



# News Bulletin



May 2023

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

We are all enjoying our Be Safe, Be Fit, Be Healthy week to promote health and fitness. It has been lovely to see the children trying some new sports this week such as archery and curling. The weather has been glorious and our Sports Days were a great success with Oak winning the KS1 trophy and Willow the KS2 trophy. Thank you to everyone who joined us to cheer on the children in their races and celebrate everyone's efforts.

This morning we welcomed some of the choir from Louisiana. They performed some gospel songs and we all sang to them. This was a valuable experience enjoyed by all. They will be performing at Oxclose Church on Saturday 27th May between 1pm-5pm. Everyone has been invited to attend.

We break up on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May for our half term holiday. We have many things to look forward to for the last half term of this academic year.

All dates for the rest of the year are available on our school website.

Best wishes

Julia Watkins

### School Council

The school council met last week and have organised a poster competition to support their work to help keep Washington tidy.

All children across school are encouraged to create a poster with a headline to promote everyone to pick up litter and keep Washington clean and tidy.

The poster needs to be A4 size. There will be prizes for each key stage and vouchers to be won.

Please ensure all entries are sent to the school office by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

The school council will also be doing some litter picking in and around school throughout the term.

We would welcome any donations of plants and compost. Year 3 and 4 enjoy planting. They have already started growing beans, potatoes and strawberries.

### Summer Sun

Please ensure children bring caps, apply sun cream and have water bottles in school during the hot weather.

### School Meals

A reminder that school meals will increase to £2.65 per day from Monday 5th June (£13.25 per week).

Dinners must be paid for in advance either online at [www.sunderland.gov.uk](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk) or cash at the school office.

## Sports Days

All classes enjoyed sports days this week. Children in Y1 –Y3 enjoyed archery and curling and Y4 –Y6 tried fencing. It has been great to try different sports. The Lifestyle and fitness team have worked in classes to gain a better understanding of health food and fitness. Please take a look on the class pages to see more pictures from the week.



## Uniform - Pre Loved uniform



A reminder to parent/carers that the Swap Shop is now stocked and open for free uniform. There is a fantastic range of all uniform, some items are brand new. Please call in any time to see if there is anything you require.



# EARLY YEARS

## Early Years

The children have had an exciting start to the Summer term. Our topic this term has been 'The Great Outdoors', we have been doing lots of activities about minibeasts and reading some lovely stories, such as 'What the Ladybird Heard' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We also have our very own caterpillars growing in our classroom. The children have loved observing how they are changing every day! The children had a great day celebrating the King's Coronation, we made lots of special royal crowns and loved learning all about the King!

## Nursery

In maths we have learning all about our numbers, we have been practising our number formation, counting groups of objects, and counting and matching the numeral to the quantity. We are very proud of the children as they are becoming very confident with their numbers.

In Literacy the children have been super busy practising tracing or writing their name, the children are focusing on letter formation and they are really enjoying it! The children have been listening to the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar and have been taking part in different literacy activities such as drawing minibeasts and writing the initial sound and also sequencing a story.



## Reception

In Literacy we have been reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', and have loved working on our letter formation and writing lists, ordering events in the story and writing super sentences. The children are amazing at remembering their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops!

We have learned all about the life cycle of a butterfly and the children have been learning some new scientific words! They have worked brilliantly at making our very own life cycle using different pasta shapes to represent the egg, caterpillar, cocoon/ chrysalis and then the butterfly!

In Maths we have been super busy, we have been ordering numbers, finding 1 more than and 1 less than and subtracting! We have learned that when we subtract the number gets smaller. We have used lots of counters and cubes to help us. The children have been fantastic and are using super maths vocabulary!

We have been practising for our Sports Day and the children have worked so hard on all the activities!

## KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 1

We celebrated King Charles III Coronation by coming into school wearing red, white and blue and completing activities throughout the day. We had great fun finger painting a Union Jack flag and enjoyed a story called The King's Hats.



In Science, we have looked at our senses and we completed a carousel of activities to understand how important each of them are. For hearing, we completed a mini obstacle course. One partner was blindfolded and the other gave instructions on how to complete it. It was very important we listened carefully to complete this. For touch, there was a feely bag and we had to use our hands to feel the object and describe it to the other children to see if they could work out what it was. We used our taste and smell senses to describe fruit. For sight we had to find and measure a number of objects to identify which was 9cm long.



This week we enjoyed as part of the 'Keep Fit Week' learning new sports. Children took part in curling and archery. At the end of the session we had a class competition to see who could score the highest. This was great fun!



## KEY STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

### Our mini beast hunt



In Science, we are learning about Living Things and Habitats. We went on a minibeast hunt around different areas in school. We will be using this to write a recount in Literacy too. We talked about different verbs (what we did) and what we saw (nouns). We found caterpillars, butterflies, worms and lots of ants! We had lots of fun!



