



Broadwater Down Newsletter

Headteacher's Letter

Yet again, another term whizzes by and I am always pleased by the quality of learning that takes place each week. Whenever I am in class handing out certificates or asking children about their learning, they are genuinely excited about their projects. We have battled through COVID cases and absences and once again, I thank parents for the support – the team really appreciate it. We continue to review risk assessments and I will be emailing parents after half term regarding class assemblies, book looks and parent volunteers.

On another note, we say goodbye to Mrs Kelly, one of our Year 3 teaching assistants. She has been a great member of the team and I know that you will join me in thanking her for all her hard work. She will be leaving after half term.

A quick word on attendance. As we move towards more 'pre COVID' times (fingers crossed), I cannot underline enough the importance of being in school every day – and on time. Teachers are working hard to address gaps in the learning and for every session missed, this is harder to achieve.

The school works closely with the local authority, seeking advice regarding requests for time out of school and these requests are only granted if the reason given is considered 'exceptional'. Each case is considered on an individual basis and I would urge parents and carers to think carefully before booking holidays inside of term time. This is 'unauthorised' and could potentially lead to a fine for that time out of school. If you have any questions about this, please, as always, contact me.

Thank you for the initial responses to the new uniform expectations which I emailed this week. I will look at comments over the half term holiday. If you need a hard copy of the survey, please ask the office.

Finally, we have been reviewing our Equality policy. Please find the new policy on our website under 'Key Information>Policies'. This policy explains how the school supports and celebrates our pupils and staff, particularly those with protected characteristics.

Have a good half term break and I will see you all at the gate on Monday 21st February.

Mrs Harris - Head Teacher

Fun in Year R



This term Ladybird class have been exploring lots of different stories. They have learnt to act out a range of stories in our 'helicopter stories' sessions, retell the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff and create their own characters to add into the story. They really enjoyed using the characters they created to act out their stories in a small group with their friends and have also used their ideas to create a new story on a story map.

In PE, the children have been learning to develop their passing, shooting and dribbling skills to improve their football skills.



Year 1 are making a documentary!



This term the children have been working on their new topic with enthusiasm. The knowledge of London has amazed us all and we are all looking forward to creating our documentary about London. If you do have the opportunity to visit London, please take lots of pictures for them to share in the classroom.

Woodpecker Class have received a message!



At the start of this term, Woodpecker Class received some intriguing messages from the past! After following directions to their secret location and cracking the codes, we discovered they're messages from a cave man! The caveman has sent us questions like, "How me grow big and strong?" and "Can me live forever?" and "Why some animals so tiny?"

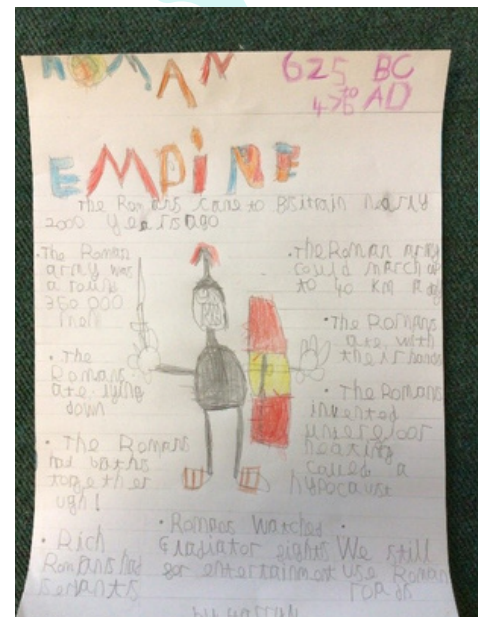
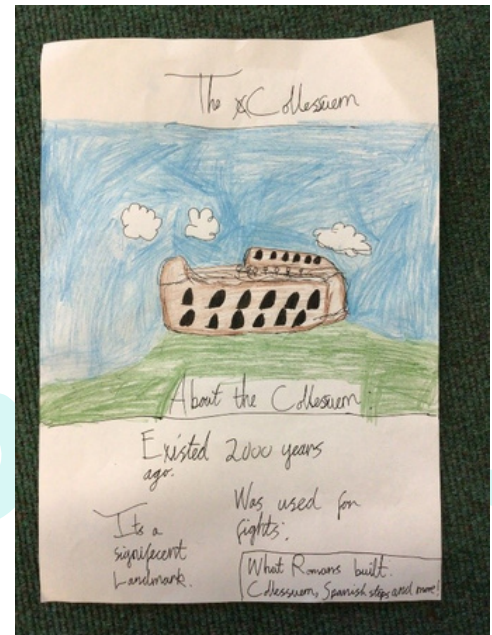
We've decided to send a book back to the caveman to answer all of his questions! We have designed and made recipes for some delicious and nutritious salads to help him grow big and strong. We have also been learning about life cycles of animals, including humans to help him understand that we all grow, reproduce and die at different ages.

