



Dear Parents and Carers

We have been excited to welcome our new Reception and Nursery pupils and their families to school as they begin their learning journey with us this half term – it has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled into school and how much they have been enjoying their learning. All parents and carers had the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and to understand more about the curriculum which will be studied, meeting the class staff. This term, we have welcomed Ms Mohamed and Ms Boyle as part of the team in Reception. We would also like to send our congratulations to Miss Tutt, whose baby was born at the start of October, and Mrs Treadaway, who is expecting her first baby in the Spring Term.

All classes in Key Stages 1 and 2 held elections at the start of the year to choose their School Councillors and throughout the year, they will meet to decide on projects that they would like to organise in the school. Across this term, the School Council have led a number of successful fundraising events, including the Macmillan afternoon cake sale and coffee drop in, the school discos and the Halloween Hunt. They will be deciding which school projects the money from the last two events will be spent on shortly.

Through our assemblies, pupils have learnt more about the school rules and how these link to British Values: this focus will continue after the half term break. There were assemblies and activities across the school based on the PANTS rule to support pupils to keep safe. Pupils have built on their prior learning through a whole school focus on Black History Month activities this week and we continue to celebrate the achievements and impact of key individuals from different cultures that help us to understand our place in Britain today. We have also shared and celebrated learning through class assemblies which will continue across the school year. This half term, pupils in Emerald, Jasper, Amber and Saffron Classes have shared their learning with their parents and carers.

Our half term homework is around the theme of Remembrance, and we would encourage all families to think about this theme and to complete one of the activities suggested. We look forward to seeing all the homework on display when we return to school on Monday 4th November.

To support pupils' learning, we also build in a range of trips, workshops and practical activities and we saw the first of these this half term. Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum as part of their focus on World War Two. As parents and carers will know from the letters sent on ParentMail, more trips and workshops are planned for the next half term.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in ensuring that pupils are in school on time and every day as we know how important attendance is to build confidence and friendships as well as pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding. We wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to seeing all pupils back in school on Monday 4th November.

Mrs Sulma

Nursery

The Nursery team is very pleased that all pupils in Rainbow Nursery have settled in well and thank you for all your support in the morning to make the dropping-off process run smoothly.

Nursery pupils have made much progress already by coming into Nursery confidently and saying goodbye to their adults at the door. They are beginning to build lovely friendships with each other: they are learning to look after each other and be kind to each other.

This half term our Power of Reading book was 'Owl Babies'. Pupils really enjoyed the story and were able to talk about the characters in the story, as well as describing what happened to the characters.

In Literacy, pupils drew pictures of the characters in the story. They were able to retell the story through using pictures they had drawn. It was lovely to see pupils comparing the owl family to their own, relating it to people who care for them and make them feel safe. The pupils have begun to self-register using name cards, recognising the initial sound in their name.

In Maths, pupils have been learning to use recognise when group of objects have more, fewer or the same. They have been able to use their learning independently, particularly when using blocks to build their towers. This then developed nicely onto the pupils exploring and building with shapes and objects. The pupils particularly enjoyed making patterns this half term. They used loose parts as well as paint to begin making patterns into a line.

The inside role-play area was a 'Supermarket'. Pupils took on the role of a shopkeeper and a shopper. They particularly enjoyed going to the shop to purchase items for the home role-play, using the food to make dinners. Nursery pupils have learned to share, take turns and care for one another through this area.

The outside role-play area was a 'Fire-station'. Pupils enjoyed rescuing their peers from the fire. They also learnt what to do in a fire and often role-played calling 999 for the fire fighters to come.

As part of Expressive Arts and Design, pupils enjoyed using different musical instruments inside and outside to make unique sounds. Pupils have been exploring the use of different colours to express their ideas particularly through mixing paints and making different colours. They also enjoyed using different objects, such as leaves, to make different prints and patterns.

We are looking forward to a lot more exciting learning opportunities next half term!

