



Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 27th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you enjoy reading about what we have been doing over the past two weeks.

We have been focusing on respect as our Character Virtue. As staff, we have been so proud of the children, demonstrating respect towards each other in their classrooms and in the playground! I was particularly proud to hear of some of our Badger Class demonstrating respect towards other schools in a netball festival that they attended.

The children enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and I spent some time in Squirrel Class making Chinese Dragons! Badger Class have also had a visit from Elaine Green (Beer Mill) - read on to find out more

This week, we have welcomed some of our Local Schools Committee members who have been particularly interested in how the children are learning the different foundation subjects. They have all expressed how impressed they are with how confidently the children shared their understanding with them.

Please could I draw your attention towards the dates on the right hand side, which hopefully allow for some forward planning! We are also really pleased to include some photos and an update about what our Toddler Group has been up to. It is such a fantastic group, run by parents every Friday in the school hall. Please feel free to ask for more information and we will happily pass this on.

Over the next few weeks, our focus character virtue is Determination. Please feel free to share the different ways this virtue is demonstrated at home.

With kind regards,

Mrs Maryl Steyn



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Key dates:
10th Feb - Valentines Disco
10th Feb - Last Day of term
20th Feb - First day back
2nd March - World Book Day
15th - 17th March - KS2 Residential
22nd and 23rd March - Parents' Evenings

Focus virtue this week:
Determination

Owls:

Academic:

Owls have been enjoying learning different art techniques and taking inspiration from artists around the world. This week our travels have taken us to Canada where we have been looking at Canadian artist Ted Harrison and his use of abstract art to create horizon landscapes. Owls have used cardboard and sticky tape to create their landscapes then added colour to the sections and shapes.



Character:

Owls have demonstrated lots of character virtues this week while learning all about birds in the Winter time and what we can do to help our wildlife. Our focus character virtue of Motivation (Performance Virtue) has been evident while the children have made bird food to care for the birds (Moral Virtue). They have used their creativity (Performance Virtue) to create their own binoculars and we volunteered (Civic Virtue) on the RSPB bird watch this afternoon.



Community:

On Saturday Owls had a visit to Holsworthy Fire Engine! This was a great experience for the children to support our Inspiring Leader/Speaker challenge. We had a tour of the fire station, looked inside the fire engine where children observed how many water hoses there were nine! We had fun dressing as firefighters in a race against time. We hope this has inspired Owls with their Inspiring Changemaker challenge.



Digital and Innovation:

Our creative Owls have used art techniques from around the world to innovate their art and own style. From emotion in art using Van Gogh and Picasso's happy and sad paintings to Japanese 'Gyotaku' artform of printing fish in ink. This week our travels have taken us to Mexico to try bark painting where the children used rollers and brushes to make brightly coloured marks on a different surface, depicting scenes of daily life in Mexico.



Hedgehogs and Flying Squirrels:

Academic:

In the Chinese horoscope, 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit so we invited Claire to bring her rabbit 'Derek' in to meet us all! We used him as inspiration for our poetry writing and collected lots of adjectives to describe his character and appearance. We share-wrote a class poem and now the children will have a go at inventing their own based on another animal of the Chinese Zodiac.

Anyone seen my sweet, shy rabbit?
White and scruffy,
Soft and fluffy,
Derek the friendly rabbit.

He flops his ears,
He twitches his nose,
He eats his poo
And hops around too!

Anyone seen my sweet, shy rabbit?



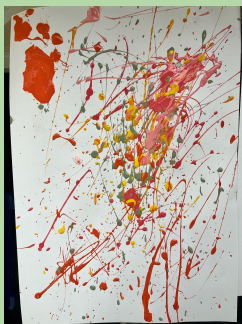
Character:

As part of our Lunar New Year celebrations, we have been focusing on showing respect for other people's traditions, cultures and beliefs. Diversity activities teach young children to respect and celebrate the differences in all people. Learning about different cultural aspects offers new experiences for children. It also helps them realise that we're all humans, despite differences in how we look or dress, or what we eat or celebrate.

Community:



Last week the children took part in our very own Lunar New Year celebrations. We made decorations for the classroom, wrote wishes to hang in the wishing tree, designed Chinese dragons using playdough and large loose parts and cooked some delicious chicken fried rice for snack. They all looked fantastic in their lucky red outfits and enjoyed their special lunch from Sue.



Innovation:

This term Hedgehogs and Squirrels have been exploring how artists use colour to express their feelings and emotions. We looked at the work of Mark Rothko who is famous for his 'colour fields' and 'drip paintings' from Jason Pollock. The children then explored colour mixing along with tinting and shading to create their own works of art.



