



Clawton Primary School Newsletter 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy fortnight we have had – again! There is so much to celebrate about Clawton, I don't know where to begin. Last week, we had some visitors from some of our trust who complimented the children on their courtesy and confidence when they spoke to them. Rev. Paul was full of praise for the children as well, commenting on how well they listened. It made me very proud!

Fox Class had a wonderful residential at St George's House in Georgeham. We joined up with Clinton and Dolton Primary Schools for the three days. The instructors at the centre commented that you couldn't tell which schools were which as the children mixed in so well together. For many of the children, this was their first time away from home, but they were amazing and it was a pleasure to be a part of this experience. I am sure Fox Class Newsletter will give more details about the activities that they participated in and you will see that there will definitely have been life-long memories created!

Badgers, Hedgehogs and Squirrels have enjoyed visiting Beer Mill this week, learning about adaptation and food chains. It is such a lovely resource to have on our doorstep and we appreciate the time that Elaine puts in to arranging these learning experiences for the school.

I am sure that the next two weeks will be as busy as this past fortnight, so please do keep an eye on Dojo. With regards to communication, please always direct queries towards your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Kind regards,

Mrs Steyn



Clawton School

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Key dates:

26th March – Fox Class to Beer Mill

26th March – Year 5/6 trip to

Launceston

4th April – End of term

4th April – Easter Disco (times TBC)

Focus virtue this week:

Justice

Owls Class - *Where have you been on holiday?*

Academic:

As we continue on our topic journey with 'Where have you been on holiday?' Owls have been learning all about France last week. We have learnt how to say Hello in French - "Bonjour". A couple of our owls have had a holiday in France last year and were able to tell their classmates all about their adventures along with a few more French words. Owls have been building their own Eiffel Towers using building blocks, there have been some amazing creations.



Owls enjoyed making and eating their own croissants with Shannon last week. They all demonstrated fantastic fine motor skills by spreading the filling of their choice. Cooking is always a popular activity in preschool and Klassen is an excellent way to get children talking.

We have learnt all about a French artist

named Vincent Van Gogh. We have learnt that he moved to live in France because he found the colours in France were stronger because of the sun. He was born in the Netherlands, where it rained a lot. Owls created their own tin foil paintings too, exploring colours using a wide range of materials.



This week, it was London to explore! The big red London buses, black London taxis and the amazing buildings and structures such as Tower Bridge, The London Eye and Big Ben. Owls have been on their own London Bus tour around preschool, using tickets they made in the writing station. The wheels on the bus has been a popular song to sing this week.



Shannon has set the owls a challenge - who can build the best Big Ben? They were able to use any resource that was available. Here are just some of their amazing creations!



Character:

Our character virtues these last two weeks have focused around kindness, caring, friendliness and helpfulness. Owls have demonstrated all of these in abundance. We have watched some of our youngest owls being cared for by the older owls when they have felt upset. This has been truly heart-warming to watch and we have loved watching their friendships blossom.

We have celebrated world book day and owls arrived in some amazing costumes from their favourite books. They also enjoyed a couple of students from Badger class reading them a story!



Community:

Flossy (our PAT dog) came in to visit school today. We enjoyed seeing her and giving her some gentle strokes. Owls read her a book about the French artist Vincent Van Gogh and told Flossy all about the colours he used in his paintings. This week, Owls read to Flossy again. A book called rabbits nap.



We have enjoyed Rev. Paul hosting an assembly, talking about the ten commandments and how they link with our British Values. During our assemblies, owls demonstrate super sitting, lively listening and good looking, which are the three main character virtues we try to embed in the learning journeys. By demonstrating all three virtues they learn how to show respect to others.

This week we had a visitor pop in - Ninny (Kirsty's Mum) Ninny showed us some of her pottery and helped us create some special creations ready for Mother's Day. No pictures of this activity yet, as we do not want to spoil the surprise! We will post photos in our next newsletter. Thank you Ninny!

Next Thursday, we are inviting preschool parents in for a fundraising afternoon. We would like to raise some money for Devon Air Ambulance, so we will be having a cake sale! Owls have made their personalised invitations and we are all looking forward to seeing you next week!



Digital and Innovation:

Carrying on with our T4W, owls have now learnt the sign for shark and eel. This week, we have learnt the sign for snail. Owls have created some amazing sea creatures from junk modelling, painted some fantastic shark paintings and created some crafty crabs with paper plates! We have been practising our song too and hoping to perform it to parents next Thursday afternoon at our fundraiser event.



