



Clawton Primary School Newsletter | 29th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past few weeks, we have been looking at the Character Virtues of Courage and Determination. I have been really impressed with the children’s understanding of how all of the character virtues link together and support each other.

It was a pleasure to welcome Councillor Stephen Gibson to Clawton this week. I was extremely proud as I showed him round the school, as the children demonstrated the character virtue of courtesy and were happy to engage in conversations with him. He emailed later to say that the school is a credit to our community, which was a pleasure to hear.

We also welcomed Katherine Sawyer from Young Lives Vs Cancer. Nicky (in Year 5) presented her with the £300 that he had raised with your generous donations back in September. She was extremely grateful and explained how donations from communities like Clawton make a huge difference.

Christmas festive events have started at Clawton, and in our wrap around, the children have been “elfing” themselves! This has been a source of conversation for the school, with some fantastic creations on display in the hall! Don’t forget, wrap around can be booked on School Money! We do need to increase our afterschool bookings to make our wrap around viable. We will be asking for feedback in the next week or so in order to improve our offer.

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:

2nd Dec - School Dinner Taster Session

3rd Dec - Devon Waste Workshops

4th Dec - Y6 Hockey

5th Dec - Childrens Christmas Craft Fair (PM)

10th Dec - Reading Cafe

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:

Determination

Owls Class - Where Do I Live?

Academic: As we continue our exploration of *Where We Live*, the Owls have been discovering what makes our beautiful Devon home so unique. From the moors to the coastline, Devon's beauty has inspired much of our learning and creativity over the past fortnight. The children have used colours and textures to capture the sea, fields, and moors in their artwork. In P.E., we've been 'climbing' tors, 'swimming' in the sea, and 'squelching' through mud—strengthening physical skills all while having lots of fun. This activity sparked conversations about family trips to the seaside, farm visits, and countryside walks. As Proud Performers, the Owls learned some traditional Morris dancing, enhancing their rhythm, coordination, and teamwork. Meanwhile, our math explorations have brought numbers and shapes to life, as we've been spotting them within our environment—from clock faces to lunchboxes! A recent snow day gave us the perfect chance to discuss the changing seasons, how our environment transforms and offered the perfect opportunity for inquiry.



Character: This week, as we've learnt more about our community in Clawton, the children have been exploring the values of kindness and teamwork. As the children have been building houses, playing families, and sharing ideas, it's been wonderful to witness the children's small acts of kindness—whether inviting friends to join in play or helping each other with tasks. These moments highlight the values that help create a happy, supportive community. Some Owls have also had the joy of visiting Flossie, the school's Pets as Therapy dog. The children have shown great courage and respect as they interacted with Flossie, demonstrating compassion and care. Each week, they select their favourite storybooks to share with Flossie, asking insightful questions to learn how to care for our animal friend..



Community: Owls have been learning about the importance of caring for our wonderful world and respecting our local spaces. The children explored the importance of looking after the environment and what would happen if we didn't. We put this learning into action with our very own Clawton Clean-Up Campaign. Together, the children proudly picked up litter to make our school grounds more inviting and the world a little more wonderful for all. Last week, we joined the rest of the nation to support our farmers by wearing our wellies. This tied perfectly into our theme of how farms play a vital role in our community. As always, we've enjoyed being creative in the kitchen, making apple chutney, carrot cake, and other delicious treats. These activities sparked thoughtful conversations about where our food comes from and the importance of supporting local growers.



Digital and Innovation: The Owls have been busy transforming boxes and recycled materials into a fantastic "box town," complete with a school, a Waitrose, and a church. Their creativity and innovation have truly shone, with some amazing additions such as a castle for Queen Elsa, a space house for Zargus, and the perfect dream bathroom for Barbie. We've seen larger versions of their houses, neighbourhoods, and towns taking shape in the garden. It's been inspiring to watch the children think big and build their own community, where entrepreneurship has certainly flourished. In our Talk for Writing sessions, the children have been crafting their own version of the text *A Wonderful World*, inspired by the question, "What makes your world wonderful?" Their beautiful interpretations combine their growing knowledge with their developing storytelling skills.



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

Academic:

This week the children have been maths detectives by learning to look for clues in number sentences to help them add 3 numbers together. I have been really impressed with their explanations of how they were able to problem solve, with lots of children drawing on prior learning around doubling, near doubles and number bonds for 10. Here's how some children solved $3+8+3$:

"I know double 3 is 6. If I halve 8 I end up with $6+4+4$. I know $6+4$ is 10 and then I have 4 left to add on which is 14."

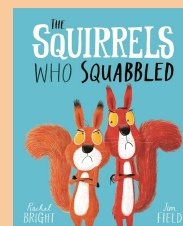
"If I halve 8 I end up with $3+4+4+3$. I know $3+4$ is 7 so that gives me $7+7$. Double 7 is 14."

Don't we have some brilliant masters of maths!



