



celebrating all that we are and all that we can be

Autumn Newsletter

October 2016

Welcome to the first edition of our new style school newsletter.

We've come to the end of a very busy and productive half term and I'm delighted to be able to share with you some of the amazing learning opportunities and enrichment activities that the children have been involved in.

One of the highlights for us was our Harvest Festival. Thank you so much to all of you that donated harvest boxes, they were very much appreciated by those that received them as can be seen by the thankyou cards and notes in the front entrance. It was so lovely to see so many of you at the celebration. I hope you enjoyed it as much as the children enjoyed performing to you. If you were able to attend you will have witnessed the presentation by Herbie and Edward on the Haiti disaster. I could not write this newsletter without mentioning them. Their heartfelt plea and bucket shaking raised just under £300! Well done boys, we are so proud of you!

It has been a fantastic first half term and the best way to share it with you is from the classes themselves.....

Foundation Stage News



This half term we have been learning about People who help us. We have been visited by the Nurse, and been on a village walk to the post box to post our patchwork pictures. We have played at being vets and fire fighters, and solved lots of problems as police officers. We have started to learn our letter sounds and shapes, and have used our number skills in the outdoor classroom. After the half term break, we will be thinking about changes in the weather, and how to stay safe on the roads, before enjoying Christmas stories songs and games.



Year 1 News

We have 29 amazing children in our class and they have settled in really well. Our topic has been Marvellous Me and the children have completed some fantastic homework with the support of their parents and carers including some super body labelling. In English we enjoyed talking about our favourite soft toy, reading Knuffle Bunny and reciting poems about worms using actions. We have used our outside area for enhancing our learning, for example, using the sand to make and count sandcastles in Mathematics. The children really enjoyed our activities during S.T.E.M. week particularly our Science investigations: Happy Feet Challenge, Balloon Rockets and Dancing Raisins. We were really excited to learn about dinosaurs, engineering and climate change from our visitors in school. Some amazing models, and rockets, were designed and made using Lego, KNEX, Magnetix and recycling materials – a future career in engineering awaits! We have used the Bee-Bots for programming instructions on moving along a road map path with a partner and using the Bee-Bot APP on the class iPad. The Magic Toys! provided a familiar story line for our dance in PE. Is Everybody Special? provided the big question for our RE learning this term, including a visit to St. Faith's Church with Rev Faulks, and the children have enjoyed developing, and using, our Reflection Area in class. The children have written their own thoughtful, 'Thank You', prayers which we are reading out in class. Thank you to all Year 1 parents and carers for your support this term.



Year 2

We are off to a flying start this half term in Year 2. We have been busy learning about the fascinating history of The Gunpowder Plot, doing some exciting maths work with 2D shapes and investigating Animals including Humans in our science topic. In these areas the children have



proudly created some inspiring artwork of the Houses of Parliament, using chalk, as we imagined what it would have been like if Guy Fawkes had succeeded in committing treason against King James I. They also became



mathematicians by exploring the lines of symmetry that 2D shapes have by using a mirror to reflect the image. As well as this, they investigated the change in animals, including humans, as they grow older. In addition to working hard in their lessons, the children put on a superb Harvest Festival performance. Just like professionals, they spoke the lines of our harvest poem clearly and confidently and showed off their beautiful harvest drawings of all the things we are thankful for at this time of the year. Well done Year 2!

Year 3

What a fantastic first half-term we've had in Class 3. The children have settled brilliantly into the new routines and we have completed some fantastic work:

- We re-created Stonehenge
- We learned how our digestive system works (even the yukky bits!)
- We have written poems
- We enjoyed our science investigations and visitors during STEM week
- We are really enjoying our French lessons



We're already looking forward to next half-term to see what new things we can learn.

