



## Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been reflecting on the past 7 weeks and would like to start off by saying a huge thank you to all of you for your support over this past term. We started off with our Book Fair and the Welcome Back BBQ, which was extremely well supported. We are looking forward to buying new books for the school with the money raised to encourage a love of reading.

It has been lovely to see so many children enjoying Art Club, provided by Victoria and the Plymouth Argyle Football Club on a Friday.

We are always very grateful to our amazing group of gardening volunteers. The opportunities that they provide the children to learn about the journey of food from seed to plate is amazing. The children have sampled a range of vegetables that they have been involved in growing, which some of them have never tasted before!

We had great fun at the Halloween Disco – our amazing PTA are constantly coming up with creative ideas to support the school, thank you!

Our Ofsted Inspection passed in the blink of an eye and we really appreciated the Parent View submissions. Please do continue to keep the channels of communication open with your child's class teacher in the first instance and then me if you feel that this is appropriate.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Apollo's Cabinet, a baroque music group who transported us back in time to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and introduced us to some fantastic musical instruments. Through the charity, Sound Waves South West, we have made links with Sue Topps, who is our Peripatetic music teacher. She can offer lessons in piano and a range of wind instruments. Please do ask if you would like further information.

Have a wonderful half term and we will see you on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Kind regards,

Mrs Steyn



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**Key dates:**

25<sup>th</sup> October – End of term  
4<sup>th</sup> November – Return to school  
Tempest Photos (individual)  
5<sup>th</sup> November – Parent coffee  
afternoon (2.30pm)

**Focus virtue this week:**  
Resilience

## Owls Class - Who Am I?

**Academic:** What an exciting journey we've had this term as our *Who Am I?* topic comes to a joyful conclusion! Our Owls have been busy exploring big questions like 'Who are my special people?' and 'Where do I live and go to preschool?' Their *Who Am I?* boxes have been a huge success, with



each Owl blossoming into a confident communicator, proudly sharing their photos, family portraits, and cherished memories. It's been a delight to watch them take ownership of their special boxes. Along with celebrating their special people and unique qualities, we've also embraced our wonderful preschool community. Crafting Clawton emblems and Devon flags gave the children a creative way to build a sense of place, while enjoying a cream tea with handmade scones reminded us of the warmth of friendship and belonging.

**Character:** We couldn't be prouder of the adventurous spirits and beautiful acts of friendship our Owls have displayed! Reading the story of *Elmer*, we've learned to celebrate both the traits that unite us and those that make us uniquely special. The themes of friendliness and inclusivity have continued to shine as the children show kindness in their play—whether sharing umbrellas on rainy days or taking turns with the resources. Our focus on building resilience has inspired the Owls to embrace new challenges. They eagerly tackled obstacle courses in the garden and in PE, balancing on planks, jumping through hoops, and climbing to great heights - growing in confidence with every challenge they overcame. As we journeyed into the autumn season, our Owls have become inspiring adventurers, exploring the colours and textures of autumn through sensory play, cooking projects, creative art, and fun activities.



**Community:** Our adventure up to Beer Mill was great fun and the Owls fully embraced the magic of autumn. They explored the vibrant colours, textures, and treasures of the season, played pooh sticks, talked with the trees, and built a cosy log pile house for the snakes. Back at preschool, we rolled up our sleeves for a special harvest taster afternoon. The Owls proudly picked corn from the garden and worked together to prepare the delicious seasonal treat. This hands-on experience in the school's garden taught us where our food comes from and fostered teamwork and community spirit!



**Digital and Innovation:** Owls have just completed their first *Talk for Writing* journey- *Brown Bear*, finishing on an exciting note: crafting their own imaginative versions of the story. They have channelled their creativity with *Elmer*-inspired activities, making berry paint to decorate a collaborative canvas. Autumn-inspired activities, like printing with vegetables to create a harvest menu further showcases their great inventiveness, as does their individual play projects which are always very inspiring!





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

### Academic:

This week the children have been exploring the properties of materials and thinking about which ones would be best for an umbrella for Paddington. We tested the strength, flexibility and absorbency of tin foil, cling film, a plastic bag, a tissue and piece of felt through a fair experiment. We decided that the plastic bag would be the best material to use as it was lightweight, waterproof and strong!



### Character:

Hedgehog Class were very courageous on Thursday when getting up to sing and sign the Dingle Dangle Scarecrow at our Harvest Festival. They sang clearly and looked ahead the whole time, what Inspiring Performers they are! We would also like to thank you for your generous donations to the Holsworthy Food Bank, it will be very much appreciated by many families.

### Community:

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Apollo's Cabinet, thanks to the support of Soundwaves Southwest. They played us a range of pieces of Baroque music from the 1700's and taught us about some different elements of music such as tempo and dynamics. We had great fun singing, dancing and clapping along!



### Digital and Innovation:

After learning about healthy eating and the 'Eat Well Plate', we decided that Paddington's marmalade sandwiches are not a balanced meal! We decided to design him a healthy wrap to take on his travels which included a source of protein, vegetables and dairy.



## **Fox Class - *What's happened here before us?*** **(The history of Britain from the Stone Age to now)**

### **Academic:**

Over the past two weeks, Fox class have been thinking about how they can use adjectives in their writing to create effect. They have been writing stories that create a sense of mystery and have been thinking about "showing and not telling" the details of their setting descriptions. In guided reading, they have thought about predicting what is going to happen next in the text. They have applied the skill of prediction to their science when investigating whether the length of our femur affects how far we can jump.



