



Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 15th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will see from this fortnight's newsletter, it has been a busy one! The children are already delving into their new topics for the term and it is lovely to see different examples of the children's learning. I particularly enjoyed the bird's eye view maps of Clawton that our Hedgehog and Squirrel class were working on.

We hope that you are finding the Parent Character Updates useful. Character is embedded within Clawton now and we are always looking to strengthen the links with home.

Art club and Argyle football club continue to be a big success and it is lovely to see the children participating in these!

Our Wrap-Around offer has started. It will be run in a similar way to our breakfast club, with focus activities on offer, along with other regularly offered activities. We do need to ensure that this is a viable offer in order for it to continue. If you have got any suggestions or would like to find out more, please do let me know. The wrap around poster has been sent out again with this newsletter.

Our PTA met this week and are already thinking about Christmas! Please do support their latest fundraiser – the lovely Clawton Advent Candles. We really do appreciate all of their hard work and your support as well.

Kind regards,

Mrs Steyn



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Key dates:
3rd Dec - Devon Waste Workshops
4th Dec - Y6 Hockey
5th Dec - Childrens Christmas Craft Fair (PM)
10th Dec - Christmas Lunch
12th Dec - Christmas PJ Evening (film & Food)
18th Dec - Christmas Lunch
19th Dec - Carol Service (PM)
20th Dec - LAST DAY OF TERM
(Mulled Wine and Mince Pies for parents 14:30)

Focus virtue this week:
Courage

Owls Class - *Where Do I Live?*

Academic: The Owls have soared into an exciting new adventure alongside Zargus, their curious alien friend! Zargus has travelled light-years to learn all about Earth and uncover more about where we live. Together, we've all begun exploring our big, beautiful, blue marble of a planet, and now we can even spot it among the stars! Since Zargus's arrival, we've looked at maps and discovered that we live in the United Kingdom. We learned that England's national flower is the rose, which inspired us to create some colourful rose artwork. Our exploration of famous landmarks led us to build mini versions of places like Big Ben, and we've also shared stories of the places we've visited, both here in the UK and across the globe. As we continue our journey, we're excited to teach Zargus even more about our wonderful world!



Character: This half term, we're embracing the spirit of kindness and generosity! A heartfelt thank you to everyone for the many thoughtful contributions to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The Owls took such joy in carefully choosing and packing each gift, discovering how even the smallest acts of kindness can bring happiness to those in need. We also celebrated Odd Socks Day this week, with everyone proudly showing off their favourite mismatched socks! This colourful day sparked lovely discussions about the importance of being our wonderful selves, embracing each other's unique qualities, and celebrating our differences.



Community: Our journey into discovering "where we live" has opened up a world of wonder for the Owls as they explore and appreciate the beauty of their own surroundings. Embracing the spirit of adventure, we set out on a magical scavenger hunt, listening to the cheerful birdsong, spotting local wildlife, and marvelling at all the colours on the trees at this time of year. Each discovery helped us see just how much there is to treasure right here in our own little corner of the world!



Digital and Innovation: Zargus the alien's recent visit has sparked a wave of creativity among the Owls! The children have been busy imagining and crafting their own versions of Zargus's alien family, wondering together how his home might look completely different from ours. We also got creative in the kitchen, designing planet-inspired biscuits. We've begun designing our own maps and even had a little exploration of Google Earth! While we were eager to discover the location of our own island, we were even more curious to see if Tracy Island (from Thunderbirds) appeared on Google Maps... and to our delight, it did! This exploration has been a fantastic way to introduce the children to digital tools and spark their curiosity about the vast world (and universe!) beyond our own.



Hedgehogs and Squirrels - Does Alan the Alien like it in Clawton?

Academic:

After Alan the Alien was surprised about feeling chilly this week, the children decided to teach him all about the seasons and the weather in the UK. They worked in small groups to make these wonderful mobiles to remind him about the months of the year, what season they occur in and what weather we experience during different times of the year.



