



Summer Half Term 1 - 2020/2021

25th May 2021

Welcome back!

Dear Parents and Carers

This half term has been a busy one and it is hard to believe it is half term already! Our pupils have, as always, impressed us this half term with their attitudes to school. They have shown fantastic enthusiasm and learning behaviours and, whilst things in school are still looking a little different due to Covid precautions, they have taken everything in their stride. School has been an exciting place to be this half term throughout the school. From Rocket Radio shows and science experiments through to drama with the HEN project. There has been lots going on – please read on to find out more.

We know we are drawing closer towards the end of the school year, however please could we take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of pupils wearing the correct school uniform, including black, sensible school shoes.

We hope you have a lovely, restful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all return on Monday 7th June.

Stay safe

Miss Rifat, Mr Westwood & Miss Clifford



Parking

A polite reminder to please be considerate when parking to collect or drop off pupils. This is both out of respect for local residents and also to keep our families safe. Cars should not be parked:

- where the metal school characters are placed;
- on double yellow lines;
- in front of residents' driveways.

If parents or residents are concerned about irresponsible parking, they are advised to send photographs to the following police email address:

a.read@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk



Attendance

We have continued to work hard on our attendance this half term. It's very important that your children come to school every day and on time.

We want every child to be at 97% or above with their attendance in order for them to access as much of their school education as possible. If attendance falls below 92%, then your child is classed as a persistent absentee. If this does happen then a meeting will take place with a member of the senior leadership team to see how we can work together to improve attendance. If your child is unwell, please phone the school office to let us know. Thank you.



It is imperative that we are following all Covid guidelines as strictly as possible in order to keep everyone in the school community safe. If your child or a family member has Covid symptoms, then they are required to self-isolate at home until a negative test is taken. During periods at home, pupils will have access to online learning to enable them to carry out the same lessons as their peers.



Nursery

This term many of our children celebrated Eid to mark the end of Ramadan. We made Eid cards for our families and talked about how we celebrate Eid at home. We had lots of fun designing and making our own mehndi patterns. We loved finding out about how our friends celebrate Eid with their families.



We have also been learning about farm animals through story telling sessions. The stories that we have read are 'A Farmer's Life for Me', 'Farmer Duck' and 'The Little Red Hen'. We have really enjoyed reading these stories, becoming familiar with the story language and retelling them. The children have had the opportunity to paint, draw and label characters from the story.

Reception

In Reception we have been learning all about Dinosaurs! In our Literacy lessons we had a visit from a dinosaur who had been walking around our classroom! We thought of lots of exciting adjectives to describe the dinosaur on the warning posters we created.

In our Topic lessons we have learnt lots of interesting facts about dinosaurs. The children learnt the names of the different types of dinosaurs, how long ago they lived, what they ate and why they became extinct. Lots of fun was had exploring the theme in our Jurassic Park role play area! The children used their imagination and the language they had learnt to act out a hunt for the dinosaurs which had escaped. It was ROARSOME!



Year 1

This half-term the children in Year 1 have continued working on the HEN project with Birmingham Hippodrome. The project organiser Izzy Taylor has been coming into school to work with the children. They have had a great time taking part in interactive activities focused around the story: 'What the Ladybird heard'. The children have used numerous drama skills such as still images and movement to retell the story in different ways.



This half-term in English, Year 1 have enjoyed exploring the story 'Handa's Hen'. After reading the story, children did a brilliant job in writing their very own alternative ending using a range of adventurous language.

Year 1 pupils have also particularly enjoyed their Geography unit about the seven continents. They have learnt a song to help them remember the five oceans and seven continents. Their use of an atlas to deepen their understanding has been impressive.

Year 2



In Year 2, children have been exploring the extended narrative 'The Hodge-heg'. The narrative focuses on the topic of road safety. After reading the story, the children did a fantastic job in rewriting about the scene when the main character heads off on an adventure to explore how humans can cross the road safely and hedgehogs cannot. The children used lots of exciting and interesting adjectives to describe the hedgehog's journey.