Now, all we have to do is work out how to send the book back in time...

Year 3 have gone back in time...

This term, once again we have been going backwards in time. Not as far as 10,000 years, but to the time of the Romans. The children have enjoyed learning about the advances made between the Stone Age cave dwellers and the Romans. (A lot happened in those few thousand years...)

The children have been working hard in the classroom as well as at home. Here are some amazing posters the children created as part of their home learning.



Year 4's Viking Warrior School

On Thursday 13th January, Year 4 arrived at school to find that Deer Class had been transformed into a Viking Warrior Academy. Upon entering the academy, our trainee Vikings were first required to make their equipment. Helmets were the order of the day with not a single horn in sight. (Did you know that traditional Viking helmets didn't actually have horns?)

After equipment preparation, came map making and navigation skills. These of course are essential requirements for any Viking wishing to scout out new territory. Our Viking trainees mapped an area, before writing a word in runes and hiding it. The location of all the runes were marked onto a master map which the trainees copied onto their own maps and used to locate the runes.

After lunch, our trainee warriors participated in battle skill training led by Warrior Smith - ie Mrs Smith, our PE teacher. They learnt how to throw a spear (foam javelin), worked on their battle fitness and practised the kind of long jumps needed to get from boat to land. They also played hunt the Saxon. To finish off the day, our new warriors sang tales of the Norse Gods around the campfire accompanied by soda bread and honey. There was also hot mead and nettle tea to slake their thirst.



Year 5

Safer Internet Day



In Year 5, the children looked at a story of an alien who had come to Earth as a tourist because they've heard so much about our incredible internet, and especially the games we can play online. The alien wanted to experience online gaming and the children had to be its guide.

Geography

In Geography, we have been looking at globes and locating countries. We talked about tropic, temperate and polar zones. We worked out the latitude and longitude of particular places within that country. We also looked at whether the country was north or south of the equator.

We discussed being safe, how to protect yourself online and what the alien should do in different online scenarios.



Fun Activities This Term in Year 6

Tree Planting

Written by DT, Yr 6

On Monday 7th February, five year 6's walked to the Commons to watch the mayor plant a young oak tree, in celebration of the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

When we got to the Commons we stood in a circle around the tree with the mayor and the Lord Lieutenant of Kent. The mayor said that in the olden days animals grazed on the Commons and he informed us of plans to put electric fencing around them, so this would continue.

Then, from a mound of dirt, the mayor and the Lord Lieutenant shovelled some dirt into the hole where the oak tree is planted. We got to shovel some dirt in the hole, along with children from other schools.

Then, we had our photo taken for the newspaper with everyone, and some individual photos by the teachers.



On Wednesday 19th January year 6 took part in their first 1st Class Quiz event of the year – there are more to follow. The 1st Class Quiz is an online quiz with questions asked by people such as: Tim Peake, Michael Rosen, Rick Riordan, Richard Osman, Sky News, BBC, Marvel and many more.

