



Clawton Primary School Newsletter 6th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where has the past fortnight flown! There have been so many events and key activities taking part at Clawton the excitement levels are infectious!

It is only right that I start by saying how incredibly proud we are of our Badger Class children who attended our France residential. I have attended many residential, but this was the first abroad. The children made it a thoroughly enjoyable experience and were a credit to the school community. It was lovely to see friendships being made across the schools and to see the children enjoying all of the different sights that we visited. Hopefully you have seen our Facebook updates!

During the first week back, I enjoyed my Friday morning with Fox Class, where we started our Education Nature Park project. This is a government funded project that looks at nature around the school and encourages us to think about being sustainable.

This week, there was a delicious smell of pancakes floating around the main building, thanks to our Hedgehogs and Squirrels! They were very generous in sharing one with me and it was delicious!

On the first Monday back, I really enjoyed spending the morning in our Owls class. This week, they have been creating paintings that reflect “La Tomatina” – the Spanish festival that involves throwing tomatoes at one another!

We look forward to seeing you all at Parents’ Evening next week and would like to wish you a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
Mrs Steyn



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Key dates:

10th – 11th March – Parents’ Evenings
17th – 19th March – Year 3 and 4 St
George’s House Residential
Thursdays: Plymouth Argyle Football
lessons and After School Club.
21st March – KS2 trip to Exeter
Museum
26th March – Fox Class to Beer Mill
4th April – End of term

Focus virtue this week:

Critical thinking

Owls Class

Academic:

Our new topic in Owls is all about holidays, and where we have been on holiday? To kick start this topic, we looked at beach holidays. Owls have been investigating our beach tray filled with many different beach related resources!

Owls were able to talk about their own beach adventures and how they pick up litter they find and place it in the bin. When asked why? They responded with "because it will hurt the animals." We have made some mini flags to go on top of our mini sand castles too.



This week, we have been on an adventure to Spain! We have learnt how to say Hello in Spanish "Hola" and how to Flamenco dance! We have heard all about their own personal holidays to Spain (Barcelona) and learnt that it is a hot country and needs an aeroplane to get there. We have been crafty creators and made our own Spanish flags too! We have learnt about a special Spanish tradition - La Tomatina! This festival is held once a year in August

and all Spanish residents get together and throw tomatoes at each other!



Character:

Our focus virtue has been all about resilience and for a couple of our owls, this has been a fantastic achievement. They have been smashing their own personal goals with resilience and determination. We are very proud of them all.

Creativity, helpfulness, determination and friendliness have also been noted these past two weeks in Owls.

Community:

It's that time of the year again... Nicky has bought in some frogspawn. They have been placed in my old fish tank and we are monitoring their life cycle. This week we have noticed a few of the frogspawn has now turned into tadpoles! Below is a photo of day 1 of our frogspawn. Fingers crossed we are successful in raising them again, as last year we had loads of baby frogs!



This week, we had a little furry visitor in school.

Wilson the hamster! Owls loved meeting Wilson. Before we went to visit her, Owls told me that we had to be quiet, as she was a little animal and will be scared if we shout. At the meeting Owls loved stroking her, and said she was soft and fluffy. They were all fascinated watching Wilson run around in her exercise ball!



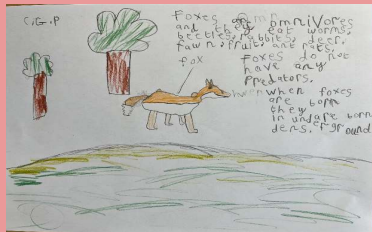
Digital and Innovation:

Our new talk for writing text is a firm favourite in preschool! The hole in the bottom of the sea! With its catchy song, Owls have loved singing it. We have started to learn the signs of the sea creatures. This week, shark is the first sea creature. We are planning to use the song along with the signs to perform in front of the school in a few weeks time, as part of our inspiring storyteller, speaker certificates!

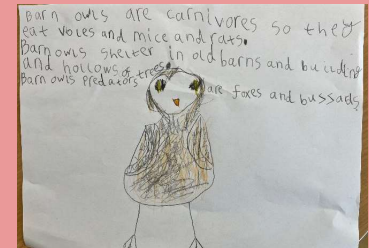
Hedgehogs and Squirrels - Where in the world is Alan and The Go Jetters?

Academic:

When we returned to school after half term, we discovered Alan the Alien had packed his bags to travel the world with The Go Jetters! He is sending us postcards to keep us updated on his adventures and he is currently



learning about different animals and their habitats.... he has just discovered a new species of Iguana in The Amazon Rainforest! We decided to join him on his learning journey and study woodland habitats. We have become Inspiring Researchers, making use of our ICT skills to search for information about foxes, barn owls and dormice on the internet. We were fascinated to discover that the fox is at the top of the food



chain! Where will Alan take us next?

