



It has been a wonderfully productive half-term, despite its brief four weeks! The children have shown exceptional attitude and behaviour, demonstrating their growing readiness for Year 1.

Next term, our focus will be on ensuring a smooth transition, including the much anticipated 'Move Up Day.' On this day, the children will spend time with their new teacher and teaching assistants in their new classroom, helping them feel confident and excited about the next stage in their learning journey. Parents and carers will also have the chance to meet the Year 1 staff on 27th June at 9am and at the 'open classroom' on 1st July 3.30-5.30pm.



This week, we've been exploring images of Whitley Bay's landmarks, reflecting on the special places that hold fond memories in our coastal town. The children have shared their thoughts, celebrating the familiar sights that make Whitley Bay unique.

Drawing inspiration from these cherished locations, we have spent time honing their artistic skills—carefully sketching pencil outlines before using watercolours to bring their creations to life. Their artwork beautifully captures the essence of Whitley Bay through their own creative interpretations.



The children spent time exploring our forest area in search of minibeasts, working in pairs to investigate hidden creatures under logs, leaves, and plants. Equipped with magnifying glasses, they carefully observed details—watching movement, identifying body parts, and noticing fascinating patterns.

We encouraged their curiosity with thought-provoking questions: "What do you notice? How does this minibeast move?" Their responses were fantastic, full of insightful comparisons like, "This one has six legs, but this one has more!"

The depth of their knowledge and the rich vocabulary they brought to discussions were truly impressive—a testament to their growing observational skills and enthusiasm for the natural world.

Supporting Reading Over the Holidays

Encouraging children to engage with reading over the holidays can make a big difference in their confidence and enjoyment. A few simple activities can help keep their phonics skills sharp:

- **Read together and discuss** - Invite your child to read back their sentences from their phonics book and talk about what they've read. This helps reinforce understanding and build fluency.
- **Bedtime stories with a twist** - Share a bedtime story and encourage your child to spot phonetically decodable words or hunt for tricky words within the text.
- **Word spotting on the go** - Look out for words, digraphs, and tricky words while out and about, turning everyday moments into fun literacy opportunities.

Important diary dates and information

26.5.25 - 30.5.25 Half term

2.6.25 Return to school

17.6.25 Sports Day 2pm

27.6.25 New to Year 1 meeting 9am

1.7.25 Year 1 'open classroom' visit 3.30-5.30pm

4.7.25 Summer Fair 3.30pm

Reminders

- Please ensure that all your child's clothing is clearly labelled, including summer caps and hats. This will help us quickly reunite any misplaced items with their rightful owner. Thank you for your support!
- Please remember to leave your child's reading folder in their bookbag each day. Monday and Fridays are book changing days, but we do read with your children through the week.

Have a wonderful half term!



Southridge First School

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