

Our News

Back to school.



There is some real excitement in the air as many children are returning to be with their friends. Whilst we think the majority have managed to keep in touch and learn together online, this isn't easy for them, and only possible as they get a little older too.

So, we are now seeing them make the most of the opportunities we can give them. It is good to hear some of the older ones on how they can enjoy themselves without getting

really close and come up with the idea that a real 'wheelbarrow race' was safer than a piggy-back race!

Spring is in the air and all classes have been mindful to incorporate outdoor learning activities into their curriculum. Class 2 will be surveying the garden with Elly this week so that she can plan some exciting science lessons for them and also come up with a plan for how we use our fantastic space.

We have received a donation of a little shed which should go up in the next couple of weeks near to the back door for our younger children, so that we can use this for their wellies and outdoor play and learning equipment. We have plans to develop the space outside the pre-school and class 1 rooms, including putting up a little fence. We're excited about developing all of this to make the most of the summer term.



Our new staff

It has been fantastic to welcome our two new staff members, Elly and Maddie, who have arrived with lots of enthusiasm and ideas to add to the creative bunch we already are. We sent an e-mail out a couple of weeks ago with a hello from them, but if you haven't yet had a chance to meet them, please let whoever is outside know and we can arrange for them to find a time to come and have a chat with you.

Our learning

Pre-school and class 1:



We have acquired big boxes over lockdown so we now have a home made castle and a cave (to hide from dinosaurs of course.)

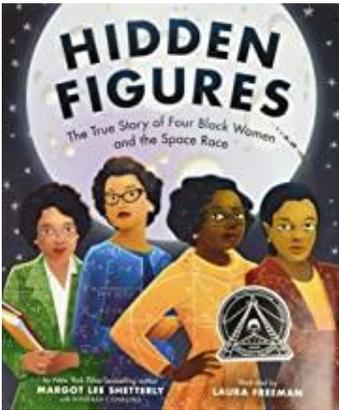
Fay's group have been focusing their learning around the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and have a giant beanstalk in the castle.

When retelling the story and asking the question "and what is at the top of the beanstalk?" we were amused by one response from a child, who turned to the beanstalk to have a look and said 'penguins.' She wasn't wrong (see the photo of the display) – children do tend to see things we don't think of!

All of the younger children begin the day with a yoga session. This includes various stories in addition to Jack and the Beanstalk. Fay's class are going to be planting beans and potatoes, looking at heat and learning about thermometers. They've continued with their cold theme as well as hot and made polar landscapes too and snowy owls – they love Andy's Safari Adventures all about polar animals.

Class 1's learning has been focused on their book, *Beast Feast*. It's a story about a beast (who lives in a cave) who catches Dinner (a little boy). Beast sends invitations inviting his beastly friends to a Beast Feast, where he plans to serve Dinner. Each reply comes back with a request for how Dinner should be prepared (slimy, cold, salty etc), so Dinner has to think on his toes to avoid being prepared and served up as a meal! Beast and Dinner go on an adventure to slimy swamps, cold snowy hills and salty seas and finally become friends....and have to make alternative arrangements for the feast food! The class has used the book as inspiration to look at seas and swamps, as well as using their predictive and descriptive skills. This week the children are looking at the maths involved in the story (e.g. weighing for baking, days of the week/months of the year for planning the Beast Feast, money for buying the food for the feast) as well as looking at how to write recipes and instructions.

International Maths Day



If you were asked to find things in your environment such as 'a group of things too large to be counted,' or 'a design made by placing geometric shapes, one next to each other, with no gaps,' what would you choose?



Our school-aged children took part in a scavenger hunt this Monday to explore such ideas in teams. Class 2, whose theme incorporates work on leaders this term, thought it was a perfect opportunity to link in some work on famous mathematicians. Thanks to Bria, who spotted that a new book for children had been released linked to the film Hidden Figures, so children could learn all about mathematicians such as Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan, female and African American in the early 1960s, who supported NASA in the space race.