Year 4

We have had an exciting first half term in year 4. Having settled quickly, the children have been working hard and producing some impressive work. Through our topic, children have really enjoyed decorating our classroom, researching creatures of the rainforest and writing letters about deforestation. They have written some lovely poetry and worked hard to further their skills solving some challenging maths problems. S.T.E.M. week provided many opportunities for investigative learning; the children tried building structures with marshmallows and spaghetti,



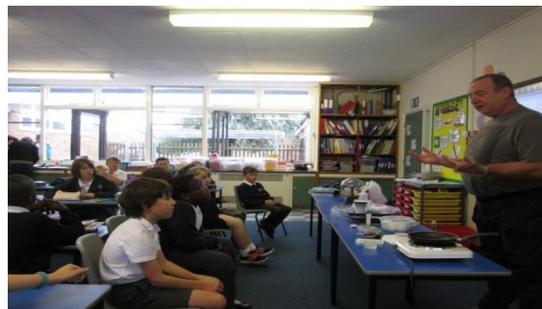
exploring light with torches and building bridges with nothing more than paper and card! We were also very grateful to all our visitors who came to share their knowledge with the children. Mr Katugampala, Mrs Ong, Mr and Mrs Curtis and Mr Cook were all warmly received by the children and we thoroughly

enjoyed the variety of activities and presentations. We are all looking forward to a well-deserved rest before we start the Christmas term.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic start to the year and settled in well to their new routines. We have enjoyed reading our class book Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo and we have based most of our writing on the book so far this year. Some of the children have started to borrow other Michael Morpurgo books from the library to read as well. As part of S.T.E.M week we were visited by Mr Matheron and his colleague to learn about engineering as well as Mr Cook the local scout leader who made smoke bombs.



In Geography work we have learnt about fair trade and we have been comparing St. Lucia to the United Kingdom. We enjoyed in RE acting out the daily routine of a Muslim and understanding more about how the Qur'an influences their lives. After half term we are looking forward to learning about the Vikings in History.

Year 6



It's been an exciting start to the year for Year 6, with S.T.E.M. based robot challenges at Sir Herbert Leon Academy; wins at inter school cross country competitions; hosting our own Newton Longville Triathlon race; and creating the first ever Newton Longville news broadcast (which will be available on the school website soon). Alongside this, the Year 6's have also taken on a multitude of maths, english and S.P.A.G. challenges, as well as range of roles and responsibilities across the school. They've all been fantastic and we have high hopes that they will continue to be an absolutely amazing year 6 class.

In the coming term, Year 6 will continue their research into Mayan culture, explore more varied and interesting aspects of healthy eating and body mechanics in science, as well as produce their very own online TV commercials as part of computing and english. They of course will also be continuing their preparation ahead of their S.A.Ts this coming May, with more maths, S.P.A.G and reading comprehensions in lesson time, which will be tied into their homework and reading challenges.



STEM Week!



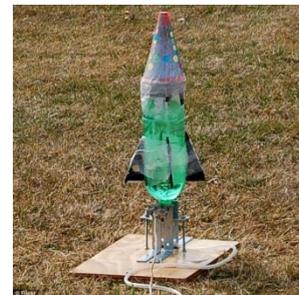
This term saw the first S.T.E.M. themed week held in school and having spoken to some parents, children and staff it was deemed a great success. Each class was involved in engaging activities which were fun and focused on problem solving and investigation skills. We had a good response from parents/relatives who gave up their time to come in and talk to different classes about their S.T.E.M. related jobs plus some Whizz Bang science! They enhanced the children's learning by using their own experiences using images, objects and interactive questioning. Year 6 were involved with Lego Robotics at SHL Academy. Friends of the Earth also came in on the last day and gave a whole school assembly on climate change. We all now certainly appreciate the many interesting opportunities that exist within S.T.E.M. and believe we have some budding engineers and scientists amongst our school community - both boys and girls! The date for **British Science Week 2017** is 10th-19th March which will be an opportunity for classes to revisit some of the successes from S.T.E.M. week.

S.T.E.M. Week Rocket Challenge



Thank you to all the children who spent such a long time building rockets for the Key Stage 1 and 2 school competition. On the day, we had well over 150 rockets, which were all judged on their use of S.T.E.M design and their ability to launch and fly as rockets.

In the Key Stage 1 competition, which was solely based on design and rocket technology, Oscar Stevens, Josie Everitt and Olivia Lorrigio all won awards for design and use of S.T.E.M., while Charlie Feegan's rocket (from Foundation) was even able to be launched as part of the Key Stage 2 launch competition!



In Key Stage 2 the children's competition was also about rocket design, but with the added challenge of having to be able to be launched from the school's purpose-made water rocket launcher. Across the launch afternoon, the children gasped and cheered to well over 50 successful rocket launches, with some rockets flying well over 100m into the air! Finlay Scott and Edward Kenny both won awards on the day for their rocket launches, which were stunning in both flight and their ability to stay intact on landing.

Sadly, a few rockets were unable to be launched due to added modifications that didn't allow them to fit the school launcher or wrong sized bottles used in their construction but all were still judged in the Key Stage 2 design competition, where Mason Curtiss, Nick Ortela and Leo Colucci won awards for best use of S.T.E.M. in their design.

In the afternoon, winners of the Mars Rover KS2 competition were also announced with Luis Scott and Kian Panikker both winning awards for their design and concept.

We hope all the children were inspired by the day and they continue to build fantastic rockets in the future.

Development of Our Nature Area

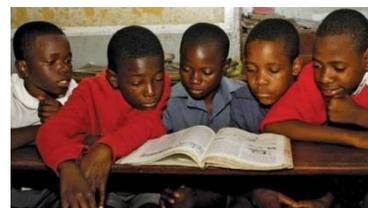


Thank you to the parents who have already kindly donated items for our Science garden or have volunteered their services. We are currently arranging for the area to be cleared so work can begin in earnest after that. There is a small working party in school who are thinking of ways to use the area for outside learning – any assistance from a landscape gardener to help plan the area would be extremely welcome! We will be talking to other children to get their ideas on developing the

area in the future and to try and raise some funds in order to purchase some small items. Look out for the colouring competition during the first week back after half term in order to start this!

Newton Longville School and Magaya School

Hopefully you have already heard the news that we have twinned with Magaya School in Zimbabwe. This is a fantastic opportunity for both schools, and we are all very excited to be part of something so incredible!



We had a group of visitors from Lux E Tenebris, the charity which is already supporting Magaya School. Our children were shown numerous photographs of Magaya School and the children who go there. They were told all about the school and even taught us a playground game and song!

Over half term we hope that you will support your child to write a letter (or two) to a child (or two) of the same age at Magaya School. We will, in time, set up pen-friends between the two schools. We have also asked the children to donate a pencil, notepad, sharpener and rubber please – we will package these up and send them to Magaya School, as we also learned that the children there have very limited resources to use.

We have already heard that the children and Staff are VERY excited about our school's twinning. Obviously we will keep you up-to-date with future developments.

Handy Reminders

Homework

Children are set homework either to consolidate what they have been learning in class or to extend their learning through 'research type projects'. In all cases homework is discussed with the children before it comes home and children are given a week to complete these tasks so that there is plenty of time to come into school and ask for support before it is needed to be handed in. Please encourage your child to start their homework in plenty of time so that they can talk with the teaching team if there is any uncertainty or confusion in the week. If you have any concerns or questions over the work please don't hesitate to contact the class teacher.

Parking (as always!) / Drop off / Pick up times

With the building works at the end of the road it is very difficult we know, however please can we ask you to park carefully for the safety of our children. May I also request that children do not walk across either of the school carparks, but use the paths provided at all times.

Clothes

Please, please name all children's clothes (or get them to). The lost property boxes are overflowing after only a few weeks and many of the clothes look brand new. We do empty the box when they are full and hand back named items.

Letters

Children should be bringing in letters/orders to their class teachers at registration time, these should not go directly to the school office. The letterbox will be moving from outside the office to outside the front door in the very near future. To avoid congestion in the entrance first thing in the morning, please feel free to use this if you would prefer, it will be emptied daily.



- 15th & 17th November - Parents evenings (letters home after half-term)
- 18th November – Children in Need Day
- 7th & 8th December – KS1 Production Evening Performances
- 13th December – Foundation Stage Production Afternoon Performance
- 14th December – Whole school to Panto (Packed lunches needed)
- 15th December – KS2 Evening Carol Service at St Faith's

Have a wonderful half term break!
See you all back at school on Monday 31st October ☺