



Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 20th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe it is already time for our newsletter again – it has been a busy couple of weeks in school that has passed in a flash! Walking around the school through the day, it has been lovely to see Badger Class so enthusiastic about their Guided Reading Text – Shackleton's Journey! I have seen some beautiful handwriting in Fox Class, with the children really thinking carefully about their presentation and taking pride in their work! I have thoroughly enjoyed being an Outdoor Explorer with Hedgehog and Squirrel Class and bought a delicious apple and blackberry crumble from our Inspiring Fundraisers, Owls! And these are only just a couple of the highlights!

It is definitely starting to feel a lot more autumnal around school and we were delighted to have Rev. Paul join us this week to talk about the lead up to harvest. We are already looking forward to the harvest festival on Thursday 24th October.

We also welcomed Mary Weblin back for assembly as we had some Reading Challenge certificates to share. Well done to everyone who took part in the challenge, it was lovely to celebrate this with you!

Our focus character virtue this fortnight is Friendliness. Please do share any examples of this virtue (and any others) being displayed at home. It was lovely to hear that Hugo in Year 2 displayed helpfulness in a local shop, and was complimented by the shop keeper – that is definitely an example of Character in Action and made me very proud.

Please remember to send your child in with a coat every day. The weather is very unpredictable, but we try to get outside every day – even with a little bit of drizzle.

Kind regards,
Mrs Steyn



[Clawton School](#)
[Contact details:](#)

01409 253618

clawton_sch@alumnismat.org
www.clawton-sch.org

[Inclusion Team contact details:](#)

James Creek - 07596 476 145

[Key dates:](#)

9th October – Sound Waves South
West

[Focus virtue this week:](#)

Friendliness

Owls Class - Who Am I?

Academic: Owls class are having a blast as we continue on our 'Who Am I?' journey! The children have been exploring what makes each of them unique, creating beautiful collages filled with all their favourite things. To help us better understand our emotions, we've been diving into one of our favourite stories, *The Colour Monster*, which has sparked some exciting activities such as colour sorting, as well as given the children new ways to express how they feel. We've also been learning about our physical features by creating self-portraits and charting characteristics such as our height and eye colour, celebrating all our wonderful similarities and differences. This topic closely links to our focus on healthy habits and becoming independent individuals - whether it's learning how to brush our teeth or understanding how to take care of ourselves, we're developing these lifelong skills with enthusiasm!



Character: Our recent outdoor learning adventures have sparked some wonderful character development! The children have demonstrated cooperation, leadership, and creativity while transforming the mud kitchen into a bustling juice bar, crafting a spa complete with a nail salon, and tackling exciting construction projects such as fixing the pirate ship. We've seen them collaborate to move heavy objects, share roles and responsibilities and solve problems together. Our outdoor explorations have also included some lovely Autumnal walks where the children have practised patience and responsibility, by taking turns leading the adventure.



A special shoutout goes to one of our Owls, who has shown both motivation and determination by completing the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge, and great confidence as she received her award during our school assembly!



Community: If you've walked by the Pre-School recently, you may have been tempted by the delightful smell of fresh baking! Our Owls have been hard at work making delicious apple and blackberry crumbles, using apples generously donated by our fantastic parents - thank you so much for your support! These sweet treats were a massive hit and sold out in no time, with all proceeds going towards the Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoebox Appeal. Thanks to everyone's contributions, we'll be able to fill shoeboxes with love and joy, sending them to children in need just in time for Christmas.



Digital and Innovation: As we explore what makes us, us, and examine our features, we've come up with some wonderfully creative ways to create some self-portraits. Who says self-portraits can't be fun? The children have used items such as fruit, loose parts, and natural materials to craft their own unique representations of themselves.



We also introduced an exciting digital project this week, where the children took turns behind the camera, capturing photos of themselves, their friends, and the things they enjoy most at Pre-School. It's been great to learn more about the children's personal worlds as they learn some simple technology skills!