Reception

This half term, Reception have had a very exciting and busy start, settling into their new surroundings and routines. Pupils have had opportunities to explore both indoors and outdoors, where they have been able to engage in different play scenarios. They have been attending to injuries and illnesses in the Hospital, fixing cars in the Mechanic's Garage, and having birthday celebrations in the Home Corner. Pupils have enjoyed talking about their families and the different celebrations they have, as well as becoming aware of their emotions and feelings.

In our Power of Reading lessons, the children have become familiar with the story 'So much' and have listened to and retold the story multiple times. Pupils have listened to the story, retold it using repeated phrases and ordered the events using the illustrations of the characters. In addition to this, pupils have used the key phrases to match to the characters as a way of correctly sequencing the events in the story. They have enjoyed discussing birthdays and all of the things associated with birthday parties and have had opportunities to draw and write their own lists for what they would need for a successful birthday party.

With birthdays and celebrations being a focus of the story, pupils have been making and creating party decorations using a range of materials in the creative area. As well as this, pupils had the opportunity to choose different boxes and containers to wrap as birthday presents and to decorate them for their chosen recipient.

Pupils have worked hard in Phonics, learning and revising sounds and using their 'Fred Fingers' and 'Fred Talk' to spell and read new and familiar words. Doing so has allowed the pupils to apply their writing skills across the provision in a range of contexts such as labels, lists and names.

In maths, pupils have explored different ways to compare and sort different items and amounts. They have looked at things that are the same and things that are different and sorted items based on their features. Following this, pupils have developed their subitising skills, looking at amounts and knowing how many there are without counting. Using this, they have been able to sort dot patterns and arrangements into categories based on value. Throughout the learning environment, pupils have been exposed to numbers, amounts and representations and have engaged in many numerical activities over the course of the half term.

There have been lots of songs, rhymes and games for the pupils to engage with during their learning and this will continue into next half term's learning. We are excited about our upcoming topics, and look forward to seeing the children when they return from the half term break.

Year 1

In Year 1 this term our focus book was 'Traction Man'. It is a wonderful story about a toy named Traction Man who comes to life and goes on exciting adventures!

In English lessons, pupils have been learning to write in sentences. Pupils can now use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in their writing. They can use these skills to write their own captions, using their learning from the daily phonics lessons to sound out and write words.

Pupils have also learnt to write diary entries and thank you cards linked to the story.

Year 1 have been learning about numbers and place value in Maths. They have learnt to recognise numbers using pictures and physical resources. The pupils have been taught about numbers to 100 and what different decades are, as well as securing their understanding of number bonds.

Our Year 1 scientists have learnt to identify, describe and classify materials based off of the senses you would use for those materials. They have explored their own senses and have even created sensory bottles.

In History lessons, pupils have thought about how they celebrate their own birthdays today and the ways in which this happened for birthdays in the past. They have identified the similarities and differences between birthdays and linked this to how toys have changed from the past to now.

In Design and Technology, the pupils have designed and made their own windmills. Pupils were also able to test their windmills and evaluate them, saying how successful the materials that were used were.

Pupils have learnt about their sense of belonging to a community through our RE learning. They have learnt to use the right names for beliefs, practices and objects that are special to the religions of Gurmat and Christianity, and how objects show belonging.

During PSHE lessons, pupils have learnt about what is similar and different about us and our friends and what makes us special. They have also discussed that even though we are all different this is a good thing.

Year 1 has learnt about the importance of online safety in our Computer Studies and can now log into Purple Mash using their passwords, and know how to create and save work.

As part of their learning in music, pupils have learnt how to find the beat in a piece of music and how to use this to keep time when singing or playing.

PE lessons will continue to be on Tuesdays so please ensure that your child comes to school dressed in the correct PE kit. We have had a very busy Autumn term in Year 1 and are looking forward to Autumn 2!

