



Christchurch Infant School

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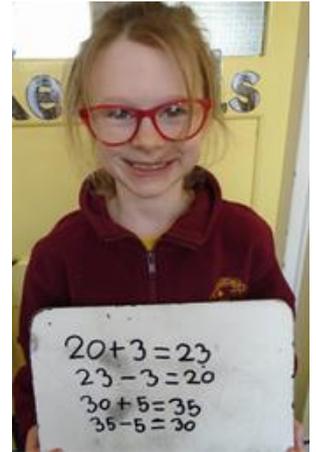
SPRING 2 NEWSLETTER

Thursday 1st April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,



We are at the end of the Spring Term and it has been a pleasure to have all of the children back in school. I am writing to say a massive thank you to everyone for your support in our reopening to the whole school from March 8th. The children have demonstrated a real resilience and looked to make the most out of each situation and enjoy the fact that everyone is simply in school again.



Headteacher Awards

This is a very prestigious award that is given to one child from each class for outstanding all round learning, demonstration of excellent behaviour and understanding of school values. The children who receive one can proudly wear their badge for all to see! A Headteacher Award has been given to the following children today:

Class	Name
EYFS Seahorses	Logan
EYFS Dolphins	Rafi
EYFS Starfish	Indi
EYFS Turtles	Max F
Yr 1 Foxes	Charlotte
Yr 1 Squirrels	Thomas
Yr 1 Hedgehogs	Ezra
Yr 1 Rabbits	Izzy
Yr 2 Kingfishers	Rory
Yr 2 Nightingales	Ashley
Yr 2 Woodpeckers	Lily
Yr 2 Kestrels	Beaux



Free Writing Friday



liked. Every Friday our pupils write creatively in their very own notebooks for at least fifteen minutes. The aim is to promote a love of writing for all children and boost their confidence in the subject. Take a look at some of our fabulous writing so far!

Foundation children will also be taking part in 'Free Writing Friday' in Summer 1 and their books will be sent home to be personalised over the Easter break. Look out for them coming home in book bags soon!

Mrs Wilkins, Writing Leader



This half term has seen the launch of Free Writing Friday in Year 1 and Year 2. This is an initiative championed by the 'How to Train a Dragon' author Cressida Cowell to encourage children to write for pleasure. Before Christmas the children were asked to cover their notebooks in any way they



Curriculum News

EYFS



Children in Early Years have had a wonderful half term learning to re-tell familiar stories such as 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Goldilocks' using story maps and story language. The children showed their creative skills by creating their own houses out of junk modelling resources and also developing their scientific skills by considering how to make a bed comfy for Goldilocks.

As part of the topic, they were also visited by a fairy whose fairy door magically appeared in the classrooms and they were so engaged in writing letters to the fairy each day to find out more about them. They received letters back and there was even some video footage showing the fairy as it explored the classroom at night time!





The children finished the half term, learning all about Easter and signs of Easter. A golden egg appeared in each class which lead them to think about what could be inside and what the egg symbolises.

The children have all had such a wonderful half-term and we cannot wait for next half term where we will be learning all about Minibeasts and watching our own class caterpillars transform!

Year 1

This half term, the Year 1 children have been learning all about animals in their 'All Creatures Great and Small' topic. On our WOW day they were challenged by an Edinburgh Zoo keeper to find out all about their favourite animals and enjoyed watching the different animals on the webcams. Science, they learnt about animal groups, their bodies and their eating habits. Sorting animals into various groups e.g. mammals, fish, herbivores and carnivores. Throughout our animal project they have developed their artistic skills, experimenting with different mediums, creating their own artwork inspired by Eric Carle using paint, oil pastels, collage and clay. They have also been lucky enough to work with music specialist Sam Mason developing their music vocabulary and creating musical pieces for fast, slow, loud and quiet animals.



Year 2



Year 2 have had another busy half term and it was really lovely to welcome back all of the children on the 8th March. This half term we have been learning all about Stories from Around the World. We wrote descriptions about and compared the characters in The Magic Paintbrush, made our own Gingerbread Man comics and innovated a story about Brad

who travels the world crossing the 7 continents and 5 oceans that we have learnt all about. Our learning will culminate with a fantastic India Day celebrating the work we have done on comparing a small village in the Himalayas called Spiti with our own hometown of Christchurch.



The children enjoyed travelling to India, from the CIS airport, where they learnt more about the culture and traditions of the country with guest speakers, storytellers, Bollywood dancers and even got to taste some Indian delicacies.

Look out for photos of this exciting day on the school website.



Please see our class Blogs for more photos and details about the learning experiences in your child's class.

Farewell



Today we say farewell to Mrs Riggs, who has been a Lunchtime Assistant here at Christchurch Infant School. She has been a fantastic Lunchtime Assistant who has supported so many children, with not only their eating and play, but also the reading of stories, leading sports based games for both pupils and staff. Mrs Thorpe will be extending her duties to take over the role as Lunchtime Supervisor for Woodpeckers Class.

School Development Plan Updates

We have been part of a BCP review, which is standard practice in maintained schools, each term. We are very pleased that BCP Educational Advisors have recognised the very good practice that is undertaken here at CIS. Further details of this feedback can be seen in the School Development Plan summary later in this newsletter.

We would like to take the opportunity to share our school's planned development over the academic year.

