



Newsletter May 2021

Although the weather does not make us feel like it, we have already finished half of the summer term! We only have a few weeks left of this year, before we say goodbye to our year 6 children, waving them off to their secondary schools. During the first week back, I will send you dates out for the last few weeks, as a lot happens in a short space of time. I will also send staffing arrangements for next year.

I very much hope that from Monday 21st June onwards, we can go back to normal opening times. This very much depends on the new variants identified, and guidelines from the Government, but it would be so much nicer for the children. We will not start parents reading in school each morning until September.

The flint wall and Willow area sinks will be started over half term. The daily mile is being installed over the summer holidays, due to a donation from Mr and Mrs Fish - thank you very much! We plan to walk or run each day to increase the fitness of the children and staff!

Thank you for your continued support, I hope you all have a lovely half term and that the sun shines on all of us!

Mrs Emma Owner



ACORN

Acorns have had a very busy half term with our 'Watch me grow' topic. We have learnt about life cycles of a frog and a butterfly (watching our own caterpillars growing into butterflies in the classroom) and looked after eggs which turned into gorgeous chicks. We also learnt about how plants grow – we grew a bean plant and some cress.

We have also been very busy with our phase 3 phonics and learning about doubling, halving, even and odd numbers and comparing quantities in Maths.

The children have been really busy during their own learning time, doing lots of fantastic writing, number work and enjoying playing games with their friends.

Enjoy the break!

Mrs Harris.





Willow

We have had a very exciting half term in Willow Class exploring 'Our World'. We have been observing trees and plants in our environment; we discussed the different parts and why they are important. We also tasted food from around the world and found out where different fruit are grown, which also helped us in RSHE with the focus on Healthy Eating! In Art, we created a sunset using collage and shadow art with animals featuring from different countries across the world.

In English, we met Tiddalik and his friends when looking at traditional tales from different countries. We wrote our own character descriptions and letters based on the story. We also wrote a fact file on our country - England - then we researched the USA, wrote a fact file and compared the two countries.

In Maths, we have been recapping 2D and 3D shapes and this has helped us with position and direction, knowing how to turn our shapes and follow instructions.

We hope you have a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you afterwards where we will be starting our new Topic – Go Wild!

Willow Class





Elm

We have had a wonderful half term learning all about 'Under the Sea'. In Science we have learned to classify sea creatures: mammals, fish, crustaceans and molluscs. We created food chains using scientific vocabulary: producer, consumer, prey and predator. We looked at their habitats and answered why they live where they live. We have found out what makes a mammal a mammal and the differences between mammals and fish.

In Art we created our own amazing 3d under water sculptures. We started with a 2d drawing of what creatures we wanted to include. Then we thought hard about what materials and how we were going to attach our models to the baseboard. I'm sure you'll agree that the results were amazing.



Our quality text has been The Secret of Black Rock: a tale about Erin who 'longed' to go out to sea. It is a beautiful story about a misunderstanding and heroism. It allowed us to write our own newspaper report about who and what Black Rock actually was. We were able to use alliterationsdanger deep down.

Mrs Cooper





Beech

Beech Class have worked really hard this half term learning all about Anglo Saxons and Vikings.

We have read the book 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell and written our own chapters in the same style; we learned all about Viking Gods and mythological creatures. We have also created/written about our own mythical monsters!

We have learned all about the Anglo-Saxon settlers and Viking invaders of Britain and completed some marvellous Viking sketching and artwork. We have written our names in Viking runes and designed and built some amazing catapults with Mrs Barrow.

It has been a very exciting half term and I am very much looking forwards to another half term packed full of learning after the half term break.



Mrs Slade



Oak

In English we did a double page spread about night and day. We also had a debate on Colin and Cuthbert – should Cuthbert be allowed to stay? We also looked at climate change. We have been reading *The Jamie Drake Equation* by Christopher Edge.

In Science we tested the theory of Galileo by dropping two objects of different masses from the same height and at the same time. We recorded our findings using tick sheets and other graphs.

In Art we made oil pastel pictures of planets and in D.T we made rotating planets with sticks and cardboard.

For Crucial Crew we learned about staying safe online and not to share things on the internet. What's on the internet stays on the internet!

For our homework we have done various tasks including topic boxes such as Top Trump cards, a suitcase for an alien or rocket trip, space facts, a 3D model rocket, space mobile, designing an alien and character study on Neil Armstrong.

We hope you have a lovely half term. Our next topic is all about Inventors.

By Phoebe and Faith.



Now that the weather is getting nicer, please remind your children to keep themselves safe on roads, near open water and to be mindful of talking to strangers.



Here is a piece the staff wrote about the Captain of Our Ship, Mrs Emma Owner, which featured in the ATT publication Transforming Lives this month. Mrs Owner has risen recently to another health challenge but you will be glad to know that she is recovering well and either in school with us or working typically hard from home.

An Ode to Emma who always puts colleagues first:

At a time when this amazing person, inspiring teacher and devoted Principal has recovered again from a health curveball life threw at her, we decided to dedicate our piece for Transforming Lives to her in recognition of how she always puts the children and colleagues first. Ultimately, we want her to know how very much we appreciate her support, encouragement and kindness to all of us both professionally and personally. She is our go-to ear to listen and our metaphorical shoulder to cry on; her no-nonsense wisdom and her experiences as a wonderful wife and marvellous mum make her advice invaluable.

Do not be mistaken, when she needs to, she will tell us what's what, but it takes a special sort of person to compartmentalise successfully, move forwards immediately and not harbour nor attract resentments. Perhaps it is the lasting image of her donning her yellow Marigolds to wash down the skirting in the corridor last year or the memory of her with her whole family and friends spreading chipped bark outside the music room or perhaps the knowledge she will not ever ask us to do anything she would not do herself that garners all our respect.

Work-life balance is something Emma says she is getting better at herself and she certainly actively encourages us to have one as well. 'I hope you've stopped working and are resting' style comments are a common thread as well as making sure we are not doing too much work (if any) at the weekends. If she senses that might be the case too often, she will find an in-school solution for that.

Emma is a solutions person, and it is always met with both relief and change for the better. She considers things from all angles, listens to feedback and concerns and devises new strategies and helpful documents to support. She

always remembers our birthdays, has her door open, stocks quality tissues and she always has our backs.

So, for putting us first as well as the children plus Dom, Josh and Ellie – thank you, Emma. You are extraordinary!

Have a wonderful half term and we will see you back on Monday 7th June.



