

Lunchtime Review Spring/Summer Term 2016

Art Club run by Mrs. Burton continued on from the autumn term. As mentioned in previous reviews, this is a very popular club with children from all classes taking advantage of the varied activities on offer. Mrs. Burton spend a lot of time sourcing interesting and seasonally themed creations suitable for the short half an hour slot. The Art Club was moved to Friday once Gardening Club started due to Mrs. Artley needing the Monday slot to make use of her full hour. At the same time we were able to relocate the club to one of the classrooms, making it much easier to access resources and speed up tidying up. Mrs. Burton had the support of Mrs. Leamann, if numbers were on the large side, although the older pupils were very helpful if one of the younger ones struggled. All the children enjoy taking their finished pieces home to show off. Examples of the different activities and photos of sessions are displayed on the board outside reception.

Friday Wildlife Club continued on from Autumn term until the restart of the Gardening Club when the weather had improved sufficiently. Mrs. Artley encouraged the children to research different native animals, share their information and discuss how the club/school could support the local wildlife. Bird feeders, placed in different locations which include the Peace Garden, were re-filled regularly. Activities included bird watching, drawing of discovered species, quizzes and discussions regarding wildlife protection and making use of ICT and library.

Show and Share Gardening Club run by Mrs. Artley restarted as soon the weather permitted it. Uptake was steady and many children attended every week. Numbers were never below eight and age range is wide. Mrs. Artley has spent a lot of time creating a plan/ timetable and is very organised making the most of the short time available each week. The club not only grew vegetables but also helped to maintain the play trail and play ground, keeping the weeds at bay and thus avoiding the use of weedkiller. Some of the quieter children enjoy this club. It is lovely to see the older children supporting the younger ones and taking pride in their achievements.

Skipping Activity led by Mrs. Leamann. After the visit by an organisation promoting skipping activities the school was given a skipping kit with instructions for different games and techniques. When possible Mrs. Leamann would instruct the children and run skipping sessions which were very popular. Soon the older pupils would run their own activities and help the younger ones join in.

Mrs. Leamann's Drop-in Session. These sessions are a vital part of our lunchtime support for the children that need a little more help dealing with or solving a problem. Most issues that arise during break time are minor and can be dealt with by any of the staff. Sometimes however, a more in depth approach is needed and that is when Mrs. Leamann steps in.

Play-Leaders

Tuesday Class 1, Wednesday Class 2, Thursday Class 3

Pupils from Class 3 continued to plan and deliver playground activities for other pupils at school. The new leaders were, as usual, guided through the different stages of planning for the different sessions for the weeks ahead. The pupils learned about assessing risks, organisation and adapting games to their peers needs. Some of the children picked for this programme were not natural leaders and it was nice to see they were keen to be part of this group.

The Play-Leader's support during lunchtime is very much appreciated by the staff as it helps with providing different activities for the pupils and encourages positive behaviour.

Lunch Activity Box: Suggestions were requested at the end of the summer term from the children and 6 were received, 3 for tennis, 2 for golf and 1 for football. We will have a look into running some tennis activities next year.

During the summer term a number children from each year were asked by myself what they liked or disliked about lunchtime, whether they joined any of the clubs or play leader activities. Overall the younger pupils (reception/year 1 and 2) like activities that are taking part outside such as gardening. Older pupils (year3, 4, 5 and 6) would join the art club for example if the weather was cold but would prefer to play with their friends during nice weather, especially on the playing field. Overall all the children said they enjoyed lunchtime.

Generally behaviour was very good this year. The pupil composition was such that only a few issues have arisen mainly revolving around football. Staff have commented that in all areas of the lunchtime the children seemed to get along well and enjoy a relaxed break. Very few amber and no red behaviour was observed.

Diana Calvert