

School Newsletter—Wednesday 24th November 2021



We've had a busy start to the second half of our autumn term! School continues to be a busy, positive place to be and we have been pleased to be able to open the doors and welcome prospective parents in for our Reception open events. Later this term, we look forward to welcoming family members into school for our Christmas performances.

Talking of Christmas, our whole-school reading project has begun. This year, we are reading 'The Christmashauss and the Winter Witch' and, like last year, we'll all be reading together via virtual assemblies and recorded chapters. It's fantastic to hear children across school discussing the story, making predictions and sharing their favourite parts/characters. It is also a lovely way to countdown to Christmas.

This edition of our school newsletter includes updates on the wonderful learning happening in school so far this term, a staffing update, exciting funding news, Christmas information and news of the return of our Leader's Coffee Morning. I hope you enjoy taking a moment to catch up on what is happening in our school.

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Middleton, Head of School

Staff update:

Mrs Heath will be leaving Sutton Park at Christmas to start a new adventure working in a Pupil Referral Unit. We wish her all the very best for this new chapter in her career and thank her for her hard work, efforts and commitment to our pupils during her time here. We are currently recruiting a replacement teacher for her class and will update 5H parents in due course.

360 tour and video prospectus:

You may remember us working with a professional videographer last year and requesting permission for photography etc. You can now find the finished products on our school website.



The 360 tour showcases the inside of our school, enabling watchers to explore in full 360 vision. The video prospectus gives a greater insight into our school including our values, our hopes and aims for the future, and what makes our school unique. The end results are fabulous - I hope you enjoy exploring them.



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Breakfast club funding:

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded a £1000 grant to enhance our breakfast club provision. This Kellogg's funding incentive will make such a difference to the activities, toys and resources our breakfast club children can access each day. We are extremely grateful to the people at Kelloggs Breakfast Club Grants Programme and look forward to seeing our breakfast club provision develop in the coming months.



Kellogg's

Christmas performances:

A Covid-19 risk assessment has been written to enable us to allow parents/family members into school for this years performances. This is important due to some rises in the local infection rates in/around Sutton Coldfield. A separate letter will follow to explain the process in greater detail. As explained in my initial Christmas events letter, tickets will be restricted to one per pupil, per performance. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with the measures in place. Many schools are not offering in person events at all but we know how important these events are, for both parents and pupils. Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible, supporting us to ensure these events are a huge success and every child has their chance to shine!



Building work:



A significant amount of money has been invested in improving our school building since we converted in to an academy school. Most recently, this involved replacing the majority of windows in school and fixing new cladding to the exterior of school too. In the summer holidays all classrooms were repainted and last weekend, new blinds were fitted across school. I am sure you will agree that they look amazing! It is wonderful to see our school looking much-improved and our pupils learning in environments which they deserve. These improvements have undoubtedly supported with creating a calm, purposeful learning environment for all pupils. We are very grateful to the PACT site team for all of their hard work and efforts in ensuring these improvements were completed.

Coffee morning:

Sharing progress in our improvement and seeking feedback have always been important to us but sadly, the pandemic and subsequent restrictions have prevented us from hosting the regular workshops with parents we had planned.

Now that restrictions are lifting and we are able to begin in school events again, we would like to invite parents to join us for a coffee morning on Thursday 6th January at 9am. This will enable us to update attendees on our improvement journey so far, seek further feedback on current provision and share plans for the future too. Refreshments will be provided.

Moving forward, we hope to host these termly as originally planned. Thank you,

Mrs Middleton and Mrs Dunning



Our Covid catch up response: You may be aware that all schools have been allocated specific funding to support in addressing the 'catch-up' need created by the pandemic. At Sutton Park, we will be investing this money in a number of ways including: resources, intervention staffing and catch up tuition. A specific plan for this has been written and will be published on our school website in December. We are working hard to ensure that ALL pupils benefit in some way from this additional money as ALL pupils have been affected in some way by Covid disruptions.

Nursery have had an amazing start to the year. As a class they are kind, caring and respectful of each other's views and opinions, which in our youngest children is a credit to both our school and our community. At the moment we are busy preparing for Christmas and our Nativity which is going to be a Headline event! The Zog's are working so hard learning songs, lines, and dances. Mum's, Dad's and other family members have your tissues at the ready because I guarantee emotions will be running high. The Zogs enjoyed joining in with World Nursery Rhyme week so much that we have extended the week to a fortnight. The breadth of language being shared is outstanding and the vast knowledge of different Nursery Rhymes is growing each day. It has been so lovely listening to the Zog's share with their friends the Rhymes that they are familiar with and watching them listen carefully and take time to learn the Rhymes that their friends know. Collaboration is definitely a strength in Nursery this year!

