



Spring News



Pen Mill Infant and Nursery Academy

8 February 2018

Issue 3

Message from Mrs Manning, Deputy Head

Dear Parents and Carers

A short but busy Spring half term at Pen Mill school, the children continue to work hard and think about their next steps in order to improve their learning. Thank you to the staff for making the children's lessons exciting, the year two especially enjoyed their Castle Banquet and it has been a pleasure to see some of the homework projects that the children have brought into school to share.

There has also been an increased number of children achieving house points for following the golden rules and so many names appearing on the reading rainbow. Can you please encourage your children to read throughout the holiday and it would be lovely to see photos of your children reading in unusual and exciting places.

Today we have seen the children dressed in brightly coloured clothes taking part in our Sign to Sing assembly raising money for SignHealth, the deaf health charity. The children have enjoyed learning the song and the choir of voices resounding through the hall was amazing.

We hope you have an enjoyable half term break and thank you for your continued support.

Weekly Update - week commencing 5th February 2018

All of the information on this page can be found on:

- our website at www.penmillinfants.co.uk
- the playground screen
- the class noticeboards

Golden Book Pupils

Carle	Leighton & Skye
Waddell	Lucy & Blake
Sharratt	Harrison & Oliwia
Potter	Coco & Riley
Bond	Claire & Alfie
Donaldson	Alfie & Brooke
Cole	Maddison & Viliam

Attendance

Pen Mill Academy attendance - 94%

Highest class attendance - Cole class 95.4%

House Points

Well done to Barrington house who achieved the most house points this week with 53 points.

Upcoming Dates - all dates can be found on our website

Thursday 8th February	Last day of term
Friday 9th February	Inset day
Mon 12th - Fri 16th February	Half term holiday
Monday 19th February	Children return to school
Thursday 22nd February	World Thinking Day
Thursday 1st March	World Book Day
Tues 6th & Thurs 8th March	Parents Evening
Tuesday 20th March	Easter Service in St Michaels Church 2pm

World Thinking Day

On Thursday 22nd February children who are Rainbows or Brownies are welcome to wear their uniforms to school to recognise World Thinking Day.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March when the children may wear their pyjamas or dress up as a book character and bring their favourite book to school to share.

Parents Evenings

Our Parents Evenings will be held next half term on the following dates:

- Tuesday 6th March - 3.30pm until 5.30pm
- Thursday 8th March - 5.00pm until 7.00pm

If you would like to make an appointment to see your child's teacher please visit our website www.penmillinfants.co.uk or the Schoolgateway where a booking can be made from 4pm on Friday 23rd February via the Parents Evening link on the home page. The online booking system will close on Friday 2nd March at 3.30pm.

Parents with children in the Nursery will receive a separate letter regarding their parent meetings.

Nursery - Carle class

The children in the Nursery have been learning about the Chinese New Year and we know that this is the year of the 'Dog'.

We have been learning about the Chinese Emperor who asked some animals to have a race to help him work out which year it was. The children have used the school hall and enjoyed having some races of their own.

There are 12 animals altogether in the race, ask your child and see if they can name any?

The children have also learned which zodiac year they were born in. We have learned why red and gold are such special colours and have made some of

our own Chinese lanterns. We have been exploring rice and even tried some Chinese food.

We have celebrated the Chinese New Year early as it actually falls in half term (16th February) but the children have enjoyed learning about a different culture.

Kung Hei Fat Choi (Happy New Year from Carle Nursery)



Reception - Sharratt & Waddell class

Although this has been a short half term the children in Reception have squeezed in a lot of learning and we have been amazed at their progress in reading and writing.

This half term our topic has been superheroes and we have been thinking about what super powers we would like to have and what we would do with them. We have been looking at the book Supertato and have created some descriptive wanted posters to help Supertato catch the Evil Pea as well as continuing to develop our sentence writing and phonic knowledge.

The children have been exploring addition and subtraction in number and have also been learning all about number bonds to 10.

Both classes have worked really hard to learn the words and signs to the 'Sign to Sing' song and a lot of children are singing it to themselves as they work and play.

During the next half term we will be looking at growth and change.

Year 1 - Bond & Potter class

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Space this half term. They had great fun getting messy making the solar system using paper mache!

We made some amazing moon buggies out of both lego and recycled packaging, with wonderful ideas for the different components. The children also created beautiful constellations using sticky stars and white chalk.

Perhaps in half term the children could look in the night sky to try to spot some constellations? You can download apps to your phone to help you find the right stars.

The children have also enjoyed learning the new sign to sing song "Friends Forever" and have been showing what wonderful friends they can be! Kindness was the theme of Internet Safety

Day this year, and the children made a kindness tree full of kind deeds and names.

We will continue to add kindness leaves to our trees throughout next term.



Year 2 - Cole & Donaldson class

The children in year 2 have loved our castles topic. They have found out about the parts of a castle, what each room would look like and the roles of the people in a castle. The children have even been creating their very own castles at home with the help of their skilled grown ups. They worked in teams to create each room out of shoe boxes and materials. The castle topic finished with our very own Banquet in the Great Hall where a fantastic show for the King and Queen was put on by the Jesters. The waitresses made sure everybody had enough food and the maid in waiting did everything she was asked to do for the Queen. Unfortunately, the soldiers and anybody not being good ended up in the hay!



Our science investigations enabled the children to find the most suitable materials to make a boat for the Gingerbread Man and to make a coat for little Red Riding Hood. They tested which ball was the bounciest and they also learned how to ensure fair testing. They made predictions and recorded results. Materials were sorted to show their knowledge of which material is waterproof, flexible, bouncy, transparent, translucent, opaque, man made and natural.



It was Internet safety day on Tuesday and the children designed posters, discussed staying safe online and their digital footprint. They thought of kind things to add to the leaves of our kindness tree and explored a variety of programmes on the iPads.



In maths the children have recapped on addition and subtraction and this week they have been looking at 2D shapes. They have demonstrated their learning of the number of sides and vertices (corners) a shape has in a range of ways, including making a given shape using themselves as the sides!



In English the focus has been on making their writing exciting and interesting to read by using adverbs and expanded noun phrases. Well done to all of the children who reached the reading rainbow and moved up on their spellings!

Peter Rabbit Group



The Peter Rabbit Group is a friendly and relaxed group for parents/carers and their children aged from birth to pre-school (0-4). It offers a range of activities and gives you the chance to meet with other parents and share experiences. You and your child will get to make new friends, and have fun!

At The Peter Rabbit Group we...

- Sing - songs help develop your child's language and speech. Action rhymes help develop coordination and motor skills.
 - Get messy - even the youngest child can paint with their fingers and enjoy the texture of play dough.
 - Read - we have a variety of books for you to share with your child both at the group and at home.
 - Talk - about your child's development and your experiences as a parent/carer.
 - Play - we provide a variety of toys to suit all ages. We play both inside and out.
- Most importantly, we have FUN.

Session Times

We meet every Tuesday (term times only) 1.30pm - 3.00pm
There are nappy changing facilities available
For more details please contact the school office