Year 2

Our Power of Reading book for this half term was "The Jolly Postman". It tells the story of a postman delivering letters to different fairy tale characters on his route.

Pupils discussed how the different characters are feeling and predicted how they reacted to the different letters. They created a story map showing the journey the Jolly Postman makes as he delivers the letters. Pupils also had the opportunity to perform different nursery rhymes and then used everything they had learned to write back to the Jolly Postman to thank him for sharing his journey with us.

In Maths, pupils used their knowledge of place value and number value to create their own number lines and used their number bonds to carry out calculations. This continued with pupils learning more about addition and subtraction of numbers and solved missing number problems.

Pupils learned about healthy animals, including how animals grow and develop from babies into adults. Pupils compared the babies and the adults, identifying similarities and differences between them.

As part of their study of how life has changed over time, pupils learned about how schools now are different to schools in the past. Pupils created timelines to show the progression of how schools have changed, from the subjects studied and equipment inside the classroom to the uniform the children are wearing.

In Computing, pupils learned about coding. Pupils experimented with writing their own code and saw how this affected their program. They learned the correct vocabulary to use when coding to help them describe what is happening.

For the first half of the Autumn term, Year 2's creative topic was Art and Design. Pupils researched maps and experimented with how to draw a map themselves, both in 2D and 3D forms. This linked to the work of Emma Johnson and pupils were able to choose different materials to add to their initial map drawing to change this from a 2D drawing to a 3D piece of art.

The focus in PSHE this half term was 'What Makes a Good Friend?' Pupils examined what a good friendship looks like and how we can build up friendships when we are in situations where friends are hard to come by.

In RE, pupils learned about why rules are important. They explored the rules of Judaism and compared them to the rules we have at school. This also linked to the British Value of the Rule of Law.

In Music, pupils learned about pulse, rhythm and pitch through a song titled "Music is in my Soul". They explored different genres of music through the listening activities and learned how to improvise with a song through composing and improvising.

Year 2 will continue to have PE lessons on Thursdays, therefore all pupils are expected to come dressed in the correct PE kit on the day. We would also ask parents and carers to ensure that all items of clothing are named to help if an item is lost.

Year 3

Our Power of Reading book this half term was 'Ug'. Pupils used this book throughout the curriculum.

Pupils made predictions about what the book is about using the front cover. They looked at the illustrations alongside the story and discussed how this contributes to the meaning. Through the story, pupils developed an understanding of the Stone Age, which supported their learning in history.

Through the history lessons, pupils learnt about the period of prehistory from the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. Pupils investigated different artefacts which help us understand what happened in the past. Based on what they had found out from the sources used, pupils decided whether they would have liked to be alive in the Stone Age and explained why.

In Science, the topic this half term was 'Keeping Healthy'. Pupils created a 'gym' where they learnt to be personal trainers. Pupils studied the food groups and how they contribute to a healthy diet. They learnt more about different parts of the body, including bones and muscles and how these work together to allow the body to move.

Alongside this, in DT, pupils studied cooking and nutrition. They learnt about different foods and their origins, moving onto seasonal foods. Pupils tasted and created different recipes for vegetable tarts, learning how to evaluate them effectively.

Pupils studied Gurmat and Christianity this half term with a focus on 'Does it matter what we wear?' Pupils looked at their own identify, moving onto religious garments and what importance these have.

In PSHE, pupils thought about friendship. They discussed what makes a good friend and how friendships are maintained. Pupils looked at how to solve friendship issues and practised through acting out scenarios to develop their understanding of problem solving.

In Music, pupils looked at writing music down. Pupils learnt different songs and were able to recognise the rhythm, beat and tempo of different parts of them. This then built up to a performance for them at the end of the half term using glockenspiels.

In computing, pupils developed further their knowledge of coding. Pupils understood how to enter algorithms into a computer to enable it to carry out an instruction. Pupils then moved onto learning about keeping safe online and who they can go to for help and advice in different circumstances.

