

Message from Mrs Langton:

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the break even though the weather was a bit challenging at times!! It was lovely to see the children back on Tuesday and full of stories about what they had been doing over the last 2 weeks. As you will see from my e-mail on Wednesday, we have been tasked this term with having a big push on attendance and supporting children to attend school on a regular basis. If you are struggling to get your child to school we do have ELSAs in school who can support them so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term, have a lovely weekend.

Dates for your diary:

Next week:

w/c	15 Jan	After school clubs start
Thur	18 Jan	History Day
Fri	19 Jan	History Day

More dates:

w/c	12 Feb	Half term week
w/c	25 March	Easter break (2 weeks)
Mon	6 May	Bank Holiday (May Day)
w/c	27 May	Half term week
Fri	19 July	Last day of summer term

More information will follow regarding individual events.

Parent/Carer's information:

FREE LUNCH - THURSDAY 18 JANUARY

Children can choose from Chinese Chicken Curry or Hotdogs.

Please book on School Money or amend your choice if already pre-booked.

Foundation stage - F1/CG

In the Foundation classroom this week, the children have started learning a new story 'A Hero like you.' They have already started learning the story using signifiers and drawing story maps. We have practised sequencing the different parts of the story and thought of some different ways to describe the character's roles. We have started to use this new vocabulary in our sentence writing. All the children have taken home a copy of the story map we drew, and we can't wait to see their story telling videos on Tapestry.

We have had quite a focus on people who help us this week. The new role-play areas, particularly the police, have been very popular with the children and the variety of emergency vehicles we have to use, has been lots of fun for the F1 children.

The children have begun to build a street scene to fit in the construction areas within the setting. They covered small boxes with newsprint paper and added details of windows and doors to create houses and shops. Please send in any empty boxes you have so we can continue to add more throughout this half term.

We have used the Beebot programmable toy this week to travel to different emergency vehicles. The children have enjoyed programming instructions to make it move forwards, backwards and turn in the right direction.

The F2 children have learnt lots this week about different representations to 8. We learnt a new song using numbers up to 8 with insects and how to represent 8 on a tens frame in different ways but showing that it still shows 8 as the total. We have also focused on the number 7. Our focus is to see 7 in different ways, such as, 7th, which number comes before, after, one less, one more, a seven-sided shape and which two numbers make seven. In F1 the children have focused on counting to 4 through number songs, using a 5 frame to show what 4 looks like and splatting requested amounts to 4.

Outside, the children have had great fun with the different bikes and trikes we have put out. The children have showed us how they can ride the trikes, balance bikes and some children have even shown confidence with riding the 2-wheeler bikes! This will be a challenge for the F2 children as the term goes on.

Finally, on Thursday and Friday next week, the children will focus on learning more about toys from the past. If you have any toys you have kept from your childhood and you would be happy to share them with us, the children would love it if you could pop in with them to share and talk about or even just send a photo through Tapestry for us to look at.

School Attendance:

Our whole school attendance for w/e 21.12.23 was 89.2%
Individual classes were as follows:

F1 - 91.9%	CG - 89.9%	BC - 89.5%
HD - 91.7%	RK - 91.7%	SB - 90.2%
JS - 84.9%	CM - 90.5%	CH - 83.2%

Well done class F1 having the highest attendance last week.

ClassDojo team winners:

w/e 15.12.23 - **Johnson**

w/e 21.12.23 - **Skelley**



Weekly wins so far this school year:

Johnson = 3

Sullivan = 2

Skelley = 3

Wilberforce = 4

Year 1 - BC

It was great to see all the children back at school after the Christmas break and hear about the fun they had over Christmas and the presents they received. They have settled back into school quickly and done lots of good work this week.

In English we have begun a new text. This term we will be looking at how to write instructions and the children began with their cold task which was to write their own set of instructions on making a jam sandwich. The text we are learning is 'How to make fairy dust' so the children have also watched a video of real fairies caught on camera and made their own fairy dust to try to attract some to their own gardens.

In maths we have continued to develop our addition skills. The children have used a range of equipment to help them add numbers within ten and also devised some first, then and now stories to help with counting on.

We have begun to look at our local area in geography. We first recapped the names of the four countries of the UK and the waters that surround them which the children learned last term and then began to talk about human and physical features of the environment. The children learned what these terms mean and were able to sort different human and physical features of the local area. We will follow this up in the coming weeks with a walk around our local area to see which features they can spot.

The jigsaw piece this half term is about dreams and goals so we began by looking at what the words success, achievement and goal mean. The children decorated their own treasure chest of success and put in a coin detailing something they have already achieved. We also talked about what we need to do in order to achieve the goals we set.

In science we are again looking at seasonal changes, this time from autumn to winter. This week we went on a walk around the school grounds to look for signs of winter.

Finally this week in our PE sessions we are learning dance. We learned that in dance we use counts of eight to stay in time with the music and each other. The children were able to sequence a travelling action, an action on the spot and a pose to create a dance based around snow. They enjoyed this very much. Not all children have returned their PE kits to school yet so could I just remind you that, for our next PE session on Monday, they need a white t-shirt, blue or black shorts and sandshoes or trainers in a bag that can remain on their peg until half term. Thank you.