Hedgehogs and Squirrels - Where does Paddington live and what is it like?

Academic:

The children have really enjoyed researching The Great Fire of London and this week they have found out about how far the fire spread and why. They have also been thinking like historians and having discussions around which sources of information have been the most helpful with their enquiry. Here is what some of them said:

“The diary of Samuel Pepys is really useful because it’s really interesting and tells you everything that happened during the fire.”

“The old map of London is useful because we can use it to see how far the fire spread and how much of London was destroyed.”

“The painting of the fire is useful because it gives us an idea of what the houses looked like.”

“The painting of Queen Elizabeth does not help us because she wasn’t alive then.”

“What has the modern bank note got to do with the fire?”



Character:

This week we have been focusing on the virtue of friendliness. We enjoyed listening to the story ‘Lost and Found’ by Oliver Jeffers and then discussing all of the qualities we want our friends to have. These included being kind and helpful, caring for our feelings and cheering us up when we are sad, being generous by sharing their belongings and being good listeners. We all agreed that being friendly towards one another would help us feel safe and happy in school.



Community:

This week we have been thinking about how The Great Fire of London affected the community. We were surprised to learn that only 6 people lost their lives but thousands lost their homes and businesses. During such a scary and frightening time, the community pulled together and helped to transport buckets of water and pull down houses with fire hooks to try and put the fire out. The children talked about what they would do during these times. Would they stay to help or flee to safety?



Digital and Innovation:

The children have been revisiting previous painting skills that they have learnt and used a method called ‘drip painting’ to create some Great Fire of London pictures. This technique was used by an artist called Jackson Pollock who used particular colours in his paintings to create certain moods and feelings. The children then added pencil drawings of the timber houses in 1666 to create Pudding Lane.



Fox Class

Academic:

This week we have started a new unit in English we are going to be looking at a first person narrative description. To start the unit, we have been focusing on structuring a sentence which includes adjectives to enable the reader to build a picture.

In Maths we have been looking at Rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. This has been a challenge with many children needing to demonstrate resilience and determination.

In our topic work we have looked at how the Palaeolithic age and Mesolithic age are different and the changes that have happened. We have also looked at why artefacts are important to historians and helping to work out how life was.

Character:

Our focus virtue this week is Friendliness. This has fitted in nicely this week as we have been looking at what makes a good friend and why. How we can be a good friend.



Community:

We welcomed Mary in from Holsworthy library this week and it was fantastic to see so many children awarded for their Reading Challenge over the summer holidays. Well done everyone!



Digital and Innovation:

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at how we can be safe online and how we can complete safe searches when researching for specific information. Making sure that the question we use has specific key words and the question is clear. We also looked at checking more than one web site to check if the same information is shared.



Badger Class – How did conflict change our local area in WW2?

Academic: All of the children now have access to Mirodo or SATs companions. They have started to use this in class as additional extension activities when they have completed their work and they are also using this for homework.

We have also completed our first unit of maths – place value and our first literacy unit – Third person stories set in another culture.

Character: In class, we have been thinking about our expectations. The children are beginning to understand the need for working quietly and for listening to others views. We have worked on cooperation in PSHE and played a very funny game where it immediately became evident which children were the bossy ones who wanted to be in control!! We have also thought about our playground behaviour as this can be quite rough.

Community: On Thursday we had a glorious visit to Beer Mill in brilliant sunshine. We learnt about different trees and collected seeds for the local tree project. Once we had collected these we had to process them by sorting, weighing and then storing them until spring. It was very interesting.



Digital and Innovation: As a follow up to our solar workshop, Badgers went to Rexion Solar Farm last week. They learnt how solar panels work, how much power they produce and how this is linked into the National Grid. They also investigated the wildlife areas at the farm. They found all sorts of insects and spiders which they thoroughly enjoyed tormenting me with!!