The children competed against ten other local schools, over zoom, and scored a magnificent 50/60 – enough to be crowned the winners of the event and currently in first place on the overall leader board of 100 schools.

The children did a brilliant job and worked brilliantly in their teams in categories such as science, maths, history, geography and of course, the design challenge, which was to build a capsule/parachute from an egg in five minutes.

Year 6 Basketball Tournament

Seventeen year 6s, their accompanying coaches (Mr. Neill and Mrs Carpenter-Wilson) and parents, travelled to Skinner's Grammar School on Wednesday for the year 6 basketball tournament. Our two teams were drawn in tough groups against schools who have traditionally done very well, and came armed with very tall players, but Broadwater Down were not put off at all. Both teams won their first group games and Mr. Neill was beginning to have a feeling that there was magic in the air.

The scheduling of the games worked out favourably for BWD, as on the whole, each team was able to support the other in their games and did so exceedingly vocally. Team C-W played brilliantly and valiantly in the remainder of their games with Mrs C-W commenting that the whole team worked hard for each other and rallied around their friends, as well as showing great skill and tenacity. Team N got on a roll after their first game and just couldn't stop winning – something special really was brewing. The team were full of energy and worked very well together. Quick passing and accurate shooting were the order of the day as they made it all the way to the final. St Matts proved an obstacle too far but a 2nd place finish is the best result for the school at a tournament for a long time.

A massive well done to the whole squad and indeed the rest of the year 6 class who have worked so hard and loved basketball this year. Mr. Neill couldn't be prouder of the whole squad, not only for their success but for the spirit in which they played and the togetherness they showed.

Finally, a special mention must also go to RM who didn't play in the tournament but came to support his friends and watched the entire tournament. Well done to all!



Safeguarding at Broadwater Down

Concerns?

If you have any concerns about the well-being of any of our pupils or about a member of staff, please speak to Mrs Harris, our Designated Safeguarding Lead or Ms Hodgkins, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all pupils, staff and visitors and believe everyone has the responsibility for the safeguarding and protection of our pupils.

Online Safety

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 8th February. Take a look at the following two websites on how to keep your child safe online.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/safer-internet-day/>

Internet Matters website also have guides on how to set up your child's new phone or tablet.



School Information

A healthy lunch - that they'll want to eat!

Choosing what to pack for our children's lunch can often be tricky. Most parents want to give their children a healthy lunch, which they will want to eat and is affordable.

Try to include 1 portion of each main food group:

- ✓ **Carbohydrate**; rice, potatoes, pasta or wholemeal bread
- ✓ **Dairy**; a little cheese or yogurt
- ✓ **Protein**; meat, fish, eggs or beans
- ✓ **Vegetables**; raw or cooked
- ✓ **Fruit**; Fresh or dried

🍏 Measure portion sizes by using the size of your child's palm. One palm size is one serving.

🍏 Try to include fresh fruit and/or vegetable items.

🍏 Please do not to include very high sugar items such as sweets or chocolate bars.

🍏 Try and include your child in the planning and preparing stages; you could suggest two or three items from each food group for them.



Term Dates

Term 4

Monday 21st Feb - First day of term

Thursday 3rd March - World book day

Tuesday 29th March - Parents evening - virtual (4pm-6pm)

- appointments available from Monday 14th March

Wednesday 30th March - Parents evening - in person (3:30pm - 5:30pm)

- appointments available from Monday 14th March

Friday 1st April - Last day of term

Term 5

First Day of Term Five - Tuesday 19th April

Last Day of Term Five - Thursday 26th May 2022

Inset Day for Staff - Friday 27th May 2022

Half Term: 28th May - 5th June 2022

Term 6

Inset Day for Staff - Monday 6th June

First Day of Term Six - Tuesday 7th June

Last Day of Term Six - Thursday 21st July

Summer Holidays: Friday 22nd July - 5th September