In Spanish, pupils learnt the Spanish greetings and when it is appropriate to use these. They also looked at colours and numbers.

P.E. will continue to be on a Wednesday afternoon after the half term break, so please ensure pupils come in the correct PE kit on this day.

If you ever have any questions or queries, please do speak to a member of the Year 3 team.

Year 4

During this half term, pupils have been working hard across all subjects.

Pupils have learnt about numbers up to 10,000 and have been able to add and subtract 4 digit numbers using column addition and subtraction. They are able to convert different measurements such as millilitres into litres and millimetres into metres and metres into kilometres. Whilst learning this pupils were able to solve word problems involving these measurements. Pupils have also been able to compare 4-digit numbers by looking at the place value of different digits.

Our Power of Reading topic 'Rhythm of the Rain' has allowed pupils to write a range of different text types such as a biography, retelling a story and letters. Pupils have been able to look at the water cycle from the perspective of the text and learnt a range of vocabulary that can describe water.

As part of the science curriculum, pupils have been learning about electricity. They have been able to create simple working circuits and, using this knowledge, made their own buzzer game similar to 'Operation'. During the creative process of creating these circuits children had the opportunity to learn about electrical safety, the electrical symbols used in scientific drawings and conductors and insulators.

The history focus was on how childhood has changed throughout Tudor, Victorian and modern times. Specifically, pupils used their historical skills to gather information from a variety of secondary and primary sources. Pupils learnt about the different jobs children had in the past and how their rights changed due to Lord Shaftesbury's consistent support for children through the variety of bills he presented in Parliament.

During art lessons, pupils looked at different drawing styles, using different techniques but focusing on shading, proportions, contrast and tones based around the work of artists including Ruscha, Seurat and Giacometti. Pupils used different media to create their own compositions such as charcoal, sketching pencils, wax and scissors. Pupils were also able to work together to create a large collaborative end piece that displayed a variety of skills that they had learnt throughout the topic.

In PSHE, pupils were able to look at skills and attributes that they all have. Throughout the half term, they discovered more about themselves and each other through class discussions surrounding their strengths, weaknesses and interests. Pupils are able to talk about what they can do to improve their weaknesses as well as what they could do if they find something difficult.

Pupils explored combinations of different timbres and are able to explain how expressions can change in different music. Pupils were able to use this knowledge when performing different songs.

During RE pupils answered the question 'Who do we look to for inspiration and why?' Pupils learnt about how Jesus is inspirational to Christians and why the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is inspiration to Muslims and how he inspired his followers.

Pupils built upon their knowledge of Spanish by being able to name different rooms in a class and recapping their knowledge of numbers between 0-20.

In computing, pupils were able to create their own simple games on Purple Mash using their coding knowledge that has been built upon throughout the half term.

Pupils in Emerald Class will continue to have swimming on Wednesday mornings and Jasper will continue to have P.E. on this day so please ensure your child has the correct kit on that day.

Year 5

Well done on completing the first half-term of year 5!

The Power of Reading book this half term was 'Floodland,' which aided pupils in their understanding of climate change and the avoidable effects they will aim to combat. Through their exploration of the book, pupils used its context for inspiration in their writing. Alongside this, in SPAG lessons, pupils learnt how to use tenses and apostrophes. Pupils will also distinguished between the language of speech and writing.

In Maths lessons, pupils will developed their understanding of decimal fractions and money. Pupils linked their knowledge of decimal notation to recording of money when carrying out calculations. Over the course of the half term, pupils also explored how calculating the difference between two amounts can create negative and positive numbers.

Over the course of the term, in science, pupils studied Earth and Space. They learned about how the different planets in the solar system move and explored how different theories in the past contributed to our understanding, through the work of Copernicus and Galileo. Following that, pupils investigated forces and how they act, including gravity.

