



Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 17th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you enjoy reading this fortnight’s newsletter. Key Stage 2 has been merged into one section, with a run-down on the residential. It was an absolute pleasure to spend these past three days with the children. They were such a credit to the school, demonstrating numerous character virtues and all participating in each activity. Despite the lack of sleep and action packed days, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Paget and myself (along with the staff from Clinton and Dolton) thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

Back in school, it has been lovely to see so many different activities taking place for the children. Badger Class attended a Tennis festival at Holsworthy Community College and took part in some skills activities with Hatherleigh Primary. Again, the Character Education shone through, with our Year 5 and 6 children making friends with children from another school. Our Owls enjoyed an afternoon with Wendy, spending time in the garden - have a look at their report on this!

We really enjoyed having so many of you visit for our Cornerstones Afternoon and participate in the children’s learning. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Parents’ Evening this week. If you haven’t made an appointment with your child’s teacher, there are still spaces. If the dates are not suitable, please let the teacher know as they will be able to make alternative arrangements.

We have a busy couple of weeks ahead of us before the Easter holidays, so please keep an eye on Dojo for any updates.

Kind regards,

Mrs Steyn



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Key dates:
22nd and 23rd March - Parents' Evenings
31st March - Last day of term
17th April - First day back
17th & 18th April - Yr 5 Bikeability
20th April - Storm in a Teapot (KS1)

Focus virtue this week:
Patience



Owls:

Academic:



Owls focus of learning has moved from our own growth to growing things in our environment. We had a special delivery arrive (in a huge box!) and the children were excited to receive 5 caterpillars which they have been showing care for and have been curious with their daily growth. We are waiting for them to cocoon before we count down the days to hatching. We enjoyed making our own scientific paper towel caterpillars, using pipettes to make them wriggle and grow!



Character:



Owls have been showing great examples of our focus virtue, Patience. For our Talk for Writing we have been finding out all about Jasper the cat who hasn't been as patient and digs up his bean too early and his beanstalk only grows if he is patient. We have noticed our beanstalks have started to grow, I wonder what we might find at the top of them...!



Community:



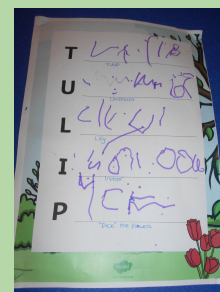
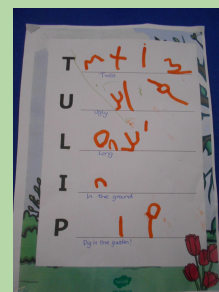
We spent a lovely afternoon gardening with Wendy last week. Owls enjoyed the new experience in the outdoor classroom and a walk around the garden. We planted peas in pots and created our cress people which the Owls loved seeing grow hair! Today we cut the cress to make egg and cress sandwiches for our Klassens time.



Digital and Innovation:



Owls created fantastic Tulip acoustic poems to go alongside our creative tulip fork paintings. We used our phonics initial sounds to think of describing words beginning with initial sounds of TULIP. We had some brilliant poems.

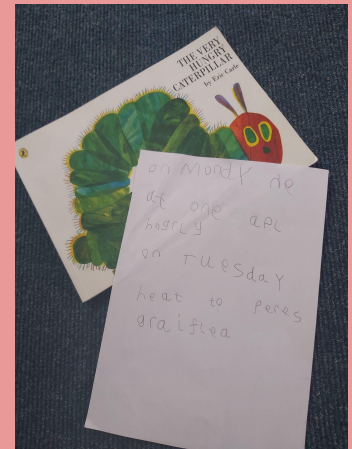


Hedgehogs and Flying Squirrels:

Academic:



Hedgehogs and Squirrels have been working really hard on the story of the Hungry Caterpillar. They have been making the story even better by thinking of adjectives to describe the fruit and adverbs to show how the caterpillar ate.



Character:

Hedgehogs and Squirrels have been amazing this week welcoming me into their class. They have been very helpful, making sure that I know their routines and where things are kept. They have shown the character virtue of respect and have been very polite and they have been motivated to try their hardest with their work.

