



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

No 23 – 20th Sept 2019

GOLDEN TIE CHILDREN



We thank our outgoing golden tie children for their brilliant efforts throughout last year, and welcome in the new team for this year! It was a real pleasure, last Friday, to be able to celebrate their achievement in a special assembly. What fantastic role models!

SHAKESPEARE

We are having a fabulous time learning all about The Tempest with Leigh Wolmarans! It's a superb way for the children across the school to engage with the language and stories of Shakespeare. Huge thanks to Leigh for coming back again this year!





CURRICULUM THEMES

Here are the curriculum themes that your children's creative curriculum learning will be based around:

RECEPTION



Our new children are settling in really well, and to support that our theme is 'Under the Sea' linked to 'The Rainbow Fish'. This topic will help them to learn all about themselves, and celebrate how different and unique everyone is!

All of our learning areas are based around the sea theme from writing to counting! Outdoors, we are building boats in the construction area, and creating some beautifully decorated sea creatures for the Reception Art Gallery!

Later this term, we will start our Wild Walks in the Nature area, where we will explore the outdoors, finished off with a bonfire and a hot chocolate!

YEAR ONE





Our curriculum Topic this term is, “How Does Your Garden Grow?” With a strong focus on science and art, we will be looking closely at a range of plants and flowers, how they grow and investigating what else we could grow in our outdoor environment.

The children have already started to look at sunflowers in greater detail and have created some fantastic pieces of Art based on “Sunflowers by Van Gogh”, we’ll also be looking at creating a range of self-portraits using all the things we’d find growing in the garden.

As a part of our exciting creative curriculum, the children will also begin their “Wild Walks” into our Forest Area each week with Mrs Durrant which also links to our new topic, where the children have created some fantastic sculptures using natural materials found outside.

YEAR TWO



This term, Year 2 are studying an Art and DT based topic “On Trend” which will be exploring line, colour and pattern to design and create various textile inspired pieces e.g. tie die, printing, weaving and sewing. We will be using the work of Kandinsky and Gunta Stoltz to influence our art work and learn about inspired them.

At the end of the topic, we will be show casing our work in the form of a fashion show. Parents will have the opportunity to visit us and see all the beautiful creations that we have made!

YEAR THREE





This term we are studying Roald Dahl and his stories. We will be focusing on James and the Giant Peach, looking at James' journey to America and the insects he travels with!

We will be looking at maps, modelling the creatures in clay and creating large textured artwork. We hope to finish off with a trip to the Roald Dahl gallery in the Aylesbury museum!

YEAR FOUR



Year Four are learning all about the rainforest this term! We have been out in the nature area, setting up our camps, which was really interesting (and a lot of fun!). We have 'received' letters from the Amazon, asking us to write a persuasive letter back to them!

We will be doing some fabulous art based around rainforest creatures and hope to have Bugtopia in to experience rainforest creatures in real life!

YEAR FIVE



Year 5's topic for this half term is Britain at War! So far the children have created their own gas masks and designed their own propaganda posters. There's lots of exciting things coming up too including trying out real WW2 rationing recipes and building their own Anderson Shelters.



This topic has already inspired some great writing this half term with the children currently writing their own newspaper articles about the outbreak of war!

YEAR SIX



For our Creative Curriculum this term, Year 6 will be studying 'The Mysterious Maya'.

Children will be able to state when this incredible civilisation began and end, and will be encouraged to question reasons for its demise. The role of gods and religions in Mayan culture will be explored, with children debating the use of sacrifice in ancient sport. They will also play their own updated version of the Maya game, Pok-A-Tok.

We will create portraits of Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo, noting pre-Columbian influences in her work. Children will use books and the Internet to research the countries and cities of Mesoamerica, and will find information about trade, particularly the 'field to fork' journey of one of the main products of the region; chocolate. This focus will culminate in a visit and workshop from a chocolate specialist, giving children an exciting understanding of this important export!

FRIENDS OF PARKLANDS PRIMARY

If you fancy getting involved in school life, and want to help fundraise for our school, please get in touch! Our friends group needs you!

PE

Some of you have spotted a new PE kit in the school uniform shop! We are phasing in a navy blue polo shirt and shorts/tracksuit bottoms. **Please don't worry if your child has just been bought a white tshirt and black shorts!** We will keep both going, and would simply request that whenever the time comes to replace it, you replace with the navy kit (we appreciate this might not be for a year – or event two if you have younger children that you pass down to!)



PARENTPAY

FINAL REMINDER!

If you haven't done so yet, please sign up to ParentPay – this will enable you to book lunches, and pay for trips and music lessons.

It is also how we will send out letters and information to you, as Parentmail will no longer be used after the end of September, so please, please register to ensure that you are getting all the information from school.

TRUST CELEBRATION DAY & GROW CATERING COMPANY

We are having a Trust wide celebration day on 3rd October, where the children can come dressed in anything that celebrates America!

Even Grow are getting involved, and putting on an American themed menu to complement it, so if your child hasn't tried the food, that day would be a good place to start!



PARENT SURVEY

Thanks to those of you that have spent the time responding to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PZ7PMDW>



We will keep it open for a final week, and would love to hear your feedback, so please do take the time to respond. It is only 10 questions, and should take no more than 3 minutes to complete.

PARKING AND DOGS

If you are a parent who needs to drive to school, please, please, please park safely and respectfully. We have heard from a number of residents this past week who have been unable to leave their homes because cars are parked on their driveways, which causes a lot of ill will and could be dangerous if they needed to leave in an emergency. The Spinney pub will always accommodate our parents' cars – although it is a little walk away, the weather is still lovely and it gets everyone active!

Just a reminder that parents cannot drive onto site, unless pre-agreed because of a disability. We are closing the gates at the beginning and end of day to reduce the risk of accidents and to keep our children safe.

As we cannot allow dogs on site, if you bring your dog for a walk whilst you pick up your child, they do need to be left outside. However, as they aren't being watched when tied up, please do make sure that they are securely fastened, as we do not want your precious dogs to be stolen or lost.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We are holding a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 27th September between 10:30am – 11:30 am to raise money for a charity very close to our hearts. Please join us at any point in the hour for a cup of coffee and a slice of cake. Could we please ask for donations of cakes for the event – anything, no matter how small will be gratefully received. If any cakes could be brought in on Thursday 26th or Friday 27th (first thing) we would be very grateful!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 23rd September at 9.05am – Welcome to Year 6 Meeting

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th September at 12.10pm – Reception Intro to Phonics and Handwriting.

Friday 27th September between 10:30am – 11:30am – Macmillan coffee morning

Friday 3rd October – Trust American Celebration Day – children can come in 'American' mufti

Friday 4th October at 2.45pm - Friday Readers start for Reception



Tuesday 22nd & Thursday 24th October – Parents' Evenings

Have a lovely weekend!

Some images from the last couple of weeks:

Exploring and painting in Reception:



Already getting our competitive action going:



Debating in Y6:



Getting creative in Year 2:

