



Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 8th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed a number of visitors into school. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting PC Lauren and PD Gwen, her police dog. We learnt about how the police are some of our local superheroes who keep us safe. We also enjoyed our assembly with Rev. Paul, who commented on how well the children demonstrated the character virtues of courtesy and respect - it is great to see these virtues being spotted by our visitors!

The children all enjoyed their film nights and it was lovely to see the excitement on their faces! Thank you to all of the staff and pupils who arranged these events. We are looking forward to the PTA Christmas parties that have been organised as well!

Our Christmas tree in the hall is looking fantastic - this was a kind donation from Mole Valley and it has added to the festive spirit around school.

We hope that you have enjoyed our weekly book reviews. Reading continues to be a big focus for us in school and we really appreciate your support with reading at home. Just 5-10 minutes of listening to your child read each day makes a huge difference. If you are thinking about giving books as gifts for Christmas, this website <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/> has a fantastic search function for suggestions of age appropriate books in lots of different genres.

Kind regards,
Mrs Steyn



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Inclusion Team contact details:

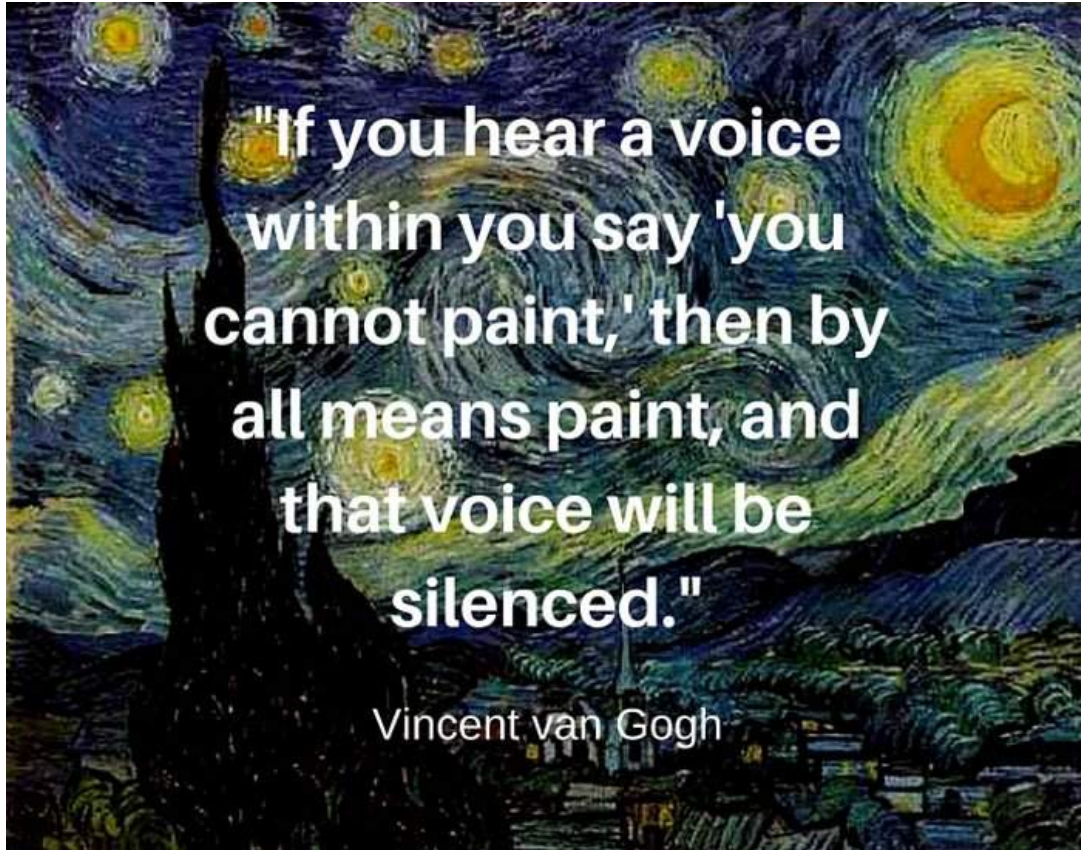
James Creek - 07596 476 145
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Key dates:

8th December - PTA Christmas Party
(KS1 - 3.30 - 4.30pm)
KS2 - 5 - 6pm)
13th December - Christmas Jumper
day and Christmas Lunch
14th December - Carol Service (2pm
at the church)
15th December - Last day of term
2nd Jan - Non-pupil day
3rd Jan - First day back for pupils

Focus virtue this week:

Determination



Parent Safeguarding Advice

On the school website, we have some very useful safeguarding tips around online safety, social media, devices, gaming and mental health to provide some support or guidance if needed.

To find what these look like, follow this link [👉 https://alumnismat.org/online-safety/](https://alumnismat.org/online-safety/)

Owls

Academic:

We have finished off learning all about our local superheroes.

This week our focus has been all about the police and how they provide us with a service. Owls have told us that the police help people if they are in trouble and we need to call 999 if we need them. Owls have enjoyed dressing up pretending to be police officers in our role play area.



In Maths, we had a mystery to solve...Who stole Vicky's gingerbread man? Owls had to become detectives and hunt for clues all about shapes hidden around the preschool to catch the thief! They soon discovered that the thief was in fact our Preschool Elf! The elf apologised and to say sorry, he gave each child their very own gingerbread man to decorate!



Character:

This term we have had a lot of special visitors come into Preschool to talk to us about their different job roles. Owls have shown lots of character virtues towards our visitors. From patience, curiosity, resilience, caring, critical thinking, confidence, courage, cooperation, creativity, reflection and helpfulness.



Community:

We had another special visitor - PC Brown, PC Lauren Hartley and PD Gwen (police dog.) Firstly, the police ladies talked to the children about their job roles and showed them the equipment they use. All Owls waited patiently and showed curiosity with the visit. They loved meeting the police dog and enjoyed stroking her.



This week we had a special Christmas craft activity afternoon where we invited all the Owl's parents in to join us. The children enjoyed a variety of activities from decorating salt dough tree decorations, making reindeer food, designing Christmas cards, and making their very own Christmas trees. We also enjoyed some tasty mince pies and biscuits made by our Owls and hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows!

Digital and Innovation:



Owls have now completed their second Talk for Writing text - Don't say no to Flo. They have really enjoyed this story and learning all about Florence Nightingale. This week they enjoyed sequencing their story maps and retelling me the story.



On the farm was another popular activity with the children, they loved cutting out pictures of farm animals and matching them to their correct house. I was told 'Pigs like mud, chickens lay eggs and big animals live in fields and eat grass'.

Hedgehogs

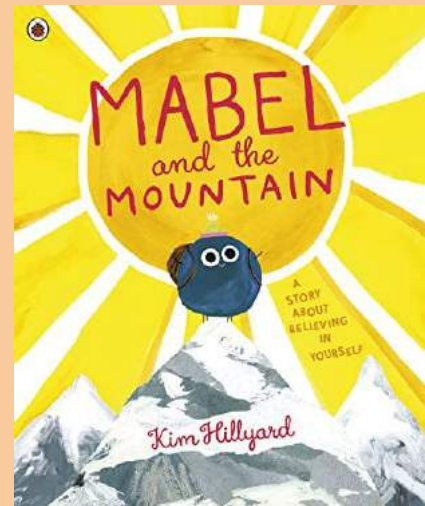
Academic:



This week the children have been exploring materials in science and had to decide which ones would be best to make a cape for a war time hero from. They decided that paper and card is too absorbent and rock, metal and glass are too heavy and stiff. Fabrica and soft plastic were the best as they are strong, soft and flexible. The children are now in the process of making their capes which they will enjoy showing off next week.

Character:

Our current virtue is determination so this week we have enjoyed the story 'Mabel and the Mountain'. Mabel is only a little fly but she has BIG plans which include climbing a mountain, hosting a dinner party and making friends with a shark. To achieve her dreams, we saw that Mabel needed lots of determination and learnt that the character virtues of resilience and courage are often needed too. We then talked about what our dreams are.....it seems we have a lot of future professional athletes among us!



Community:

Last week we enjoyed a visit from PC Brown, PC Hartley and PD Gwen (police dog). They came to talk to us about their role in the community and what they do to help keep us all safe. The children enjoyed trying on all the uniform and saying hello to Gwen who was very excited to meet us!



We also really enjoyed snuggling up together for our film night last week. Thank you so much for supporting the event and helping to raise money from the sale of hotdogs, sweets and drinks to purchase resources for the classroom. We would also like to complement the children on their impeccable behaviour 😊



Finally, with the cold weather coming in, we talked about how we could help some of the animals in our community to survive over the winter months. The children set to work making bird feeders which are now hanging in our apple tree. A little robin (which our caretaker, Mike, has named Robbie) keeps on coming to visit us. Keep an eye out for him around the grounds!



Innovation:



Last week we spoke about what Evacuees were and why some came to stay in Holsworthy and Clawton. We enjoyed looking at our local area on Google Maps and finding all of the amenities we often use. The year one children then made a leaflet for an Evacuee explaining what is on offer in Holsworthy. Well done Hedgehogs, they are so informative!

Squirrels



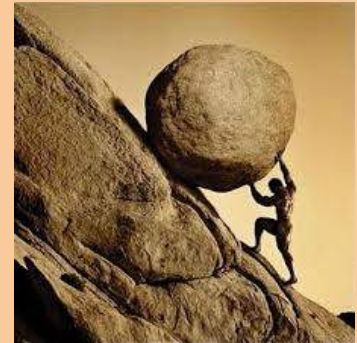
Academic:

This week we have been finishing our writing and Maths units. This has included writing a story from another culture which has linked nicely to learning about the North Pole and the exciting things that happen in the North Pole. We have also been finishing our maths unit on Shape and the properties of Shapes. including 2D and 3D shapes. We have also been concluding our topical unit on Explorers and Significant individuals and learning about how and why they are significant. We have also looked at the different countries that have been visited by these individuals.

