

*Together we care, inspire and achieve excellence*



## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Autumn 2 2018**

October 24th /25th	Parents Evenings
October 25th	End of Half Term
Sunday November 4th	FPSA Fireworks
November 5th	Back to School
November 8th	WWI drama workshop Y4,5,6
November 9th	Y4/5/6 Cross Country Event
November 12th	Bikeability Y5
November 13th	WWI drama workshop Y1, 2, 3
November 15th	Holst Class Sharing Assembly
November 16th	Children in need
November 16th	Vivaldi class come and Share
November 22nd	FPSA Wine tasting evening
November 29th	Gershwin Sharing Assembly
November 30th	Flu vaccinations
December 5th	Decoration Day
December 7th	Christmas Bazaar 3.30—5.30pm
December 11th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity
December 12th	EYFS and KS1 Nativity
December 13th	Christingle 2.15pm
December 19th	FPSA Children's disco
December 21st	Carol Service 9.15am ALL WELCOME
December 21st	Christmas holiday starts 2pm

It's been a busy half term and I'm sure many of you are looking forward to next week's holiday when you don't have to get everyone up and out to school every day. I hesitate from suggesting there might be a lie in! Next half term we have several workshops booked to support the topics each class are doing as well as some special ones booked to complement the work we are doing in school as part of the Armistice Centenary Events.

Each half term our school assemblies and class reflection areas focus on a different theme. The children hear stories related to the theme from different world religions and are encouraged to think about what the theme might mean to them in their daily lives. They also hear about famous people who are linked in some way to the theme.

Next half term we will be thinking about ....**TRUST**

What does it mean to be trustworthy? Why is it important to be able to trust others when we are working as a team? What could you do to earn someone's trust?

*"Trusting someone is like knowing you can jump and they will be there to catch you"*  
*Anon*

## Staffing

As you are aware we will be saying Goodbye to Anne Cracknell, our amazing school cook at the end of this half term. We will be holding a special assembly for Anne on Thursday at 2.45 just before our normal Thursday assembly. All parents are invited to join us.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that a new cook, Mrs Kathy Gordon, has been appointed by Herts Catering Ltd who run our kitchen. We will have a temporary cook for the first three weeks after half term while she attends the necessary HCL training. Mrs Gordon has already spent a few days working alongside Anne becoming familiar with our school.

## Please help us to fill the large planters we purchased last year

We would love to plant lots of spring bulbs as a starting point so that they create a cheerful display in the Spring.

So we are asking for donations of bulbs - any sort, any quantity.

Thank you in anticipation of a wonderful display of flowers!



## Link to Hope

A huge thanks to everyone who has already brought a filled shoebox in. We have collected 17 so far.



I will be taking all the boxes over to the collection point on the Monday after half term so that they can be delivered in time for Christmas.

The gifts are given to families who often have to make a choice between buying food or fuel at Christmas time – buying presents is just not a priority. Many of these families do not have running water, heating or electricity. Some live in appalling conditions, often living in just one or two rooms, and life for them is a real struggle to survive.



## Safeguarding

The internet is an amazing place, a world of exciting possibilities where children can play, learn, create, connect and have fun. It is important that we empower children with the skills and knowledge to navigate this online world safely.

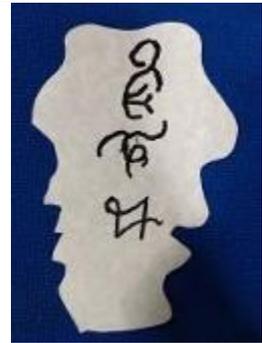
The NSPCC and O2 Net Aware guide for parents can help make sure your child is staying safe online. This guide highlights the most popular sites, apps and games that young people use. It equips parents with information about these sites, including the recommended age, the safety features and settings available and the types of risks that young people might encounter.



Visit the NSPCC website for further information. [bit.ly/NSPCCOnlineSafety](http://bit.ly/NSPCCOnlineSafety)

The latest Online Safety newsletter for parents can be found under the safeguarding tab on our school website.