School Improvement Priority 1:

To establish high quality first provision in order to raise attainment in reading, writing and maths in all year groups, for all children.

Our monitoring of standards continues to show that the children are making good progress in phonics. Thank you again for supporting the children at home with their learning during the lockdown.

Our BCP colleagues commented: *"Reading policy changes continue at a pace and the new library has now become a centre for all. Key to this success has been a better 'culture' of reading. Literacy roles have been defined and distributed. DHT is literacy lead who oversees a reading leader (teacher Yr 2) alongside a leader for writing and a leader for phonics in each year group using RWI"*.

School Improvement Priority 2:

To ensure a consistent approach to behaviour management by all staff that follows very clear guidelines and rewards those for exceptional hard work, perseverance and attitudes to learning.

To further improve attendance for persistent absentees, to ensure that all children have an equal diet of learning and children can gain the expected attainment and attendance does not impact negatively.

We have high expectations for behaviour and we are very proud of the positive attitude and excellent manners that the children have demonstrated in their return to whole class learning. Through a recent pupil survey, it is evident that the children are aware of the school values, as well as being respectful to all members of the school community.

THANK YOU SO MUCH to all the families who have been working hard to ensure children's attendance and punctuality is high. Establishing good habits early on really will make a positive difference to their lives. The link between attendance and achievement cannot be over stated.

Attendance is 97.3%. This is excellent!

Punctuality is very important and lost minutes mean lost learning. Did you know that being late 15 minutes every day is the same as missing 2 whole weeks of school over a full academic year. Every minute counts and that lost time all adds up.

Poor punctuality can lead to your child...

- Feeling embarrassed in front of their friends
- Missing the beginning of vital lessons making them fall behind
- Missing important instructions for the rest of the school day

Parents and carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time.

School Improvement Priority 3:

To secure children's understanding of the school's learning values and British Values and how it relates to their world.

To enable all pupils to feel confident to challenge, question and think independently across all aspects of school life.

The School Council have been involved with reviewing the British Values and are planning to lead a series of assemblies for their respective year groups to promote these further. Details of British Values can be found here: <https://www.christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk/british-values>

After Easter, the School Council will be thinking, with their classmates, of the charities that they would most like to support as a school.

School Improvement Priority 4:

To further improve subject leadership with a focus on monitoring and reviewing curriculum implementation.



We are very proud of how our curriculum is implemented across the whole school. The projects taught, build on prior learning very well and each term we continue to find more exciting and enriching ideas to stimulate the children's engagement.

Our BCP colleagues commented: *"Greater ownership of driving teaching in the hands of teachers and middle leaders. Staff now better empowered and enthusiasm visibly better across the school. Leaders want to invest in their middle leaders to grow their capacity further. Staff ownership has also resulted in leaders having a stronger strategic influence. Governing body now at full strength. Middle leaders now better engaged with governors and regularly report on progress, strengths and challenges. This better*

dialogue is bringing greater clarity to all leaders' understanding of the school improvement strategy across the school."

School Improvement Priority 5:

To secure high quality first teaching consistently across EYFS to ensure that all children have an equal access to a diet of learning, so they can make good or better progress from their individual starting points.

To ensure that all EYFS staff develop their understanding of the 2021 curriculum.

The EYFS team are engaging well with the Local Authority initiatives to support new Early Years development. We continue to improve continuous provision, especially the use of the outdoor space. There is a sharp focus on Communication, Language and Literacy to ensure a language rich provision is achieved and that this remains balanced on building children's interests and needs.

School Improvement Priority 6:

Ensure that the reopening for all pupils, from September 2020, reflects the DFE guidance so that pupils and staff can be work together.

Provide a recovery programme of PSHE, addressing well-being of pupils, alongside a carefully introduced approach to the teaching and learning of essential reading, writing and maths learning.

Facilitate the intake of new pupils smoothly, ensuring all pupils and parents needs are clearly understood alongside school expectations.

Since the school has reopened to all children, classes have been undertaking their weekly Jigsaw lessons. This half term we have been focusing on the puzzle piece 'Healthy Me', learning about ways



we can keep healthy. These include: exercising, eating a healthy diet, sleeping, road safety, being a good friend and calming our bodies. As well as this, classes have been dipping into the Jigsaw Recovery Curriculum to ensure that children are always in their optimum state for learning.

When we return after the Easter holidays, the children will be moving onto the 'Relationship' puzzle piece and will also celebrate World Earth Day on Thursday 22nd April where we will focus on the theme 'Restore our Earth'.

Further details about our PSHE curriculum, Jigsaw, can be found on our website.

OTHER NEWS...

PTFA

Thank you for supporting the PTFA with the Easter events. We are very excited about the plans in place for the new sensory garden, details of which were released in the recent PTFA newsletter. Please take a look and follow the **PTFA Facebook page** which contains a regular update on fundraising and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/CISPTFA>



Dates for your diary (cut out and keep)

Christchurch Infant School INSET dates:

Monday 7th June 2021

Friday 23rd July 2021

INSET Dates for 2021 – 2022

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

Friday 18th February 2022

Monday 6th June 2022

Friday 22nd July 2022

Thank you for your support with this. Whatever your plans for the Easter break, we wish you a relaxing time hopefully with more friends and family than for the last few weeks and look forward to seeing everyone after Easter for what we hope will be a relatively 'normal' summer term.

Kindest regards, Mr Baxter