Year 2 - HD

Happy New Year! The children have had a great start to the new term.

In English our toolkit is based on setting descriptions with the children starting by describing a beach setting. They then discovered that seashells and a magic wand had been left in the classroom. We then discussed why they thought they had been left, linking it to new year's resolutions and making wishes. The children then wrote about what they would like to achieve this year and what they would wish for if they had magic wand.

In maths we have moved onto multiplication and division. The children have worked on recognising and making equal groups. They looked at adding equal groups by writing repeated addition sentences. The children were then introduced to the multiplication symbol and used this to show the relation between multiplication and repeated addition.

Florence Nightingale is the famous historical figure the children are finding out about. They started by looking at the period of time she was alive and what her early life was like. They discussed the reasons why she chose to go help the injured soldiers in Scutari as part of the Crimean War.

In RE we have introduced facts and beliefs and discussed what groups children can belong to, thinking about the promises and commitments made when joining a community. They then considered what the children believe and where they get their beliefs and values from.

In science our new topic is Habitats. We have discussed the life processes that shows something is alive and living. We learnt that living things need to breath, move, reproduce and grow amongst other things. The children then sorted the objects into living, dead and never living.

Remember PE days are Monday and Thursday. Their kit should consist of a white t-shirt, black shorts and sandshoes.

Year 3 - RK

Great first week back after New Year in Year 3. It sounds like all of the children have had a wonderful break spending time with their families. In our English lessons this week, we have begun a new text 'Where the wild things are'. We have been exploring boats, where boats go, who works on boats and different types of boats. We have also looked at adverbial starters and using the correct punctuation to demarcate one. In maths, we have begun looking at division of two digit numbers. Some children are beginning to access this mentally, which is amazing. To be able to do this children need to have good recall of times tables facts, so now would be a good time to use TTRockstars at home. As well as this, during our Fluency in Five sessions we have been using some dividing skills to look at simple fractions like halves and quarters. Our More Maths Friday topic is continuing with money, we are looking at adding amounts of money and counting up a range of different coins. In Jigsaw, we discussed challenges people face, whether that be a disability, a fear or even just pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones. For our Science lesson this week, we have looked at naming the specific part of a flower head. There was a lot of technical vocabulary which will be consolidated with our practical lesson next week. We would like to say thank you to those who are reading and practising spellings at home, especially those who have been reading over the break. Looking forward to another amazing week in Year 3, have a great weekend.

Year 4/5 - SB/JS

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break. It has been so good to see all of the children back in school this week and hear about all of the nice things they experienced over the holiday. New topics for the Spring term, SB will be learning about Around the World focussing on continents, oceans and countries whilst JS will be looking at Our World, focussing on the environment and climate change. In Reading, we have also started new class texts with SB looking at Anthony Browne's Voices in the Park and JS at Micheal Morpurgo's Running Wild. This week we have all made predictions about what we think our texts will be about and then began to read the first parts looking at new vocabulary and comprehension questions based on the text. Something new for both classes in English as well this week. SB have started learning a text called The Alien Landing and will start looking at the action toolkit and JS are learning The Tunnel and will be using the dialogue toolkit focussing on speech in narratives and how to punctuate this. In maths this week, JS have been learning about equivalent fractions and SB have been learning about multiplication and division. Starting new topics is always really exciting and we have been really proud of the way the children have come back eager and excited to learn. After school clubs will be starting next week so please make sure you have signed up if you wish to attend.

Year 6 - CM/CH

What a great first week back we've had in Y6 this week! We have begun focusing on decimals in our maths lessons, with us revisiting the skills of multiplying and dividing decimals by 10,100 and 1,000. We have also begun looking at the skill of using and reading a protractor in order to measure acute and obtuse angles. In Reading, we have started to read Michael Morpurgo's short story 'The Giant's Necklace', exploring what our first impressions of the protagonist, Cherry, are. For English, we have been hooked into our new text 'The Roar' by being shown some different objects found within the journey tale, such as a monkey, a pod fighter and some tools, before then beginning to learn the story using actions. We have also had a big focus on GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) and are enjoying hearing a different GPS song each day! Our Science unit this term is light and we have had a think, this week, about everything we think we know about this topic - such as how shadows are formed and how we can see silver coins better than black buttons when it is dark - ready to learn more about light as the weeks progress. In Jigsaw, we have thought about our dreams and goals for 2024 and our final months at Appleton and in R.E. we have thought about who in our lives inspire and influence us. Even though we have experienced some very cold weather and been in the hall for our P.E. lessons this week, we have developed some skills which are needed to play cricket. We have practiced accurate under-arm and over-arm throwing, how to bowl the ball with one bounce towards a target and also had some fun trying to bat the ball into an empty space. We have also begun looking at our new topic of Our World, with us exploring which biome and climate zone the Amazon Rainforest falls within and also discussing which physical features we'd expect to find in a rainforest.