This term we are finding out about the work of the famous artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. First we looked at his self portrait and discussed the questions... How does his choice of colour make you feel? What might it tell you about him? We found out lots of information about him and answered questions to create a fact file. Next we created our own self portrait in the style of Giuseppe Arcimboldo using lines and shading. We chose one colour to represent our mood and used it to add shade to the background of our self portraits.

## LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 3

We have begun our literacy unit by looking at different parts of our new story "Cinnamon". In pairs we spoke about what was happening in the picture, what has happened before and what we think was going to happen. We all came up with fantastic ideas and could not predict the ending when we listened to the story. We have even been recreating and acting different parts of the story.



We had a visit by Michelle from the NHS. She told us all about her role. She then told us how to keep our diets healthy and why this is important. We then talked about the different teeth and their function. We then talked about what foods are healthy and unhealthy for our teeth and looked about what would happen to our teeth if we had an unhealthy diet. This led to think about our oral hygiene routine. We talked about our routines and how to help to protect our teeth with regular visits to the dentist.



Year 3 have been investigating friction in their science learning. They know that friction can effect the movement of an object. In groups, we created a ramp, measuring area and talked about how we make our experiment a fair test. They then investigating by putting different textures on the ramp.



Year 3 enjoyed their coronation celebration day. They all came in dressed in the colours red, white and blue. They took part in a variety of activities throughout the day. They learnt all about the royal family and created a family tree and created a fact file about King Charles. They learnt about the different coronation treasures and their meaning and created their own crown collage and posters for their windows at home.



## LOWER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a busy start to the Summer Term!

Within Design and Technology this term, we have been exploring storybooks with moving parts. We started by looking at a range of books and the mechanisms used within them to allow the parts to move. Then we spent some time having a go at making some of the mechanisms ourselves before planning and creating our own story pages with moving parts based on the book 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell.



In Science, Year 4 have been investigating the effect drinks have on our teeth. We carefully measured out different drinks and poured them over a hard-boiled egg. The egg's shell was affected in a similar way to how the enamel on our teeth would be. After a week, we checked to see how the egg's shell has changed. We were definitely shocked (and disgusted) by some of the results!



Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. We completed a range of activities linked to the King himself and the coronation event. These included a maths code breaker and a reading comprehension which helped us learn about what we could expect to see across the bank holiday weekend. In the afternoon, we got creative and completed a British themed collage within the silhouette of King Charles! We were very proud of how they turned out!



## UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 5

I've had an amazing time working with Year 5 in recent weeks and I'm thrilled to continue our journey together until the Summer break. There's so much to look forward to this term!

The pupils celebrated the King's coronation by sketching his portrait using pencils for shading. They learned about the traditions and importance of the coronation ceremony and expressed their understanding through their art and written work.



We have been learning about angles during our Maths lessons. We've explored acute, obtuse, right, and reflex angles, and have been measuring and drawing them with protractors. It's been a fun, hands-on way to learn.



Year 5 pupils explored water resistance by testing various shapes for their level of resistance to water. This experiment helped them understand how materials react to water and which shapes move more quickly through it.



We also conducted an investigation on friction. We explored how different surfaces affect friction by using a force meter. The goal was to measure the force required to overcome friction between various surfaces. We predicted that rough surfaces would generate more friction than smooth surfaces. We tested the amount of friction on the playground, the class carpet, the decking area and the KS2 hall.

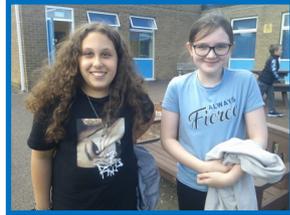


We enjoyed sketching and painting our own versions of the famous Mona Lisa, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's renowned artwork. We experimented with mixing colours and aimed to replicate the subtle shading and blending techniques used by da Vinci. While staying true to the original painting, we added our own artistic touches, creating unique interpretations.



## UPPER KEY STAGE 2 - YEAR 6

We are all so proud of Year 6. They have shown such a huge amount of resilience during their recent SATs tests and we know they all tried their very best. They were treated to a well-deserved biscuit from Wendy in the kitchen and an ice cream on the Friday to celebrate the end of their tests.



In Science we have begun to learn about Evolution and Inheritance. We learned about what inheritance was, what traits could be inherited and how inheritance happens. As part of our lesson we looked at Mr Men and Little Miss characters and considered what their offspring would look like. We designed offspring with characteristics inherited from both parents.



Year 6 had a great day celebrating the King's Coronation. It was great to see them all dressed in red, white and blue and celebrating together over a Coronation lunch. In the afternoon, we created some pop art in the style of Andy Warhol of Charles and Camilla.