This half term, Year 2 have also been working very hard on their Geography unit: Contrasting Locality. We have been comparing the UK with the non-European country of Kenya. In addition to map work, we have explored schools in rural Kenya and compared it to the UK. Children have really enjoyed developing an understanding of what it is like to go to school in Kenya.



Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed a busy term and have particularly enjoyed learning about volcanoes.

Mrs Quinn and Ms Khan have been impressed by the quality of the homework they have received where pupils worked hard at home to recreate volcanoes, complete with the correct geographical features they had learnt at school.



Year 4

Year 4 have been making cam toys which has been challenging but lots of good fun. We have used saws and hot glue to build the frame and then design a toy that moves by changing the rotary motion of the axle into a vertical motion in the follower.

Pupils' skills and knowledge have developed greatly since building bridges in Year 3 and they are excited about future projects next year.



Reception's Roarsome Rocket Radio show!

Pupils from RA and RH have been working with Shan Bansil, our Rocket Radio presenter, to produce a fantastic radio feature all about dinosaurs! For a step back into the Jurassic World and to find out everything you need to know about dinosaurs, you can listen to the report by using this link:

<https://soundcloud.com/rocketradiostarbankschool/reception-br-the-dinosaur-report-2021>



Year 5

In Science, Year 5 have enjoyed learning about the properties of different materials and have carried out some exciting experiments.

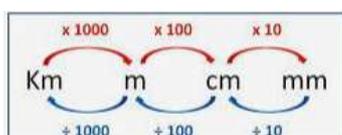
Pupils investigated which materials were the most absorbent and also looked at how some materials dissolve while others don't.



In English, we have looked at the short animated films 'Alma' and 'The Piano' and we have written a narrative text to go with it, with a focus on how we can develop mood and atmosphere.



In Maths lessons we have learned about how to convert different units of measurement and also thought about how this is such an important skill in everyday life.



Year 6

This half term Year 6 have been exploring Macbeth. We have delved into the complex themes of betrayal and dilemma, carefully crafting a soliloquy. The children have enjoyed exploring the dark and dangerous characters of Lady Macbeth and Macbeth!



In science, we have been learning all about inheritance - the children have been thinking about their families and how their different and similar traits are developing. It could be fun to dig out the family photo albums!



We are continuing to revise key content ready for our SATs in June.

The Big Ask



Pupils across school have taken part in The Big Ask survey. This is a survey set by the Children's Commissioner which aims to find out children's views on things that matter to them, such as opportunities in their local area and what they think is important for the future. The survey has been open to all children across the country and the confidential answers are used to inform the government and local council what children think so that things can change to make life better for children, especially after the disruptions of Covid.

Eco Council

This term Bierton Road has set up an Eco Council. The Eco councillors are children from Year 1 to 6 and all have a special interest in helping us become a more environmentally friendly school.



So far, the Eco Council have conducted an environmental review of the school and from this identified 3 main areas they want to focus on. These areas are 'Transport- increase the number of children who walk or cycle', 'Energy - use less electricity as a school' and 'Marine - reduce our use of single use plastic'. The children have developed an action plan for each of these topics and are kicking things off with a fantastic electricity competition that your child could take part in over the half term holiday – watch out for the letter coming home!

Going Green for Mental Health Awareness



On Tuesday 11 May, pupils wore green in recognition of Mental Health week and to raise money for the Mental Health Foundation. The aim of the day was to raise awareness of how connecting with nature can support good mental health. Research suggests that connecting with nature has the following positive benefits on mental health:



For more information on supporting your child's mental health and ways in which connecting with nature can help, please visit the school website:

<https://www.starbankschool.co.uk/information/emotional-health-well-being/>



Our councillors from left to right: Sehreen 4P, Halima 4FB, Nusaybah 2M, Zayan 4P, Zainab 3Q, Fatimah 1G, Abass 6SK, Abdullah 2FM, Yafi 5V

Interventions

Following the disruption from Covid, we are having a big drive on additional interventions to support pupils and bridge any gaps in learning. These are free interventions, funded either by the government through the National Tutoring Programme or School and are run either by our staff or some external trained tutors.



If your child is part of an intervention, please do encourage them to make the most of this opportunity and ensure that they are accessing any remote interventions from home. We thank you for your support.