Class 2

Class 2 children have made the most of online learning by taking an in depth look at what happened to cause Charles I to lose his head. Who said that 7-11 year olds couldn't write a 'Bill of Rights?' Of course they always find a way to link in animals, so last week, after learning about which sources of information they might trust the most, they set about finding out about royal dogs through the centuries, including of course the King Charles Spaniel. Did you know that the type which king Charles had was nearly extinct by the beginning of the last century? Or that these companion dogs were actually used as footwarmers. Much to the children's disappointment, we are not getting these types of footwarmers in school, so children will have to stick to their slippers I'm afraid!



The next priority in class 2, having learnt all about flight, read stories including dragons and discussed (in science) whether dragons could actually have existed, is to create their very own dragon world. Modroc, clay and paint, here we come!

Comic Relief

On Wednesday and Thursday there will be an opportunity to dress up as a character from a book or film (for eg. a hero, superhero or villain.) This is because only some of the children were able to be in school to dress up on World Book Day. On Thursday afternoon children will be making comic relief cupcakes.

On Friday we are having a 'wear red' day. We are asking children to bring in their favourite joke written on a piece of paper so that we can put them on our 'share a smile' posters for our windows.

There will be a range of activities. In the morning, for class 2 children, there will be a comic relief quiz. We will open this up to children at home too if they wish to take part. This will start at 10am.



All children will take part in a red nose and spoon race and team challenge hunt in the afternoon.

We won't be asking for donations for individual activities but would like families to put donations into the container on the bench during drop off or pick up Wednesday to Friday. Thank you.

Reminders and requests

The start of the school day: there will generally be a member of staff outside from 8.55am to 9.05am which is the time we welcome children into school. Class 2 children are asked to come round the back, so if any class 2 parents want to grab a word with a specific member of staff, then they are welcome to come around with their child.

We take registers between 9.05am and 9.10am and start our lessons at 9.10am. We understand that things were a little different during the time when schools were only open to pre-school and key worker children as we were working around timings of online lessons. We are now reverting back to lessons starting at 9.10am. Our youngest children start yoga at this time and for many of our school aged children, we use this as a reading focus time in smaller groups. Therefore, as a routine, it helps to ensure that children are in school by 9.05am at the latest.

At the end of the day: at the moment when we can, we tend to be out at the end of the day. As you know, we have no problem with children playing a little longer at the end of the day and this is a good opportunity for adults to talk too. We are reminding children that we need to make sure that all toys are put away before children go home. But sometimes their memories are rather short. So, we thank parents with their support in helping them to remember too (older ones as well.)

Drinks bottle:



A parent is asking whether anyone might have seen a metal water bottle like this but pink - it is part of a matching set so they would appreciate finding it.

Outdoor waterproof clothing: could our 7-11 year olds remember to bring waterproofs with them on Wednesdays please.

Donations: we would be grateful for any spare waterproofs, children have outgrown and also, Fay is planting vegetables with her group, so if anyone has any compost they have spare, she'd appreciate some.

Bringing things into school: could we please ask for your support in ensuring that children do not bring toys in from home unless they have a specific additional need which has been discussed with Lorna or Fay who are our SEN co-ordinators. This has been part of our risk assessment consistently since last June when we re-opened, but, as is often the case, things have developed, especially with fewer children coming in over the last lockdown period. We are working hard to keep our environment homely but rationalised and have to keep the amount of things brought to school to those which are necessary. The last thing we want to do right now is to increase any risk of covid transmission. Thank you for your support. If you feel that your child does have a specific issue which means they need a specific item, then you are welcome to discuss this with us.

Dates for your diary



Easter: this is fast approaching. We break up on Thursday 1st April and return on Tuesday 20th April.

We will get more information out about some Easter activities nearer the time, but you might want to plan ideas for your Easter hats. We will aim to do an Easter hat parade just before pick up (3.50pm) on Wednesday 31st March and Thursday 1st April so that as many children can take part as possible.

We had some stunning creations last year in our virtual hat parade so we're looking forward to seeing some in our playground this year. Parents are welcome to wear one too!