Character:

Over the last couple of weeks Squirrels have been thinking about the importance of all of the Character Virtues and how we display them around this time of year. These will be shared with you at our Carol Service next week.

As this is an exciting time of year the children have needed to think about continuing to demonstrate determination and motivation alongside continuing to show courtesy to everyone at all times. Our focus virtue this week of Determination has slotted in successfully.



Community:



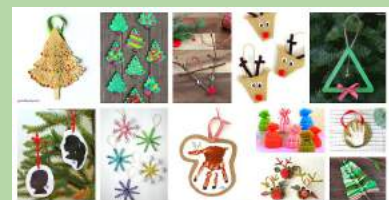
On Monday night we held our Christmas Movie night. This was a huge success and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it. It was lovely to see the children all relaxed and enjoying a film together! The children were fantastic and I am very much looking forward to our next adventure together.

If you haven't seen the picture on our Facebook page, do preview the post there. (Don't forget to like our page for updates on all the events that happen in school)

We were also very lucky to have had PC Lauren and her Police dog visit us last week. The children were very enthusiastic about this and asked a variety of questions but also listened carefully to what was being said.

Digital and Innovation:


The PTA have very kindly donated a Christmas tree to Ashwater Church, so this week all children have been making decorations to donate to the Church to decorate the tree. The children have been using a variety of skills to make these decorations which will look lovely on the trees!



Foxes


Academic:

The year 3's have very nearly finished their Addition and Subtraction unit. The year 4's have been doing Area and are starting a unit on Multiplication and Division. In Literacy the class have been very busy writing their own third person adventure stories. In Topic we have been looking at the Victorian industrial revolution and comparing it to the Pearl River Delta as a contemporary case study. The children enjoyed learning about how the pollution has meant that fish in the river taste like shampoo!




Character:

The children have been using lots of their character virtues in order to make sure that we finish things off before Christmas. Children have been determined and resilient to complete their work. They have been showing curiosity and compassion for the people who live near the Pearl River Delta and thinking about why their lives may be better or worse due to the rapid industrialisation.




Community:

Foxes class really enjoyed meeting the police dog last week. The children even got a chance to stroke her! They learnt what police dogs do and how police officers work with them. The children were also very lucky to have a film night organised for them by the Badger Class. The children all enjoyed their hot dog and their popcorn and of course watching Nativity 2.



Digital and Innovation:

In computing, children have been learning how to use google slides on their chromebooks. In Art the children have been enjoying learning about Leonardo Da Vinci and thinking about how he is an inventor and an artist. On Wednesday we went on a nature walk around the school and had a go at imitating his sketches of the natural world. We also discussed how the sketches would look different if we did them in the summer term compared to how they look now. We are also about to start working on Christmas decorations and practising our performance for the carol concert next Thursday.



Badgers

Academic:

Badger children have been working extremely hard to add interest to their writing through the use of noun phrases, adverbs and clauses. They have also been reviewing their work with their purple pens to ensure that their punctuation and spelling is at the expected level for a year 5 or 6 child.

Character:



As Christmas approaches our character virtues become more and more important. Badger children have managed to stay determined and motivated as the excitement grows. They have also thought about others through our PSHE lessons showing kindness and friendship. Curiosity has also played a part in our learning as we have looked at Christmas around the world. We will be sharing our findings with you at the carol service.

Badger children also held their fundraising event on Wednesday, raising money through selling hotdogs and popcorn at their movie night. This was a great success and I was very sad not to be able to be there and enjoy it too!

Community:



We were very lucky last week to have a visit from PC Brown and PC Lauren with her gorgeous Police Dog, Gwen. The children enjoyed learning about the role of a Police Officer and loved seeing Gwen and giving her a stroke. I think we have some Police dog handlers in the making in Badger class now!



Digital and Innovation:

As the term nears its end, Badger children are completing their WW2 projects. Much of this has been done through research, using their chrome books and by recording information in the form of slides, powerpoints, mini films and documents. They have worked so hard on these projects and I am immensely proud of the way the children have handled some of the sad stories we have investigated.



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, so please spread the word.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Free School Meals

Could your child be entitled to Free School Meals? If you are in receipt of any of the following your child should be entitled to Free School Meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

To check eligibility and apply visit

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/> This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.



Do you receive any of the following?

- Income support
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and your income (as calculated by the Inland Revenue) is less than £16,190
- Universal Credit
- Receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act of 1999
- In the Armed Forces

If you can answer yes to any of the above you may qualify for free school meals/Pupil Premium

The school office will help with your application. If your application is successful not only will your child receive free school meals, but our school will receive £1,300 additional funding (per child). This is called Pupil Premium.

All applications are confidential.

