

Year 1 Newsletter 14.03.25



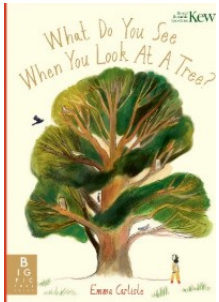
We have had a busy first two weeks of this half term and it is lovely to finally feel a little warmth in the sun at playtimes! Spring is definitely on the way. The children have applied themselves brilliantly to their new units of work and have had a very settled start to the new term.



Upcoming trip—Centre for Life

In the last week of term we will be taking the children on a fabulous trip to the Centre for Life where they will have the opportunity to take part in a workshop to explore how to work like a scientist. They will also have time to explore the many wonderful activities on offer in the science centre. This is a trip we have taken year 1 children on previously and it is incredibly well organised, with a full timetable of activities for the children to enjoy throughout the day. For this trip to go ahead we will need a small number of parent/carer helpers so if you are able to help please indicate this on the form which has been sent out to you this week.

World Book Day



We had a wonderful day last Thursday, the children all looked fantastic and it was a joy to share many lovely stories with them. In particular we enjoyed looking at the book 'What do you see when you look at a tree?' and we spend some time outside thinking about what a tree might say if it could talk. The children had many fabulous ideas and it gave us the opportunity to look really closely at our trees and think about all the things they might have seen in their lifetime. The whole school worked together to create a story about a an ancient oak tree, with each year group adding on to what the previous year group had written. The finished story was absolutely fabulous and shows just how creative and imaginative our children are. During the day we also took time to think about books that inspire us to change our world and designed our perfect reading spaces, another opportunity to really let our imaginations run. We also managed to squeeze in a book character scavenger hunt around the yard that got us really thinking about the many different stories we know. What a brilliant day!

STEM Week

This week we have had some additional STEM activities happening in school linked to the theme 'Change and Adapt. On Monday, we had a visit from Sarah Elkin from OASES who talked to us about climate change, it's causes and the little things we can all do to make a difference and help protect our planet. We also spent time outside with Fiona Greenwold from Education Nature Park who has helped us begin our journey of mapping the habitats in our school grounds. This will allow us to look at the changes over time of the habitats we have and the wildlife that has made its home here. On Thursday we enjoyed challenges set by Dr Meryl Batchelder from the Ministry of Eco Education. The Year 1 big question was 'What

What does it take to make a cup of tea?



does it take to make a cup of tea?'. This included looking at where tea is grown, who grows it and how it gets here. We also explored fair trade and whether there are any threats to our lovely cup of tea. It was a very interesting day and we even got the chance to present what we had found out to the rest of the school at the end of the day. We finished the week with some planting of our vegetables which we



hope to harvest and eat before the summer holidays. Some of our seeds had to go straight into our raised beds and some we planted in home-made paper pots in the classroom.

Curriculum

We began this half term looking at poetry in English. We went on a hunt to discover what was living in our school grounds, then used our ideas to create our own 'School Grounds' list poem. The children also worked in groups to learn and perform a short poem for the rest of the class. This also gave us the opportunity to talk about things that make us nervous, such as talking in front of the class, and normalising those feelings alongside the need to sometimes push ourselves out of our comfort zones. Over the next few weeks our English work focuses on non-fiction information texts. We have looked at a model text about tigers and completed activities that focus on our key skills of finger spaces, capital letters and full stops or question marks.



In DT we are exploring strong and stable structures. To begin this unit we explored went up to our forest area to create our own strong and stable structures using the natural resources we found there. It was lovely to see so many fabulous skills such as team work, problem solving and resilience being displayed. This week we have explored different ways of joining pieces of cardboard together to make one piece stand up. This included a flange join, tabs, slots and a brace and we had a lot of fun exploring.



Last week in geography we recapped our knowledge of continents and oceans and then explored where we might find deserts in the world. We looked closely at where the Sahara desert is and annotated our own maps to help identify it.

We have been busy learning how to measure using non-standard units in maths and discovering the importance of using standard units. This gave us lots of opportunities to go outside and use different non-standard units to measure objects such as the width of the slide, height of the raised beds and length of a bench. We then explored things that were longer or shorter than 1 metre and things that were longer, shorter or approximately 10cm. This week we have been introducing the children to multiplication for the first time. This has involved creating groups of objects or drawing groups (e.g. 3 groups of 2, 4 lots of 5) then counting in 2s or 5s to find the answer. This is the first step in learning how to multiply and being able to count confidently in 2s and 5s makes this a lot easier.

Dates for your Diary

WB 24th March—Mother's Day gift shop

Centre for Life Trip—Monday 7th April

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

Southridge Fun Run—Thursday 10th April

Last day of term—Friday 11th April

First day of summer term—Monday 28th April

Phonics screener information meeting for parents—Tuesday 29th April 5pm



Southridge First School

'Proud to Make a Positive Impact'