



Newsletter March 2021

I am so pleased to have the children back in the academy and, apart from a couple of settling back issues, it is as if they have never been away! The Easter song is available to view now, so don't forget to give it a watch.

The children have all been assessed and we are working on the next set of Biscuit Boosters to ensure any gaps are filled as quickly as possible. We have also completed the Boxall Profile on every child. This looks at any Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs that a child may have. I will write to parents separately about this, if their child would benefit from some work in these areas.

I am sure you enjoyed talking to your child's class teacher at parent consultation sessions this week. I moved the sessions to the last week of term, to provide as much information as possible, following lockdown. We will not be sending home termly reports this time, due to the children only being back in school for a short period of time. The reports will resume at the end of the summer term.

A parent has asked why we changed our safeguarding system to make contact, preferably visual contact, each day during the last lockdown. This was my decision relating to the updated findings from the first lockdown, as well as guidance from our Trust. I have a duty of care to every child and therefore wanted to make sure we have done everything possible to ensure safety and well-being. I am sure you will agree that by using Teams, the communication between school and home was much better this time, as well as everyone learning new skills and being technological wizards on Teams!

I still plan to hold sports day this year, but have not committed to a date yet, as I would like to see how things go for the next few weeks first. I am also waiting to hear whether the residential can go ahead for those in Oak class – I will keep you informed.

I am pleased to say that we can finally have the flint wall repaired, starting 26th April and the Willow area updated over the next few weeks, so life is definitely looking up!

Take care, enjoy the Easter break and I will see you soon.

Mrs Emma Owner



ACORN



It really has been lovely to have the children back together in Acorn class - we have missed them all! The children have enjoyed being with their friends and exploring the classroom again.

We have been learning about people who help us this half term, including the Police, Doctors, Fire fighters and the different staff who help us in school. We have also been thinking about how we can keep ourselves healthy too.

We have been trying really hard with our phonics and have been learning about 3D shapes and introducing number bonds to 10 in Maths.

We hope you have a lovely half term break!

Happy Easter





Willow

This half term we have been learning about the Great Fire of London, which we have thoroughly enjoyed. From learning about the timeline of events to understanding why the fire spread so far, how London has changed over time and fire safety, we are pretty much experts now in preventing fires!

We have also been learning about measure in Maths through lots of practical activities using rulers, money and clocks. In RE, we looked at the Easter story and why the cross is important to Christians. In RSHE, we explored ways to keep healthy through eating well, exercising and personal hygiene.

A massive thank you to parents and families for supporting the children during remote learning; everyone has come back to school with new experiences and skills as well as a very positive attitude towards learning.

Our topic after Easter is called 'Our World' where we focus on the planet that we live on.... Earth!

Have a lovely break,

Team Willow





Elm

It has been so lovely having everyone back in the classroom. We have continued to work hard and have thoroughly enjoyed our topic of Heroes and Heroines.

In English we used 'bossy' verbs to explain how to look after a pet. We decided we were all very good at being bossy!

We have also been brilliant at telling the time – sorry but no longer can we say the incorrect bedtime time! They will know!

The children had some excellent thoughts and opinions as we learned about Rosa Parks, what she did, what happened to her and how her actions changed her world.

“She said no!”

“It was unfair – everyone is the same”

“She went to jail.....that’s just wrong” “She’s was very brave”

What makes a healthy school? That was our RHSE question. We agreed that having physical things like hot water, toilets, hand sanitizer, hot dinners, wonderful cleaners and a caretaker made the school a healthy place to be. We also looked at how the school helps our mental health: happy teachers, bright and colourful classrooms, fantastic learning opportunities and gold letters for when we work hard.

In Art we embraced Andy Warhol and looked at his use of colour.



Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Best wishes

Elm Class and Mrs Cooper



Beech

Well done Beech class for a brilliant three weeks back at school after lockdown. It has been absolutely fabulous to have Beech Class all together.

This half term we have been studying about the Tudors. We have learned about the kings and queens of the time and especially King Henry VIII.

Both at home and back at school we have worked hard with our topic work as well as our English and Maths. We have written newspaper articles about the Tudors and we have just finished reading biographies about Emmeline Pankhurst, Florence Nightingale, Nelson Mandela and Sir David Attenborough. These are the school's new community groups. We have enjoyed learning all about them. In Maths we covered all four operations, 3D shapes and we have been learning about the Easter Story in RE; keeping healthy in RSHE; and learning rugby and ball skills in PE.

I am looking forward to the Summer term with Beech,
Have a great Easter break.

Mrs Slade



Oak

When we were at home and also since coming back to school we have been all about the Romans, their shields, The Roman Story written by Leila Rasheed and then volcanoes. At home we made cross sections of volcanoes, Rice Krispie colosseums and custard cream straight roads; when we came back to school we made Roman shields with a wooden handle and clay pots using the coiling and smoothing technique. We feel we've done loads since we've been back at school and we've really enjoyed doing all our subjects again.

It's been really great being back in school. We get to see our friends and they help motivate us, even though some of us loved listening to our own music while we worked from home. We love getting back to things being a bit more normal and help is always nearby instead of having to call over Teams. There are fewer technical glitches without Teams.

Next term we will be finding out more about Earth and Space.

Happy Easter!

Written by Oak Class



News from FoSHA....

We at FOHSA hope that you and all your families are healthy, happy and that your children are enjoying being back at school.

If you haven't heard of FOHSA (Friends of Hockwold Site Association) we are a group of people who care deeply about the School and more importantly the children that attend; we are a charitable organisation that was formed to help support the school and children.

We write to update you that Friends of Hockwold Site Association are on the drive to recruit new volunteers; we strive to provide the school with additional funding to support with such schemes as the 'Bear Project' - FOHSA purchased the bear's to encourage reading for the students and to date it has been a brilliant project – also we provide finances towards the Christmas presents for all the children each year as well as providing additional support to the school for other educational supplies and much more.

As with any charitable organisation we can only support the children and the school if we have volunteers to help with events as these events help to generate the much needed charitable donations; these range from Bingo nights, Summer fete and Halloween disco to name a few – **but** we are currently very low on volunteer numbers and really need your support with these events for them to be able to run.

Should any of you wish to join our happy, positive group of volunteers then please approach Ms Burdett at reception or send an email to primary@icieni.attrust.org.uk .

We have our annual AGM scheduled for Thursday 15th April (via TEAMS) and would encourage new volunteers to email to request an invite to join the meeting. This will enable you to 'meet' the rest of the FOHSA group and hopefully come on board to help a fantastic cause with a fantastic group of people for a fantastic group of children!

We are also looking to recruit a new Treasurer for FOSHA as Clare Kellett will be standing down at the AGM after a long time undertaking this role, we thank her for her sterling (pardon the pun) work and look forward to her continued support as Vice Chair – should you have experience in a similar role or have a keen interest in learning this role then please let us know as above.

From us all at FOHSA we wish you and your families all the very best.

Warm regards

Gary Hockins

FOHSA Chair

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Easter raffle which was drawn by our prefects Jack and Bow (pictured with two of the prizes).

We raised the fantastic sum of **£241.00** for FoHSA!

Thank you for your continued support and we hope all our lucky winners enjoy their prizes.





From all the staff at Icen Academy, Hockwold. Enjoy your break!

See you on Monday 12th April.