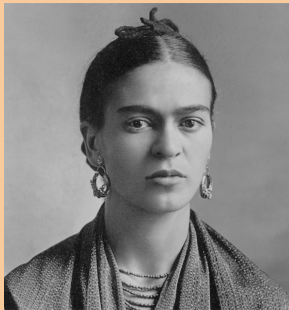
Squirrels:

Academic:

Squirrels have been working hard at learning to tell the time in Maths over the last weeks. Year 1 have done really well at mastering o'clock and half past, moving on to the quarter hours. Year 2 have started to look at 5 minute intervals and have shown amazing focus. The children are enjoying practising by reading the time on the classroom clock which helps us stay on time for everything!



Character:



Squirrels have been learning all about the life of the artist Frida Kahlo. We have found out that Frida suffered from illness and injury throughout her life, but still managed to produce incredible artwork that helped her to express herself. We concluded that she must have shown so many character virtues throughout her life, including Patience, Resilience, Determination and Courage.

Community:

Squirrels have been learning about the Muslim Faith in RE. We have learned about the 5 Pillars of Islam and have also investigated different objects that are special to Muslims, including the Qu'ran, prayer mats and prayer beads. The children were fascinated to know that Muslims pray 5 times a day and loved looking at pictures of different Muslim artwork.



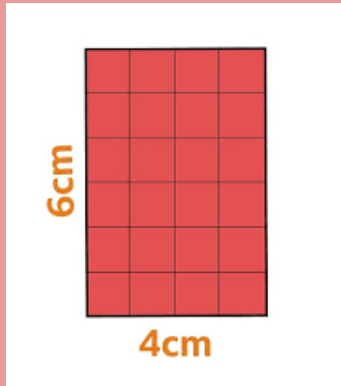
Digital and Innovation:



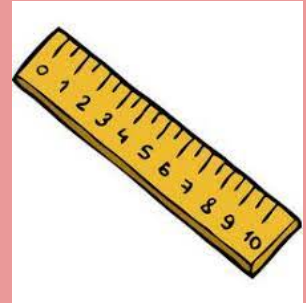
In ICT this week the Squirrels (along with Hedgehogs and Flying Squirrels) learned about technology and what types of technology we have around us. We learned that almost anything can be considered a type of technology, although some technologies may be more advanced than others. We also discussed how important it is not to share passwords and how to stay safe when using the internet.

Foxes:

Academic:



Fox Class have been working on measurements this week, the Year 3s have been focusing on measuring in millimetres, centimetres and metres. They have been looking at the equivalent lengths and the best unit of measurement for certain items. The Year 4s have been looking at the area of a shape and comparing different areas. In English, Fox Class have been finishing writing their stories.



Character:

Fox Class have been focusing on the virtue of Respect, towards one another, especially showing respect when someone is speaking, and towards school equipment. We have also spoken about determination and how determination is a performance virtue that often helps us to achieve a goal!

Community:

Fox Class have been using their Chromebooks this week to locate different towns within the UK. They looked at the features of different areas and how one area of the town is different from another town. We compared these towns to locations around our local community.



Digital and Innovation:



This week Foxes have used their chrome books for research, to create posters of celebrations around the world. We first discussed the continents of the world and then created a poster for each of the continents and the countries' celebrations within these continents.



Badgers:

Academic:

Badger Class literacy this week has been linked to the story of the Girl and the Fox. We have watched the short film, written reviews, thought about the story from the point of view of both the girl and the fox and are now working on creating our own short films.



Character:



Some of the Badger class went to Holsworthy Community College to play in the High 5 Netball Tournament this week. They weren't entirely sure of the rules but participated with great enthusiasm and their positive attitude, despite losing, was great to see.

Community:



Badger Class had an amazing visit from Elaine on Tuesday. She talked about her new job as a Beaver warden which the children were very interested in. She also brought Barn Owl pellets for the children to dissect. They found evidence of mice, voles, shrews and even bats in the pellets.



Digital and Innovation:

Badger class have been looking at maps over the last couple of weeks. They have used their chrome books to find their homes on google earth and then found them on ordnance survey maps. They have also recreated maps with grid references.



School Council

World book day is coming up on the 2nd of March and we are planning some activities and challenges for the four houses and our classes to take part in. We are also hoping to have a second hand book sale for World Book Day as a fundraiser for school. School Council are also still selling second hand uniforms that are available to buy and is a fundraiser that we have running throughout the whole year.

By Bella, Riley, Evie and Chester

Clawton Toddler Group

We have had a busy few weeks at toddlers trying out new things, getting creative and having lots of fun. It has been great to see the children grow in confidence and help each other to build dens, explore messy play, and make pasta necklaces as well as try new things like gyoyaku a form of Japanese art. The toddlers were curious about the fish and enjoyed making art work with them, thank you preschool for giving us the fish. It was a great activity. Our upcoming events are bird watching, and random acts of kindness. For the random acts of kindness we will be sending letters/paintings to a local residential home.

We run every Friday throughout term time 9am-11am in the school hall, it would be great to see some new faces.



EXTRA Images of what the children have been up to and created!