Over the past two weeks, we have focused on the character virtue of resilience. The children have a really good understanding of what resilience means and they can give some really good examples of times they have 'bounced back'. We are now concentrating on difficult feelings we may experience when trying to be resilient, such as frustration, anger and annoyance, and thinking of strategies we can use to help us feel calm again. We came up with a really long list including: taking deep breaths and counting to 10, having a drink of water, reading a book, listening to music, drawing a picture or colouring, playing with a fidget and having a walk or run around.

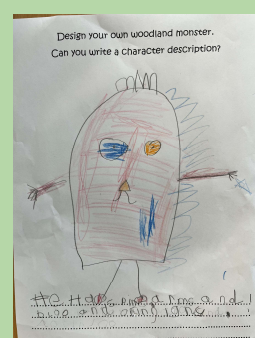
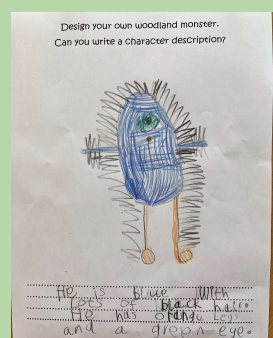
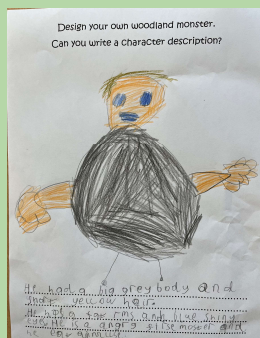
Community:

We had a really lovely time celebrating World Book Day on Thursday and we loved seeing the children in their wonderful costumes. As we are learning about woodland animals and their habitats, we focused our learning around one of our favourite texts, 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. The children enjoyed cooking Purple Prickle Pancakes, building traps, acting out the story with small world animals and creating playdough models.



Digital and Innovation:

During World Book Day, the children were challenged to design their own woodland monsters and write a character description. Reception had to write a simple sentences, year one needed to join their sentences using 'and' and include some adjectives, while year 2 were encouraged to include some expanded noun phrases. Let's hope we don't come across them at Beer Mill!



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

Academic:

This week we have come to the end of the multiplication and division unit. Then we have moved on to Length and Perimeter. In English we have started to write the Non-Chronological reports based on towns, cities and Villages within the UK.

In Science we have started to look at the digestive system and also looking at what are teeth are for. The children made a clay model of a set of teeth, a lot of resilience and creativity was needed for this activity.



Character:

Our focus virtue for the last couple of weeks have been resilience and Critical Thinking. These have been spotted in action and recognised throughout celebration assemblies and by all staff in school. We will continue to focus on many virtues throughout the rest of the term.

Community:

This week was World Book Day, the children were fantastically dressed. We also joined an online Michael Rosen workshop. Where Michael Rosen shared some of his poems and told us lots of his stories. Even sharing that a lot of his books and poems are based on his real life experiences.



Digital and Innovation:

This week the children have been using their Chromebooks to look at what an email is and why we send emails. We have also looked at the importance of not sharing personal information through an email or sending inappropriate emails. We also spoke about once something has been sent it can be traced back to the original sender, therefore really taking time to think about if the email should be sent.

Badger Class

Academic:

Last week we completed Romeo and Juliet with a synopsis of the story. We also completed our maths unit on Decimals which the whole class got to grips with very well. We also completed our elicitation tasks geography and for science. This term we are looking at living in the desert and circulation and health.

The children in school did some fun science with Coke and mentos to create a volcano.

Character:

This week we have really shown off our character virtues. We have been resilient and determined in France. For some children the ferry crossing and staying away from home in a different country without mum and dad was quite a scary thing to do. Everyone coped exceptionally well and we had very few tears!

We also showed respect in the cemeteries and at the memorials in Normandy where we laid crochet poppies and watched the flag ceremony. The children were all shocked that the youngest person buried there was only 16 years old.



Community:

The children were all very excited to meet their companions for the week as we joined the other children in our school community. We shared a coach with the children from Combe Martin. The children quickly forged friendships and were soon chatting away happily as if they had always known each other. They are planning to keep in touch via email and hopefully we can arrange a meet up before the end of the school year.



Children in school also joined in with the French experience by building the Eiffel Tower out of spaghetti and by cooking bread, crepes and croissants.



Digital and Innovation:

Visiting the 360 cinema in Arromanche was quite an eye opener. The auditorium was circular with screens depicting battles, the damage to towns and cities and life during occupation. These true films were taken from local archives and really made the children think hard about the repercussions of war. The noise of artillery, gun fire and bombs was intense as it was all around us. What an amazing way to really feel that you were in the middle of a war torn country. Looking at the peaceful photograph below, it is hard to believe that it all happened only 80 years ago.



The Bayeux tapestry also depicted war - this time the Battle of Hastings. The children all listened very carefully as the story was told scene by scene until the death of King Harold.

