



Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 1st April 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been wonderful seeing the sun come out and the days draw on longer. The sounds of birds around the school and the sun streaming in through the windows has certainly supported the continued, impressive development and learning taking place across our setting. This week has been a busy week with some staff absence but the children have remained calm, polite and purposeful, ensuring they are focused and engaged with whoever has been in class with them.

This week we had our Local School Committee Meeting where our members report the progress they have seen on visits and through monitoring they have completed over the term. Our team is a strong and successful group of individuals with backgrounds from teaching, educational psychology, leadership management, working for the Diocese and much more. We are very fortunate to have such a strong group to support the ongoing development of the school. I know that they will be sending a letter out in due course introducing themselves more.

Next week we have our Easter Service (Monday 4th April at 2pm) we look forward to welcoming you to this and celebrating another successful term.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.
Kind regards,
Mrs. Sharpe.



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Key dates:
4th April 2-3pm Easter Assembly
8th April – Last day of term
25-27th April Yr 3&4 Residential
7-9th June Yr 5&6 Residential

Focus virtue this week:
Helpfulness

Academic

Owls: Owls have been celebrating differences with our focus on Africa. We enjoyed exploring the different feel, smell and taste of the different fruits in Handa's Surprise. Some fantastic describing words were made - spikey, smooth, bumpy and squishy. We had a taste of the different fruits, the mango and passionfruit were the favourites!



Hedgehogs: Over the past couple of weeks the children have been learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They have enjoyed going on shape hunts around the school and their homes, teaching them that shapes are everywhere we look!



Squirrels: Today we have spent lots of time learning and practicing our TED talks about Mother Teresa. We watched some examples of children giving TED talks and have really focused on speaking slowly and clearly. It has been amazing seeing everybody's confidence in public speaking grow and the Squirrels are now excited to perform their talks!

Foxes: This week we have completed our unit on fractions, we have started looking at decimals and what decimals are. We have also completed our research projects and Children have been working on their TED talks either in school or at home! These are starting to come together nicely.

Badgers: We have now completed our unit on stories from other cultures so this week we began to learn about instructions. We had great fun linking instruction writing to the Mayan people when we imagined a Mayan person in today's times. We thought about explaining how to use a mobile phone or a chrome book and realised how precise our instructions would need to be and how difficult it would be for a person from ancient times to understand the technologies we have today.

Page 3

Character

Owls: Owls have completed their good deeds for their helpfulness virtue, the results of their hard work has been pennies for the Ukraine appeal. The children have enjoyed seeing their success and putting coins in the bucket. Owls have raised £54.76! We made a coin trail with the money around the hall to see how far the money would stretch.



Hedgehogs: Last week the children demonstrated their character virtues of courage, determination, cooperation and resilience when taking part in some cricket coaching. This was a new experience for some of our Hedgehogs and they participated brilliantly!



Squirrels: Squirrels have been learning all about the events of the Easter Story. Although a sad story, we reflected on the uplifting ending. We also discussed the different character virtues shown by the characters throughout the story and all agreed that Jesus showed lots of Courage throughout the whole thing!

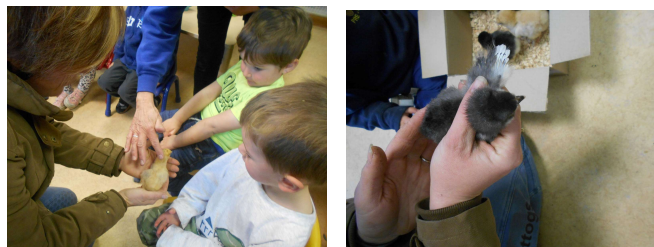
Foxes: This week we have been practicing our assembly for Easter next week, the children have demonstrated courage and patience whilst learning their words and even speaking in front of others. We have also looked at what being honest means and when we need to be honest and why it is always the right thing to do.

Page 4

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Community

Owls: Owls enjoyed a visit from Rosie and Bonnie's chicks this week! The chicks were 5 days old which were hatched at home in the incubator. Owls demonstrated their virtues, curiosity and courage to touch the chicks. Some interesting observations from the children were that they are beginning to grow feathers to be able to fly, they are different colours, their beaks are hard and they have spot patterns on their heads. This was a lovely experience for the Owls to start our Easter week next week. Thank you Georgina and Jacob for bringing them in and we look forward to hatching our own next term!



Hedgehogs: The children enjoyed a trip up to Beer Mill on Monday morning where Elaine taught them all about animals that live in our local community. We then compared them to animals that Nick might see in Uganda.



Squirrels: Squirrels have been very busy getting ready for their sponsored silence next week! This is taking place on the last day of term for the whole morning and money raised will go towards funding our sponsored child Nick's education. If you would like to sponsor the class please see Mrs Partridge. Children also have individual sponsorship forms.

Page 5

Foxes: Foxes have been looking at Easter all around the world this week. We have looked at a variety of different countries and how they celebrate Easter. We are also looking forward to our trip to Beer Mill next week to conclude our unit on Rivers.

Badgers: Badger class walked up to the pond at Beer Mill this week where we became investigative journalists and tried to work out who had committed the murder! We looked at poo to find signs of what an animal or bird had eaten and we saw an amazing video clip of life at the pond which showed a heron, buzzard, barn owl, fox and otter visiting the pond to fish! It was great fun and Elaine was an amazing host as usual.

Digital & Innovation

Owls: Focusing on tradition, Owls followed a traditional Nigerian recipe for Chin Chins. Baking is one of our favourite group activities, we mixed coconut, flour, sugar and cinnamon together with coconut milk. They kneaded and rolled the dough then cut them into squares using the pizza cutters. We enjoyed the chin chins for snack and there weren't many left!



Hedgehogs: Last week we made the most of the sunshine and took our learning outside. The children wanted to create pictures so we got the painting resources out! It was wonderful to observe them talking about the process they were going through to create their art work and the discussions they had around colour mixing were fantastic! We love 'process art' in early years as it allows children to explore and have a greater sense of ownership over their work. Process art is wonderful for supporting the development of self-control and self-regulation when children are focusing, making choices, taking risks and feeling successful.



Page 6

Squirrels: Squirrels have worked really hard at using their knowledge of place value in Maths to solve problems. They have learnt to compare numbers, order them in different ways and represent them using different methods including drawings and mathematical equipment.

Foxes: This week we have been practicing our times tables on the chrome books, using the multiplication checker that the year 4s will use in June to complete their times table test. The year 3s found this challenging but always wanted to beat the previous scores. This was tricky to start with as finding the numbers on the keyboard can be confusing initially but they are all starting to pick up speed now.

Badgers: This week we looked at how we use our chrome books in school and how these benefit our learning. We answered lots of questions from Mr Atherton who is part of the LSC. He will be visiting us soon to see in person how effective the digital and innovation cornerstone is at Clawton.