In Gershwin Class, we have been investigating dragon bones! As part of our topic, Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, we have investigated hieroglyphs found on oracle bones (thought to be dragon bones) and tried to decipher their meaning. Once we had found out that one of the bones said 'Will it rain today?', we set about generating our own short questions which we might have wanted to ask our ancestors about the future, if we were an Ancient Chinese ruler. We created our own hieroglyphs to express our questions. Can you work out what Freddie's question might have been?



We have been writing in response to the short film, Wing. We have used lots of writing tools this half term - pathetic fallacy, emotive language, metaphors, similes, dialogue to build characters etc.

Claudia has used some emotive language to describe the character of Wing:  
*My very heart dropped. I could see his weak body trembling. His beady eyes looked up as the cold-hearted beasts stood there, above him. A tear dropped down his innocent face as his tormentors smirked, watching him crumble. This defeated creature had no more faith - I could see his pain and those fingers digging into the soggy mud. His lip started to quiver; he was paralysed with fear.*

In Computing, we have been changing website code that has already been written.



We used Mozilla xray goggles and HTML editor to rewrite the code and make some changes to pictures and text from a webpage. We replaced some of the code to change font colours as well as photo and text content. Our changes couldn't be saved or made permanent and we made sure we discussed the fact that hacking is illegal!

### Vivaldi class topic this term is One Step Beyond!



The children have been making space helmets out of papier-mâché and created their own space rocket out of boxes and fabric. They had great fun crawling into the dark space and using torches to investigate shadows [before the whole thing collapsed from so much use!]



As part of our learning in RE we had a visitor to share with us some of Jewish celebrations. We were very lucky and found that lots of celebrations involve food! We tried brioche, crackers, apples with honey and tried on some of the clothes that are worn.



## Holst class

We have been enjoying finding out about space. We have used images of the moon and the universe to inspire some art work.

We have used glass paint to recreate star constellations and the explosions of colour they make.



Our moon inspired work shows use of tone and texture. We tried to show the surface of the moon. For a challenge some of us have only used one pencil to make all of the marks.



Chopin class have had a great half term getting stuck into all things Chinese! Our topic of the Shang Dynasty has seen the children looking at artefacts from ancient China and using these to discover more about what life was like during that period.

*Chinese style bamboo paintings*

Our guided reading role play area has been very popular as groups spend time each week in the tea-house, practising with chopsticks and admiring various pieces of home learning which are displayed. Our Talk Talk sessions have been on a wide range of topics including The Terracotta Warriors, Fortune Cookies, Religion and Spirituality in China and Chinese inventions and their impact on us today. We are looking forward to hearing more and they are all so well researched and presented.

We have also looked at the story of The Willow Pattern Plate. You may be familiar with this supposed 'Chinese' artefact. The plates were actually an English design, first made by Spode, but the legend of the lovers, thwarted in love who turned into doves is an example of an oral storytelling tradition. We are in the process of making our own versions of the plates and will be recording our versions of our stories after half term.



*Our Willow Pattern style plates in progress*



We were very happy to go on a 'Faith Tour' just before half-term. We visited a Synagogue in Harlow, St Joseph and the English Martyrs' Catholic church in Bishop's Stortford and the Quaker Meeting House in Stansted. We were welcomed so warmly and the children had loads of interesting and intelligent questions.

*Learning about the Torah scroll*

## Mozart Class



We kick started our topic 'Let's Go Exploring' with a visit into a planetarium where we learned lots of facts about our solar system and space.

In Science this term we have been learning about the differences between dead, alive and never alive as well as exploring our senses and our different body parts.



*We were given crisps and we had to guess the flavour with our tongue. We used our sense of taste to help us!*

*I sorted these things:  
Alive: a dog, seaweed and a tree.  
Dead: a bag of crisps, a pencil and fishfingers  
Never alive: a laptop and a mug*



In RE we've been thinking about promises and the covenant between God and Abraham. These are our starry night pictures to remember the promise God made to Abraham.



*My mum promised me a kitten for my birthday and she kept her promise.  
William*