During Design and Technology lessons, pupils built circuits to create "doodlers" to a target user. They were able to use their prior learning about electrical circuits to support in their project. Pupils evaluated their product after building them to see if it met the design criteria.

In Computing, pupils will learnt to code and add variables to their programs to create a simple game. They also learnt about working with spreadsheets. Pupils built on their existing knowledge of online safety and how they can report anything they are worried about to others. Throughout Music this half term, pupils have explored and aimed to create and perform melodies and harmonies. They have had the opportunity to play music with glockenspiels, creating their own compositions.

During History lessons, pupils have been learning about the Vikings, developing their knowledge through the use of sources in order to conclude if they were raiders, traders or settlers. Pupils analysed and drew inferences from a range of sources to help them to answer this question.

In Spanish lessons, pupils continued to develop their understanding of the Spanish language and have practiced how to write, read and say what they like and dislike about subjects at school.

As part of the PSHE curriculum, pupils considered what makes up their identity and how to challenge stereotypes and discrimination. This also linked to learning in RE where pupils will explored how different places of worship serve the community, through studying the activities in Christian churches and the Gurdwara.

As a reminder, pupils are expected to wear the correct PE kit every Thursday for their PE lessons.

Please also keep an eye on the school's website for updates and 'Wow Work', information regarding the wider curriculum and for a chance to see the wonderful work our pupils create. If you have any questions, please feel free to email in and a member of the Year 5 team will get back to you.

Year 6

During this first half of the Autumn Term, pupils have spent time as a class exploring and examining our Power of Reading novel, "The Missing. The True Story of My Family in World War II" by Michael Rosen.

Pupils have used this text to delve into real life characters, who lived during World War II: they wrote character descriptions as well as writing in the role of these characters. Pupils discussed the events that took place during the Holocaust and used this learning to empathise with the victims, writing a letter to a survivor.

Within maths, pupils have looked at calculating using knowledge of structures. This has enabled them to use a combination of different parts and explained how they can be equivalent to the same whole and represented these in expressions. They also identified missing parts using their knowledge of part whole relationships and structures. Pupils then investigated multiples of thousands within number and word problems.

Our topic in science was 'light'. Pupils were lab experts and helped to solve a crime. During this topic, pupils carried out a variety of investigations and experiments to study how light travels, how shadows are formed and how colours can affect light. They recorded their observations and evaluated their experiments.

Throughout this half term, in history, pupils studied the local census, its relevance in the 21st century and compared past census documents to current ones. Pupils used a range of sources while they became historians to deepen their understanding of the information that can be gathered through the local census.

In Year 6, during PSHE lessons, pupils focussed on the key question 'How can we keep healthy as we grow?' thinking about or physical and mental health alongside how to make choices that support having a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Pupils participated in discussions and, towards the end of the half term, started to give advice to those who would need it.

In computing, pupils explored coding and debugged systems as well as creating their own games through programming.

Pupils studied the topic of 'Revisiting me' in Spanish; this covered the understanding of numbers from 1-60, time and their daily routine. Pupils secured their understanding of the Spanish subject verb agreement through writing about themselves.

'Is it better to give or receive?' was the key question in RE. Pupils explored Islam to understand how Muslims express their faith through practice. Pupils also related this to their own experiences as well as the British Values.

In music, Music and Technology was the focal point. Pupils focussed on the question 'How does music bring together?' which encouraged them to be responsible and kind citizens of the world. Pupils used glockenspiels and their vocals to perform the different songs.

In Art, pupils created photomontages through the inspiration of Hannah Hoch; they created collages and assembled different pieces to create a whole picture. Pupils have also used iPads to explore editing in the style of key artists.

PE for Year 6 will continue to take place on Tuesdays so all pupils should come to school dressed in the correct PE kit on that day. Pupils who attend swimming lessons should bring their swimming kits to school on Wednesdays.

We would like to wish you a wonderful half term break.