were too delicate so we had to explore the replicas. With the real objects, we viewed them under microscopes to see the finer details that our eyes couldn't capture. When we looked around the museum, we were surprised by how many different artifacts had been salvaged and preserved. One of the best parts was the interactive video rooms where we really felt like we were a part of the Mary Rose's sinking.



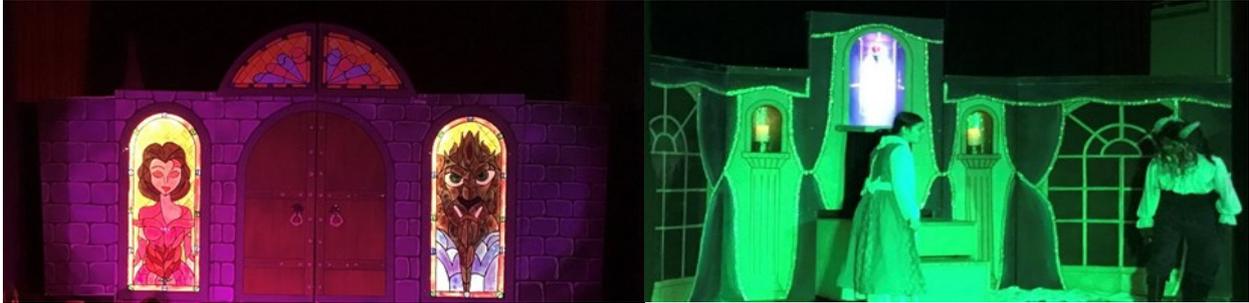
Tudor Stew.

In keeping with our Tudor topic, for design technology we went to use the kitchen suite at Fareham Academy. In groups, we made our own Tudor Stew. In the build up to this trip, we worked really hard to design a recipe for it.

Year 5

Beauty and the Beast

The tradition of pantomime was kept alive when Year 5 had the opportunity to watch Beauty and the Beast. We enjoyed the performance - full of bright costumes, lively music and a corny joke or three!



Number Day

In Year 5 we took part in the NSPCC Number Day. Johnny Ball introduced us to the wonder of numbers, and then we spent some sessions investigating the many ways to create stars; smashing a game of Who Wants to be a Maths Millionaire and a session competing in a TT Rockstars times table challenge.

Safer Internet Day

Our parents were invited into school to work with us on Safer Internet Day. The focus was all about making time for conversations about our online lives. In small groups, we completed three activities that gave us the chance to talk about the things we like doing online, and what to do if we encounter any problems.



Scientific Artwork

As part of our Circle of Life topic, we have been looking at art in a different way. We have looked closely at how flowers are made; with their petals, pollen, and intricate colours. We then discovered the work of the Bauer Brothers, who were scientific artists, creating amazing real life images for early botanical books.



JRSO training

This half term, two children from Year 5 and two from Year 6 took part in the Junior Road Safety Officer training. This was led by Hampshire's Senior Road Safety Officer and included a range of activities. Designing a T-Shirt with a Be Bright Be Seen key message was great fun. We took part in a quiz about accidents on Hampshire's roads and inspirational ideas for our new JRSOs to share with the rest of the school to keep our school community safer as pedestrians and cyclists.



Year 6

Number Day

Number Day was a great success in Year 6 and it was great to see so many children wearing something with a number, pattern or shape on. All the children were really motivated by the Timestables Rockstars challenge and overall Class 7 were the Rockstar champions of the school, with a total of 19,899 correct answers.

Mayan Masks

For our Spring topic, we have been learning all about the Mayan civilisation. For Art, we created Mayan masks. First, we used foil to form the shape of our faces. Then, we layered Modroc on top to form the base. Next, we used paper mache so we could create the final layer (without damaging our masks). Finally, we painted them with our Mayan designs.



Fajitas

Year 6 had a wonderful time cooking fajitas at Fareham Academy. They learnt all about how to safely cut up vegetables using different chopping techniques, like the claw. They made a salsa and then cooked all the ingredients. Once made, they enjoyed eating their fabulous fajitas!

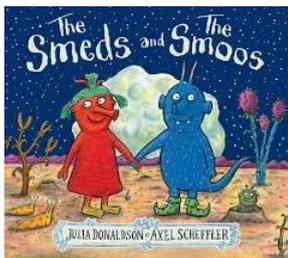


Reading Corner

School Council have been working hard to maintain and promote our school library. Each newsletter School Council will be suggesting some books or authors to read at home with the Infant and Pre- School children.

School council recommendations

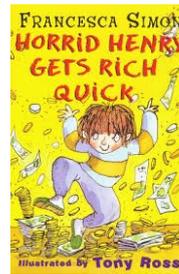
Julia Donaldson



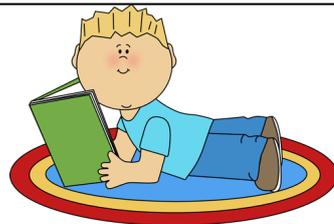
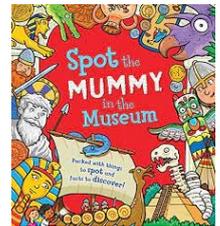
Rainbow Magic Series



Francesca Simon



Spot Series

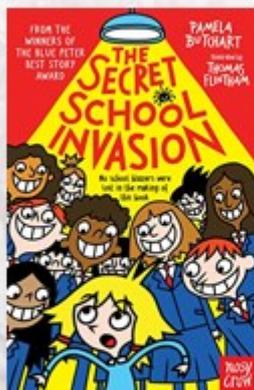
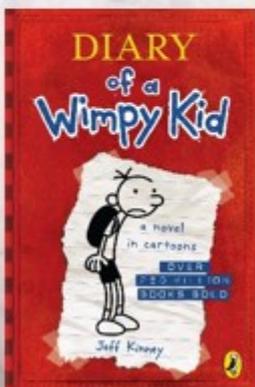


At Wallisdean we promote reading for pleasure as well as finding new and exciting authors. Each newsletter this section will give you ideas of other authors you can read based on popular fiction.



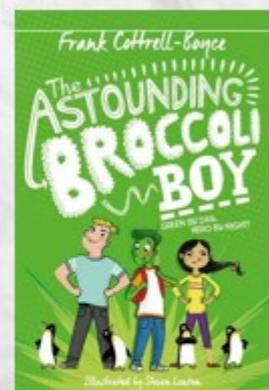
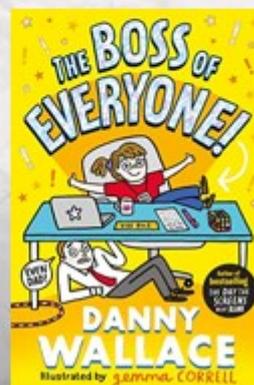
WHO TO READ NEXT?

If you liked reading...
Books by Jeff Kinney



Try...
Books by Pamela
Butchart for ages 7+

Try...
Books by Danny
Wallace for ages 8+



Try...
Books by Frank
Cottrell-Boyce for
ages 9+