### **Character:**

It has been lovely to see the children demonstrate the character virtue of friendliness over the past two weeks. They have been "spotted" around school, looking out for each other and supporting each other where needed. Fox Class have also been complimented by the cover teacher, Mr Seymour, about how lovely they were to work with. Our character virtues are really embedded within the class, and the children were able to quickly identify how character links to Harvest time. They produced some lovely ideas for the Harvest Service. It was great to see the character virtue of courtesy displayed when the children were tasting the food that had been created with the gardening group.



### **Community:**

Fox Class have participated in the school gardening activities, and recognised the importance of being part of the school community when baking the food for the sharing afternoon. They were extremely courteous during the sharing afternoon, where they all tasted a range of food that was cooked and prepared by the school community. In their topic work, Fox Class have been looking at farming in the Stone Age and Iron age and comparing it to today.



### **Digital and Innovation:**

Fox Class are enjoying using their Chrome Books to learn their multiplication facts. They have been using a variety of websites to support this.

In Design and Technology, Fox class enjoyed baking with the gardening group. They also enjoyed their studies of packaging for different foods and created their own boxes for biscuits. Different types of packaging were considered, along with the shape of the different packages.





## Badger Class – *How did conflict change our locality in WW2?*

### Academic:

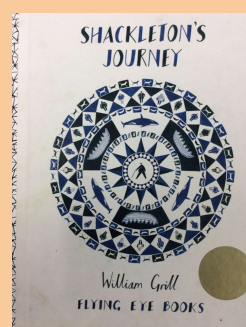
We have had a very successful first term in Badger class. The children are all working really hard and are already showing lots of progress. They have taken to the high expectations of being in upper KS2 and their books look amazing.

We have completed our latest unit of literacy which was poetry and are well on our way with multiplication and division for maths.

### Character:

We were very lucky last week to have our vicar, Rev Paul, in to talk to us about his experiences with the Royal Navy in Antarctica. He talked about the courage, resilience, motivation and determination that is needed when sailing on incredibly rough seas. He also talked about more recent experiences on research vessels tracking and monitoring different types of whales in Antarctica.

This was all linked to our guided reading book – 'Shackleton's journey'.



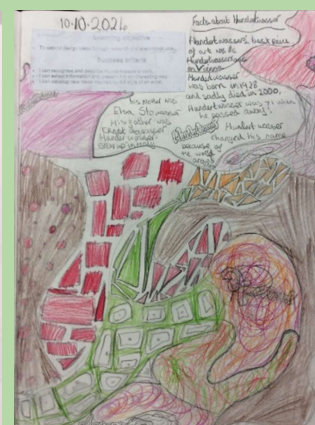
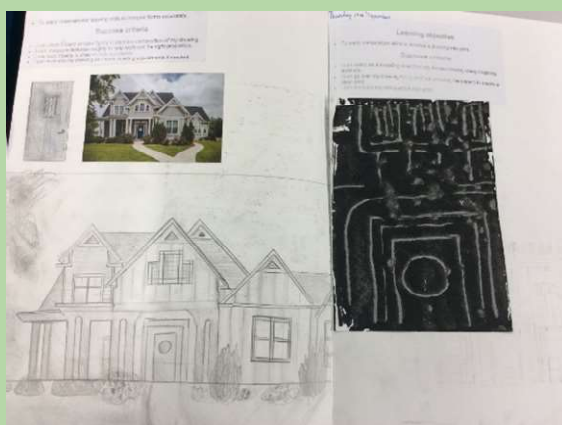
### Community:

Soundwaves South West provided an amazing musical event for us with various instruments playing Baroque style music. The children joined in with dances and clapping and had a great afternoon. Thank you to Wendy and her team for another fantastic gardening morning. The children harvested vegetables, made apple sauce and pasties and also made little creatures from cones and conkers and papyrus from sweetcorn husks. Everyone then enjoyed tasting the cooking that each class had engaged with.



### Digital and Innovation:

Following on with our work on Shackleton, we watched the recent news reports showing The Endurance in 3D. It was fascinating to realise how small the vessel was and yet how far it travelled. We have just completed our first unit of art this week. It was great to learn about artists and architects such as Hundertwasser.



## School Council

In the school council I have enjoyed lots of things but I have especially liked the pumpkin competition for Halloween. The rules for making your pumpkin were to carve it out and make a face or draw or paint on it. The pumpkin can be anything you want. When it comes to deciding which is the best, we are not allowed to know who is whose and then whichever pumpkin gets the most votes wins.

This year with the pumpkin carving contest it was amazing to see all the great and creative pumpkins there were. All of them were so creative with all of the different ideas they were. I really enjoyed voting for these amazing pumpkins and seeing how many people enjoyed taking part.

Congratulations to the winners: Tom (owls), Spencer (hedgehogs), Elsie (foxes) and Nicky (badgers). Congratulations also to the runners up. This has been one of the most difficult to judge years of the pumpkin competition and we would like to thank all of the children and parents for taking part! Our next event is going to be supporting Children in Need in November.

Tia and Bryn ~ School Council

Our winning pumpkins:



**Hedgehogs**



**Foxes**



**Badgers**

