



Swaffham Prior Newsletter

October 2020



Class News

Hedgehogs

In Reception, the children have enjoyed lots of hands-on learning experiences, including baking and spending time in the forest exploring. Much of their learning has been linked to the story of the week—this week it's The Gruffalo. Phonics is also well underway, using our new StoryTime phonics approach.

Swifts

Swifts have been learning all about London and writing postcards and informative visitor guides. In art, they have been looking at the work of L.S. Lowry in readiness to create their own pencil drawings of famous London buildings. The children have been working hard on counting in twos, fives and tens in maths and planning their own stories based on The Three Little Pigs in English.

Bees

Bees have been enjoying a wealth of learning about the Stone Age – they have drawn stone age children, had a fire in the forest and learnt about how tools were made. In English, they have learnt to use similes and to punctuate speech, using the story Stone Age Boy as their stimulus. In maths, they have been learning about place value, as well as perimeter and length. Rocks and soils has been their focus in Science, as well as fossils and the work of famous palaeontologist Mary Anning.

Butterflies

The children have been learning about the Mayans. In art, they are using cardboard looms to make their own woven piece of fabric which will eventually all be joined together to make a large cloth. In maths, Year 5 have been learning about geometry and place value and Year 6 have been focussing on multiplication and division methods and problem solving.



This week, we held our Harvest Festival (Covid Style) and although we couldn't sing the Harvest Calypso with our usual verve, we certainly enjoyed listening to it! Reverend Sue led our service and talked about how food comes from all over the world and how lucky we are that we have access to such a wide range. This linked to the Christian values of compassion and thankfulness.

Due to your generosity, there will be many more local people in the community who will benefit from all your donations that were brought in for the Newmarket Open Door Charity; the table in the corridor was overflowing with goods and I know they will be gladly received at this difficult time. We will be delivering them this weekend.



Have you heard of the antikythera mechanism? Neither had we, and now we can't wait to share our new knowledge! We are excited to be working again with local charity Red2Green on a fantastic new project based around the history of computing – Cogs2Computers. The project will run for the

whole school year, and will give our pupils the opportunity to learn about computers past and present while taking part in a number of interesting and fun activities. We will be linking up (virtually) with learners from Red2Green to share our experiences along the way. The project will finish with us sending a signal into space with a summary of this project, to leave a legacy for the future!

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Black History Month

This month is Black History Month in the UK. It is a celebration of the history, arts and culture of black people in the UK, with the intention of increasing awareness and educating us on topics that are often underreported and underrepresented, thus helping us learn more about our shared history as Britons.

Now more than ever, we are seeing news coverage about black lives, and this is becoming an area of conversation for children, as well as adults. Within school, we want to contribute to the children's understanding of black history, and celebrate the diverse society we live in.

Like many schools this month, we are going to be focusing some of our learning on black history, and learning about some of the many inspiring black role models. Our aim is for each class to learn about an individual or theme, and then share what we have learnt with the rest of the school.

As part of this work, we are asking you to begin having discussions with children at home. Maybe they could begin to find out about inspiring black people through history. Within school, we are looking to increase our resources to support our teaching; so if you have any black or non-European toys, and books with people from other ethnic backgrounds represented, we would greatly appreciate your donations.



Free school meals

School meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are FREE to all pupils, but did you know that children in Years 3 to 6 could also get their hot school meal or packed lunch for free?

If you are in receipt of selected government benefits e.g. Universal Credit, your child may be eligible for free school meals.

To check if you're eligible and start saving today, go to www.gov.co.uk/apply-free-school-meals, or contact the school office.



Key Dates

22nd October 2020 Last day before half term

23rd October 2020 INSET day and online parent consultations

2nd November 2020 Back to school

4th November 2020 Online Parent consultations

8th December 2020—Flu vaccinations in school

18th December 2020—Last day of term

4th January 2021—INSET day

5th January 2021—First day of Spring term

FOSPS NEWS!

FOSPS are planning some upcoming events:

-Christmas cards designed by the children will be available for sale next half term (more information will be on Dojo nearer the time!).

-They are hoping to organise a Panto to visit the school for the children to enjoy.

-Silver Smarties! More information to follow.

FOSPS are always looking for new members. Please speak to the school office or a member of FOSPS if you're interested in joining.

Parent Pay

Parent Pay is coming soon! Pay online for school dinners, trips and clubs. It's easy, quick and safe. Watch out for more information!

