

# Learning is exciting at Wheatfields Primary!

**Reception** This week in EYFS we have been settling well into the routines of being at school full time. We had our first PE session on Tuesday and we were so proud of the children for all having a go at getting changed independently. We have also begun to write and trace our names in cursive, taking care to whoosh in from the line every time. In the packs given out at our curriculum meeting there is a laminated name card for your child to practice with. Packs will be sent home this week for any one who was unable to attend. We also had our first trip to the school library and the children were excited to choose and check out their first book. Inspired by this we have changed our role play to a library and the children have enjoyed exploring books in the new book tents we have created.

**Year 1** Year 1 has actively been learning the story of Traction Man, through actions, ordering the story and making story maps! We have also had another look at the language of more and less in Maths as well as looking at understanding where our food comes from in Science. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed building on the Picasso sketches to make their own Picasso self-portrait using magazine collage. In Phonics, we have been looking at the alternative pronunciations for 'oa' (eg. goat, boat) including 'ow' (eg. row, bow, tow) and 'oe' (eg. toe).

**Year 2** A knight! A knight actually visited us in school! No one knew he was coming, not even Mr Mills or Miss Mindham! We were visited by a knight who serves the Lord Mills de'Champion and he was not best pleased. He wanted to know why we had not replied to his letter he sent us three weeks ago regarding a terrible beast who is roaming the countryside! Lo and behold, the children of Year Two were not fazed by this mysterious guest and resolutely told him that they would reply to his letter, by writing their own letter, and join forces with Lord Mills de'Champion to defeat this terrible beast! In Maths the learning about number and place value continues with the children looking at different pictorial representations of number values in order to assist them in answer tricky reasoning problems! In spellings we have continued with our work with homophones and in reading we have begun to have inference discussions about texts! In topic we have written our own story about our very own castle which has been very exciting because the children have demonstrated their understanding of all the skills they have learnt over the last three weeks!

**Year 3** Just in time for the return of Dr Who this weekend, year 3 have been time travelling too! To help further our understanding of inverted commas, what we used to call speech marks, year 3 have been examining conversations between Stone Age Boy and his friend Om. In maths we've been doubling and halving, creating number strings. On Monday our classrooms were turned into caves so we could create our cave paintings using charcoal and pastels. But best of all was Thursday when we travelled back to Iron Age times when we visited Flag Fen. We explored artifacts, created our own replicas and even experienced the living conditions inside a round house. We all returned home very grateful to be living in the 21st century.

**Year 4** Year 4 have had another busy week. In literacy this week we have been looking at powerful verbs and noun phrases. We have been looking at expanding our vocabulary by using a thesaurus and editing and improving a piece of text. We have planned our own recount of the events in the beginning of The Lost Happy Endings by writing a diary from the point of view of Jub. The challenge was to include some of our new favourite words as well as fronted adverbial phrases. In maths we have been working on our multiplication skills, we have brushed up on our 3s and 4s and looked at our 6s and 9s in more detail. Please practice these at home, as the children what they found out about the 9 times table. In science we have continued to explore sound by experimenting with string telephones, why not have a go at making one at home!

**Year 5** This week Year 5 has been working tirelessly on Reasoning and Problem in Maths. Maths New Curriculum 2014 has three interlinked strands - Fluency, Reasoning and Problem Solving and in Year 5, children are constantly discussing and exploring their verbal and written responses. It is great to see how children have taken this challenge upon themselves and finding their way through it like a labyrinth. The recurring theme is also part of our everyday classroom language especially in reading, children have been applying their reasoning skills to find evidence from the text and proving their point. It is a hard skill to learn and apply but Year 5 are relying upon their resilience and creativity and are gradually mastering the art of reasoning. World War 2 topic is going wonderfully well and this week we have been finding out about the animals who helped us during the war. Did you know Winky, the pigeon, has fought through the crashing waves of the cold sea and brought home the information that saved thousands of lives? For his bravery and courage, he has been rewarded the Dickens Medal. Children are loving it so much that I have created this week's homework based on Animals' efforts during WW2. Well done Year 5s, we are very proud of you.

**Year 6** Although we have, of course, missed our Year 6 peers and teachers, we have had a fantastic, fun fuelled week in their absence. Our week got off to a great start with 'bridge building' using just newspapers and sellotape. We put our heads together to design a bridge strong enough to carry the weight of a tub of sweets (thank you Mrs Aina and Mrs Cutbush), to be duly shared by the winning team! It wasn't as easy as it initially seemed and most groups had to refine their designs along the way. Our competitive spirit came into being as we nervously watched to see who would be crowned the winners. On Tuesday a pleasurable stroll to the town centre was followed by a gentle meander on the river as we learned some interesting facts about the bridge and our feathered friends. We also took turns at steering the boat! Frothy hot chocolate and a large cookie greeted us in Costa before we made our way back to school. Mrs Cutbush wowed us with her artistic skills on Wednesday as we designed and made clay tiles. Our designs were varied, reflecting our unique personalities and some of our favourite things. Bowling followed on Thursday and we concluded the week learning the rules and tactics of popular board games on Friday. A big thank you to Mrs Merson for a wonderful Music lesson. We had fun exploring the instruments a little more. It has been a week where we have got to know and work with different members of Year 6 and that has been really positive. We can't wait to hear what the rest of Year 6 have been up to in Ironbridge!

**Music** It has been lovely seeing so many children participating in extra curricular music activities. At Wheatfields we have the following instrumental teachers visiting our school: Paul Richards - drumkit; Mr Milgate - clarinet & saxophone; Mrs Magill - flute, recorder, piano; Mrs Brien - violin; John McCully - guitar/ukulele. If your child would like to learn an instrument in school please see Miss Keane at the office. Meanwhile, our Y3 children have learnt a new note on the recorder and enjoyed learning how Saint-Seans used violins to make hen sounds! Y4 are becoming more familiar with the keyboard and Y5 played a phrase from 'We'll Meet Again' on the glockenspiels. The remaining Y6 children had fun exploring instruments and singing their favourite songs!