

Year 1 Newsletter 21.02.25



We Are Halfway There!

Well done to our lovely year 1 children who have worked so hard for the last term and a half. We are halfway through the year - we cannot believe it! The children have produced some exceptional work and we are very proud of them. Enjoy the half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all again after the holidays.

Housekeeping

PE kits have been sent home for their half termly wash and dry. Please can you ensure that they come back into school straight after half term ready for our PE lessons. We also ask that you take the opportunity to check that each item of clothing has your child's name in it and also check how your children's trainers fit, as they are often starting to pinch by this time in the year.

We know how much the children enjoy 'Show and Tell' but ask that the children only bring in one item per half term and it is restricted to achievements (e.g. swimming badge) or something that they have put particular effort into making. Show and Tell is a great opportunity for the children to practice their oracy skills - both speaking and listening. It would help if the children could practise what they are going to say at home first so that they are more confident about what they would like to say when talking to the class.

We can see that the children have been working hard on their reading at home. We continue to remind them about the different strategies they can use alongside their phonic knowledge and encourage them to look at the whole word to see if they know it before they try to sound it out. If they do not know the word they should use 'Fred in your head' first before reading the whole word. These strategies will help to build fluency in their reading. We have just finished our next reading assessment and the children will start their new reading groups after the holiday. We are very proud of how well the children are doing with their reading and really appreciate all the support they are getting at home, it really does make a difference so thank you!



Words to support our work on spelling in school will go onto EdShed ready for the first week back. In addition, the red words we will be particularly focusing on next half term are: our, house, were, here, there, where. In class we regularly practice reading and writing these words and provide opportunities for the children to use them in their writing. We are so pleased with how well the children have done reading and writing their red words since September.

World Book Day—Thursday 6th March

World Book Day is on Thursday 6th March and Miss McIntyre and the other teachers have been working hard to come up with some wonderful activities throughout the day. If the children wish to, they can come dressed up as a character from their favourite book, but be warned that with lots of activities planned for outdoors, you might get muddy! For those who would rather, please come to school in home clothes, but make sure they are warm and have sturdy footwear.

Pupil Progress Meetings

It was lovely to be able to share how your child is getting on in Year 1 with you all last week and we know how much the children enjoyed sharing their books with you during the 'book look' last week. Please remember that if you ever have questions or concerns about how your child is progressing please do get in touch.

Curriculum

Over the last few weeks we have been immersing ourselves in the life of Mae Jemison, the first African-America woman to go into space. We found out lots of information about her childhood, her work as a doctor around the world including volunteering in Africa and what it was like to go into space. We used this information to write a recount as though we were Mae. We had to remember to write in the first person, past tense and in chronological order.



In Maths, we have been learning different strategies for addition and subtraction. These have included counting on and counting back, 'make 10' and 'if I know... then I know...' The children have worked hard to use these new strategies to complete number sentences and apply these skills to solve problems too. Board games at home are always an excellent way to help children practise counting on and back which really supports their mental maths skills.



In Art, we looked at 'The Fourth Plinth' in Trafalgar Square where many artists have had their work displayed. We loved seeing the wonderful creations, which inspired us to think about what we would like to display. We learnt that sculptures are 3D models and thought deeply about the message we would like to give to the world. After designing our sculptures, the children used playdough to make them, using techniques to shape and form their creations.

The meaning behind the sculptures were particularly lovely with many children encouraging people to care more for our planet, look after animals and be kind to one another.

In History we have continued learning about great explorers including Neil Armstrong, Amy Johnson, Christopher Columbus and Ranulph Fiennes. Each week we have thought about the qualities each person has which makes them a great explorer e.g. strong, curious, resilient, patient, brave. This week we thought about which qualities we have which might make us the explorers of the future. The children created an image of themselves exploring somewhere that interests them and wrote the qualities they have around their picture.

We have had lots of outdoor learning opportunities too which have included a collaborative art activity where the children worked in teams to create chalk planets. As part of our PSHE we have been busy making bird feeders to hang around the school grounds which we hope will encourage lots of birds to come and visit us. We linked maths and computing by working in teams to use sticks to create 2D shapes outside and then wrote an algorithm so that another team could follow it to make the same shape and we were also very busy clearing out our raised bed so that it is all ready for planting after the holidays.

Dates for your Diary

Children return to school—Monday 3rd March

World Book Day—Thursday 6th March

Advance Notice

Centre for Life Trip—Monday 7th April (more information to follow after the holidays)

Year 1 Spring Assembly - Tuesday 8th April 9:15am (max 2 adults per family).



Southridge First School

'Proud to Make a Positive Impact'