Hedgehogs and Squirrels - Where in the world is Alan and The Go Jettors?

Academic:

We received another postcard from Alan this week! He's been enjoying some time hanging out with the sloths in the Amazon Rainforest and is now moving on to explore Shanghai in China. We are joining him on his learning journey and have learnt about where in the world China is and looked at some of its physical and human features such as The Great Wall and The Gobi Desert.



Character:

This week the children have been working really hard on their critical thinking and problem solving skills. Sometimes, they are really quick to ask for help with what they are doing instead of taking a step back and asking themselves, 'is there a different approach I can use?' In maths they have been encouraged to use manipulatives to solve problems, in DT they have been asked to try different joining techniques for their models and in literacy they have grapheme charts, spelling banks and vocabulary word walls to support their writing. They are well on their way to becoming independent learners!

Community:

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Beer Mill on Wednesday afternoon and learnt lots of interesting facts about woodland habitats thanks to Elaine's remarkable expertise! We were introduced to a variety of animals who live at Beer Mill and had great fun building them nests and dens! We also enjoyed digging for minibeasts in the soil! We would like to say a huge thank you to Lucy and Nicola who were able to come along and help.





Digital and Innovation:

The children love junk modelling in hedgehog class so I set them off on a challenge to create dioramas of different habitats. Once they had completed this, they had to make an animal that might live in their habitat, along with a simple food chain consisting of a producer, prey and a predator. The children rose to the challenge and produced some very imaginative pieces of work.



Fox Class - *Why are Rainforests important to us?*

Academic:

This week has been slightly different due to our Residential. However, whilst we were there the children had the perfect opportunity to practice their speaking and listening skills to all the staff at St George's House. There were also opportunities for Maths practice during the Archery activity when the children had to add up their scores. Then during other activities there were many other opportunities for a range of learning. This was a great way for the children to see their learning put into real life situations.



Character:

I think the children between them, demonstrated every single Character Virtue. The ones that were really evident were Friendliness towards the children from Clinton and Dolton, also Respect to all the staff at St George's, determination alongside resilience especially during the more challenging activities and most importantly confidence in being away from home! I am very proud of all of the children, they have overcome many fears and nerves including the children who often don't show nerves! Well done Foxes!



Community:

Whilst being away the children were still representing the school. The staff made several comments about how fantastic the children were and how well they blended and interacted with Clinton and Dolton children. The children also had the opportunity to explore a new community and new areas, again showing creativity, motivation and resilience.



Digital and Innovation:

All of the children were brilliant innovators whilst completing different activities. Needing to often find ways to complete challenges. One of the trickier challenges for the year 4s was the rock scrambling, lots of children had to overcome their fears of heights and small spaces, when we scrambled through tiny caves and down steep rock faces.



Badger Class

Academic:

We have started a new unit of work this week for English. This is biographies. So far we have looked at biographies written for the first people in Space. The children have now chosen their own famous people to research and write a biography for. They have chosen footballers, singers, racing car drivers, TV stars and lots of people I have never heard of!!

In maths we are working on area, perimeter and volume. We have learnt how to calculate the perimeter of a compound shape where we do not know the length of every side.

Character:

All children have shown resilience and motivation this week as we have completed some assessments ready for SATs. They are all now familiar with the format of these tests so hopefully they won't be too phased on the day!

Community:

Rev. Paul came to talk to us on Thursday. We all learnt so much about Penguins in Antarctica. He told us about 8 different types of penguin and their characteristics. Some grow to about 1m tall, others are much smaller. Some have colourful whiskers, others have no fluff on their faces. It was very interesting. Rev Paul also gave us lots of books on birds and wildlife which we have been enjoying.



We have also been to Beer Mill Farm with Elaine this week. We checked on the trees we planted two years ago and pulled out some of the grass growing in the tubes. We found that some of the seeds we had sorted and stored back in the Autumn were now sprouting. These needed to be carefully pricked out of the compost and placed in a bigger tray so that they could grow on. We also planted out some crab apple trees which were slightly further ahead.

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Digital and Innovation:

Our children have always loved the hills at Beer Mill and this visit was no exception! Without any hesitation they threw down their bags and started to roll! They also had the chance to play Pooh sticks in the stream where the otters live.