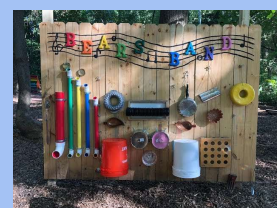
Character:

This week we have been thinking about how our choices around behaviour can have an impact on other people. We read 'The Squirrels who Squabbled' to highlight how negative actions can lead to arguments and difficult emotions such as anger and sadness. We all agreed that displaying virtues such as kindness, patience, generosity and courtesy can make other people feel happy, and then they would more likely respond in positive ways. Our new motto in class is, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'



Community:

Last week we completed a survey about the different play areas in the school to see how we feel about each one. We love the field because of all the space we've got to run around in but feel there isn't very much equipment to play with. We also enjoy being on the bottom playground because of all the activities set up for us. However, we decided that it can feel quite busy and noisy at times and we suggested a quiet space to read and chat in would be quite nice. After a class discussion, we decided that we are going to be Inspiring Fundraisers and raise some money to help improve our play areas. We would like to purchase a den building kit for the field, a music wall to transport between both play areas and some new resources for our reading/writing shed. We will now start to plan a class event to fundraise for our exciting project.



Digital and Innovation:

This week we started to explore how maps can be used to create art and we were introduced to the work of Susan Stockwell; an artist who creates stunning dress sculptures out of paper maps. We then thought about our journeys to school and then created a relief map to show all of the things we might see along the way. We thought carefully about the materials we used and tried to experiment with colour, texture and form.



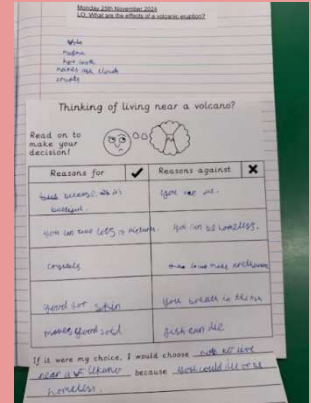
Fox Class – What makes up our Earth?

Academic:

Fox Class have been continuing to learn all about the structure of the Earth and the different layers that make up our planet. They have also been looking at the pros and cons of living in an area where there are Volcanoes.

They have been linking their science learning to this through their studies on rocks and soils, they have been looking at the layers of a fossil and how Fossils are created.

In English, they are learning about Formal Letters of Complaint. To start this unit, they have been focusing on subordinating and coordinating conjunctions within a sentence. In Art they have continued to look at 3D and 2D structures and the positive and negatives of a 3D image.



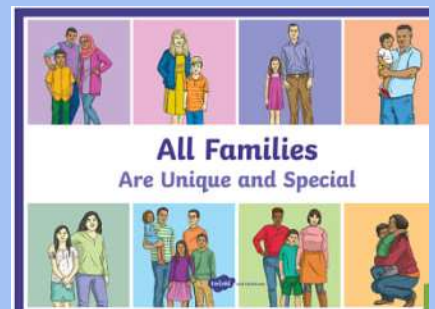
Character:

Over the past two weeks, there have been some fantastic examples of the character virtues. They have been showing creativity in Art and Design and in Computing on their Design projects. Resilience has also been a big focus when completing some baseline assessments using the new Mirodo system. They have also demonstrated friendliness, and respect towards one another and other children and break times and lunch times.



Community:

In PSHE, Fox Class have been looking at the wider community and family communities, there have been discussions about different families and different people within families. The children were respectful listening to each other about who they have in their family. We are also looking forward to welcoming you all to the craft fair next week!



Digital and Innovation:

Fox Class have been continuing working on creating pictures online, using their Chromebooks. Using 2D shapes and manipulating the shapes to make sure they work within the overall picture. They have all created some fantastic pieces of work.



Badger Class –What is our world like?

Academic:

We have now completed our unit on stories linked to legends and myths. We have had some great discussions about local legends including the Beast of Bodmin Moor!

In maths we are struggling our way through fractions! This is not an easy topic but with the use of a fraction wall and bar models we are now getting the hang of equivalent fractions. Of course, this now means we have to move on to addition and subtraction of fractions where one denominator is a multiple of the other.

Character:

On Thursday, Nicky was able to present the money that he raised for Children vs Cancer. He was a true Inspiring Fundraiser as he presented £300 in support of his brother and other children with cancer.



Community:

We looked beyond our local community last week when we welcomed the Edukid representative to school. She managed to drive all the way from the far end of Cornwall in the snow to take our assembly and to talk to us about Nick, the child we sponsor in Uganda. The children were all pleased to see photos of him and to hear how he is getting on.



Digital and Innovation:

This week we have had a practice run with the new assessments on Mirodo and SATs companions. The children have had to get used to completing a timed test on their chrome books. We have ironed out a few problems so that they will run smoothly when we do them next time!

We have also continued to learn about the Alps and the human and physical features there. We looked at one of the beautiful towns in Austria, Innsbruck, and found out what we could do if we were to visit!