Community:



In our topic this week we have thought about the question 'what is an animal?' We have then sorted pictures into different groups - mammal, reptile, insect, amphibian, bird etc. We have then thought about the animals that live in our community both in the wild and on farms or as pets. Some children were still convinced that there were bears living in the woods behind school!

Innovation:



Our challenge for innovation, this week, was to recreate the painting 'The Sunflowers' by Vincent Van Gough. The children have definitely found their artistic talents with these as they are beautiful. They have also made sunflower sliders in pots.



Squirrels:

Academic:



Squirrels have been putting everything they've learned in English over the last couple of weeks into practice! They are now writing their own jungle explorer stories and the work they are producing is fantastic. They are taking their time and working on their stories over the course of a few days, editing and altering their own work like real writers do. The end results promise to be amazing.

Character:

We had such a brilliant time welcoming lots of parents into Squirrels Class during our C360 open afternoon. It was lovely seeing the children show their parents the different activities and complete them together. We are looking forward to the next one!

Community:

Squirrels have been talking about how important the rainforests are to our global community. We found out that rainforests are hugely under threat due to deforestation, meaning lots of animals and people are losing their homes. We are hoping to run our own fundraiser to help contribute to the protection of this precious resource.



Digital and Innovation:



Squirrels are being very innovative and are working on their own rainforest dioramas. They need to ensure that they represent each layer of the rainforest accurately, with the correct animals in each layer.

Foxes and Badgers PGL

Academic:

It is impossible to list the different skills that the KS2 children learnt at PGL this week. Part of the PE curriculum is having adventurous activity opportunities, and PGL ticks that box.



The children had the opportunity to learn how to shoot arrows in archery and the names of the different parts of the bow and arrow. They demonstrated logical and methodical thinking in our problem solving activity. During rifle shooting, the children learnt how to ensure they were safe at all times, from the moment they arrived at the activity to the moment that they left.



KS2 had to learn how to be independent as well, making sure they were ready for each activity with the correct clothing and their water bottles. They rose to the challenge of the tidiest room and the decision was quite tricky in the end!



Character:



There were so many character virtues demonstrated during the residential. The children were kind to each other at all times, and it was lovely to see them making friends with the children from Clinton and Dolton.

Courage was one of the character virtues that almost every child had to demonstrate at one point or other, whether it was during an activity that involved heights or just being away from home. The rest of

the children supported and encouraged each other which was heartwarming to see. The whole cohort demonstrated excellent manners at all times, showing respect to the adults leading the activities as well as their peers.



When waiting for their turn during the activities, they either chatted and got to know one another, or gave encouraging comments to the children who were participating.



Community:



When moving between activities, the PGL staff encouraged lots of loud singing! It was a great atmosphere within the groups. The children would then join in together as a big group, which was lovely to see and loud to hear!

We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with other members of Alumnis MAT, both the children and staff from Clinton and Dolton Schools. The children were already talking about making contact with their friends from the other schools when we get back to school, which was lovely to hear!

KS2 made a fantastic impression on the PGL staff and were an outstanding representation of Clawton Primary School Community - they should be very proud of themselves.

Digital and Innovation:

It was really interesting whilst we were away, as the children had no access to any digital technology at all. At no point did any of the staff hear any of the children mention tablets, phones or television!

The innovation side of this cornerstone was demonstrated brilliantly in the problem solving activity. The children had to work as a team to solve problems such as moving tyres into the correct position on poles, or how they could "rescue" numbers lost from a spaceship through working as a team.



Another problem that they had to solve was how to get the team of 11 children through a hoop in the quickest time possible. We are proud to hold the PGL record of 15 seconds!



School Council

On Tuesday, the School Council made a list of the fundraising ideas that we want to do this year. First, the School council has decided to do a coin trail to raise money for Edukid. We are going to raise money through April and collect small change to make a long line on the top playground. Between all of our classes we want to go around the whole of the top playground. When people have collected change, they can give it to their class teacher who can look after it until we complete the trail on the 28th April. An idea to raise money for this is to do jobs for our parents at home.

The School Council have also decided to send some of our old library books to a school in Africa who have none. Some of the money we have raised so far this year will pay for the books to be collected and we also want to put a card in the box from all of the children at Clawton.

By Evie and Chester

Thank you, from the School Council.

Clawton Toddler Group

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