Reception:

Reception have been focusing on PSHE, especially friendships, this half term. We have looked at what makes a good friend and how to be kind to others.

We have also been immersed in nursery rhymes for national nursery rhyme week, and there has been singing and dancing throughout the unit!

Year 1: Year 1 started this half term with a bang by using firework poetry as a stimulus for our writing. We learnt about amazing adjectives and used these to write our own descriptions of fantastic fireworks too! In Science we are learning all about different parts of our bodies and how we use our senses to find out about the world around us. Our visit to the polytunnels continued our learning about this and Mrs Holder helped us to make a skeleton out of natural materials! Our PE sessions have been lots of fun and we have been developing our 'Teamwork' and 'Dance' skills. We are currently working hard to prepare for our Christmas performance and can't wait to share it with our families.

Year 2:

Year 2 continue to focus on The Great Fire of London and have been creating several pieces of Art around this topic. We have been looking at the artist Lieve Verschuier, who painted a scene of the fire and the children have used this as inspiration for their drawings, collages and paintings.

In the core subjects we have been practising and learning how to do complete the column method within maths, along with exchanging tens and ones. In literacy, we have looked at a variety of poems and have been creating our own using effective language, such as onomatopoeia. We have started a new topic in science called animals including humans. We have been learning about animals offspring and their adults, as well as growing up and the basic needs of survival.

The children have been really engaged this half term with our new learning and have been contributing their ideas as well as listening well to others.

Year 3: Year 3 have really enjoyed exploring their class texts. We came into class one morning and discovered some magic crayons, just like in our text Quest. It's a brilliant story that's told entirely through picture. The children have really enjoyed developing their oracy skills through telling the story. Year 3 have been really engaged with their topic, The Stone Age, and were really interested to learn about Stone Henge and Skara Brae. They made some beautiful Stone Age inspired art, using watercolours to create a sunset and black paper to create the silhouette.

Year 4:

Year 4 have been fascinated by our scientific topics this term, with exciting experiments into tooth decay and solids, liquids and gases. We are especially looking forward to our upcoming practical exploration of changes of state, where we will be investigating the three different reversible states of water - using ice lollies.

We are particularly enjoying our latest class text, The 13-Storey Treehouse, written and illustrated by Andy Griffith's and Terry Denton. This hilarious adventure has not only engaged the children in their learning within reading, but has also formed the basis of our, persuasive writing, as the children were tasked with advertising and selling their very own luxury treehouse.

As part of the wider curriculum, we have looked at the historical context of Ancient Rome, immersing ourselves in the expansion of the empire and embracing the lasting legacy of Roman invasions. Finally, the children have also been enthused by our latest art project: developing their graffiti skills, our budding artists are imitating the street art and murals of world-renowned French artist, Noe Two. We have explored the themes and context of his works and practiced a range of painting and drawing techniques, use of tone and neon colour palettes. The children are building to a grand final piece, which will be a self-portrait which represents and celebrates their unique identities.

Year 5:

This half term, Year 5 have begun to immerse themselves into their new book - Who Let the Gods Out. We have met the characters; Elliot, Mrs Porshley-Plum, Josie and even the constellation Virgo. We have looked at different myths and legends and have even debated as a class which of these were better. This helped us to develop our Oracy skills and learn to disagree respectfully. We have also been fortunate enough to have Miss Francis, from PA High, in on Fridays to help us with our Art lessons. We have been learning a skill called etching and are now creating self-portraits using this skill. Finally, we have a visit to the polytunnel coming up, to enjoy a session of 'Roots to Fruits'.

Year 6: This half term, Year 6 have been immersed into the world of Ebenezer Scrooge. We have been using our inference skills to help us learn and understand more about the characters of the book. We have also been using A Christmas Carol to help us create some fantastic extended writing pieces. We have written about the snow-filled streets that Scrooge lives on and a news report about Scrooge's Counting House. In History and Geography, we have been learning about our topic of World War 2. We have learnt lots about The Battle of Dunkirk, how life changed in Britain during the war and the leaders of WW2. This has also inspired our Design and Technology project of the making of our Spitfires which the children are thoroughly enjoying making and learning about how the British Royal Air Force helped defend our country using these planes. Year 6 have also enjoyed their P.E. lessons this half term, they are learning how to work and communicate in teams in Outdoor Adventurous Activities and then putting this into practice when playing Dodgeball. Miss Trowman and Miss Dhillon are so proud of Year 6's achievements so far and cannot wait to see all of their successes as the year continues.