Character:

This week the children demonstrated great respect for the fallen members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces by honouring our 2 minute silence for Remembrance Day. They also spent the morning making their own poppies to wear for the occasion. It was lovely to hear the children talk about how they were involved in the parade and church services within the community over the weekend



Community:

This week we have been teaching Alan the Alien about our little village. We located Clawton on Google Earth and identified the different land use. Did you know there is a little river that runs through Clawton? We then wrapped Alan up and showed him all of the different features around the school grounds. We decided to draw him a map so that he can find his way around when we are not there.

Everyone worked collaboratively and did a fantastic job of using directional language when discussing where all of the different features should go.



Digital and Innovation:

As Alan loves underpants, we decided to practise our sewing skills and make him some to take home with him! We think our designs are great, we're just not sure how comfy they will be! Some children have also constructed a new spaceship for him to help him transport all of his new underwear back home again!



Fox Class – *What makes up our Earth?*

Academic:

Fox Class have been learning all about the structure of the Earth and the different layers that make up our planet. They have been linking their science learning to this through their studies on rocks and soils. In English, they are learning about non-chronological reports (information texts) and completed a “marketplace” activity, where they had to share pieces of information that they knew with other tables in the class. In Art and DT, they used cereal boxes to investigate different 2d shapes that make up 3d structures and have learnt about the artist Sir Anthony Caro. The children have been recapping their knowledge on how to join shapes together.



Character:

Over the past two weeks, there have been some lovely examples of courage being demonstrated in Fox Class, where the children have been standing up for what is right. The children have been showing great compassion and empathy towards each other. They will continue to demonstrate creativity in their art and design studies and will be using resilience to problem solve. During Tag Rugby, the class had to use cooperation when learning how to pass the rugby ball – it was hard to get their heads around the ball only travelling backwards!



Community:

Fox Class enjoyed taking part in Odd Socks Day and Children in Need this week. Both of these charities bring a national community together to raise money for fantastic causes. This links nicely to the book – If Everybody Did, which talks about the importance of working together to make a difference. During our discussions in class, the children have been demonstrating great levels of respect towards others. When they have a difference of opinion, it is presented in a sensitive way and politely challenges their peer’s ideas. This is a great example of the British Values in action!



Digital and Innovation:

Fox Class have been working on creating pictures online, using their Chromebooks. They have been using different 2d shapes to create their own images and have investigated the different functions on the app that they have been using. In Art and Design, they have been looking at different ways to join materials and have created their own abstract art. This activity needed a lot of resilience and creativity as the children’s initial ideas didn’t always go to plan!



Badger Class –What is our world like?

Academic: We have had a great first couple of weeks back at school. The children are all working really hard and are very keen to do well. We have started with fractions in maths which is quite a tricky area but the children are coping well. We are also writing our own myths and legends including dialogue for English. Some of the stories are really rather scary!

We have started our new unit of geography for this half term. We are learning about the physical and human features of the Alps. We have also learnt where the Alps are, what type of mountain they are and we have started to learn about the climate and vegetation that can be found there



Character:

For PSHE this week we have focused on bullying. We have looked at what the word bullying means and what we should do if we feel this is happening to us. The children were keen to discuss cyberbullying as well as in person bullying. We talked about the internet, messaging, making friends online and how to keep safe.

Community:

On Monday we remembered those who died during past and present wars. We held a two minute silence on the playground at 11 o'clock and talked about this during our RE.

On Tuesday we went to Launceston college for cross country. This was a great opportunity for the children to mix with pupils from lots of different schools. They were all amazing! First they had to walk the mile course and then they had to run. They were very competitive but in a nice way. Some of the children struggled towards the end as they really did not want to give up. It was lovely to see such determination.



Digital and Innovation:

In art we have started to look at the work of various artists. Some of their work is in the form of sculpture and some uses oil paint or pastel.



ART & CRAFT Club



Wow! Craft Club has been a huge hit, with the children's enthusiasm lighting up each session. Their creativity, attention to detail, and eagerness to try new ideas each week have truly impressed! We've been up to so much already too, from mastering weaving—a skill that honed their dexterity to crafting lanterns that shone brilliantly at the school disco! We celebrated Bonfire night in style, creating dazzling firework jewellery and the Pet Alien task seemed to be a group favourite, as the children got designing quirky creatures that brought smiles all around. With more exciting crafts lined up, there is lots to look forward to and a few limited spaces are still available for Tuesday sessions!

