

Haytor View Community Primary School & Nursery – Key Stage 1 Spring Newsletter

Learning together - enjoying success - aiming high - celebrating difference – enriching community



Well the future may be a bit uncertain, but the past term has been tremendous.

The weather may have got in the way of a few planned trips this term but the learning, progress and development of the children and adults in both phases has been astounding. While the children have been growing and learning, so have the adults.



In Maths, we have had a real focus on how we secure the basic understandings in number and reasoning. We have been exploring how we can support children even better in developing fluency across all their subjects, but particularly reading. Fluency means you can do something quickly and accurately and so is the real goal of any learning and comes from practice, practice and more practice.

The focus on vocabulary has remained strong with wonderful words being shared every day and we have received a number of requests from other schools to come along and show them what we are doing, which is always nice to hear.

We have undertaken a wholesale review of the curriculum to make sure it meets the needs of every child, even better. This is very exciting and will see us following a few new topics which should be sure fire winners in terms of engaging children. One of them is all about Kings and Queens. Do you know what Newton Abbot's connection with royalty is? The year 2 children will be able to tell you next term!

We are heading into Easter with a great deal of uncertainty but please, do not worry. If we are all unable to come together for a while, we will not stop caring about you and your children and we will be taking every possible step to make sure we can stay in touch as much as possible. You will not be on your own. We will still be here in some form.

If we are unable to be together in school, the learning can continue and you will have the pleasure and privilege of being with your children while they learn, something which we will truly miss. They will need your time and patience and this is hard to give, particularly when things get hard but hopefully, the project work sent home last week will give some interesting and exciting projects for you and your child to spend some time doing together over the next few weeks. We will update the website regularly and will make good use of Bug Club to keep in touch.

Until we see each other again.

Best Wishes

The KS 1 Phase Team at Haytor View

World Book Day

This is without doubt one of our favourite days of the year! The emphasis on books is wonderful and having the opportunity to dress up as your favourite character really brings those favourite books to life.

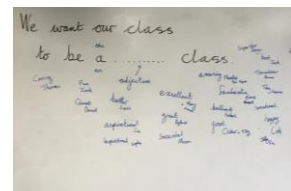
The sharing and discussion that went on throughout the day around books was great to listen in on and what made this year even more special, was the extent to which parents got involved.



Thank you so much for all of your input and efforts to make this day such a highlight of being at Haytor view. We are already thinking and planning for next year's event.

News from Year 2: Going for Goals.

The KS 1 focus for SEAL and R-TIME has been thinking and talking about the feelings we get when we set ourselves goals and then the feelings, both comfortable and uncomfortable that we encounter as we work towards these goals. The children have been brilliant at recognising that setting ourselves a goal can be tricky and that it takes resilience and determination to keep going when things might not go as we want them to. Sticking with it is worthwhile as the feelings of success, pride, contentment and satisfaction once the goal has been achieved is more than worth it.



Miss Cameron says,

"I have had lots of fun teaching Year 2 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We have particularly enjoyed learning about Diwali and the Chinese New Year. Each child has shown fantastic musical ability during our music sessions where we are developing our singing voices and learning to play the recorder. "

Rocket Science

The weather can get in the way of immersive, engaging activities in January, which is why we use this cold wet time to explore Space through the fantastic experience provided by Space Odyssey Dome. We used this as a stimulus for a whole week of learning around 'Rocket Science', for which we were blessed with several days of sunshine! The children loved this topic and the Planets information text they produced was their best yet.



Birds of Prey

Once again, Devon Birds of Prey centre wowed the children with their presentation on three distinctly different birds of prey. We met Dink, Mozart and Oracle and the children did not stop talking about them for weeks (particularly about the fact they all pooped on the hall floor)! The experience gave a great stimulus for our poetry writing using the bird's voice so we could produce a text which mirrored Dino Dinners.

Circus Skills

One of the best experiences we had was with Lucas and Johnny who came to the school to teach us circus skills and put on a dazzling display. The children had a wonderful time learning some new tricks, such as balancing a peacock feather on your nose, spinning plates or flipping flower sticks. Lucas told me that it was great to see children trying new things, finding them tricky but then realising that a bit of practise makes things much easier.



Class Trophy

The awarding of our class trophy is a very special moment. The trophy is awarded to whoever the class decide has been the Star Learner for the Week. It is wonderful to sit and listen to the children explain why they think other individuals in the class should be given the trophy to take home for the weekend. The looks on the faces of the children who are hearing such wonderful things being said about them by their peers is truly one of the best parts of this job!

Egyptian Science

Just to let you know that, at the time of writing, our Egyptian mummy experiment, which was inspired by our bug club reading, is still going! We have been taking a photograph of apples in salt, natron and on their own every twenty minutes, without stopping, for more than 16 days. The apple without the salt and Natron is looking really mouldy, so we are starting to work out why the Egyptians used salt to prepare their dead bodies.



Stay and Play

Every Tuesday and Thursday, the KS 1 classrooms are open after school for our Stay and Play club. We really hope you can pop along and spend some time just relaxing and playing games with your children.

It has been great to get more and more Dads coming along. These sessions provide a lovely opportunity just to spend some quality time together, as well as providing an opportunity to talk to us about anything that you have on your mind.



Assemblies- We are changing our certificate assemblies. Following the success of last term's approach, which saw us holding a big assembly to clear the hundreds of certificates the children had achieved, we have listened to what you and the children told us and have decided this is a better model than giving a few out a few certificates each week. We will still be giving certificates for the same thing, but will give all of them to everyone in one big celebration.



Shared Learning- Reading Assemblies

We are really keen for the Year 1s and Year 2s to be a close, collaborative team. To support this, each week, we are having several opportunities where the children come together to be, work and learn alongside each other, such as our cross phase creative projects (see below). As well as the regular R-time assemblies, we are running special reading assemblies to support and enable children to develop confidence in reading fluently to others.



Safer Internet Day- Cross Phase Creative Projects.

As always, this was an important part of our regular spring term curriculum. The focus this year was all around online identities. The children really enjoyed the focus for the week and were particularly engaged with the whole phase creative project, where children selected mixed year 1 and 2 teams and planned, developed and created something which they felt would help people keep as safe online as they try to do.

PE Kit

Just a reminder that it is really useful for children to have a PE kit in school, ready for Monday when we come back. That way, everyone can be confident that the PE kit is in school for the PE session and also, if there are any spillages, slips or accidents, there are some clothes to change into. PE kit is black shorts, white t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls.



Looking Forward

We do not know what the coming weeks will be like but we do know how much you and your children mean to us and how sad we are not to be able to be with you. This will all pass in time and we will be able to be back together, learning together at some point.

We are still here, we are not going anywhere and we will still be on the end of the phone if you need us.

Please keep an eye on the website to keep updated with the latest home learning ideas and suggestions. The Discovery Education site and Bug Club will be two of the main resources we will base home learning around.

Take care, look after yourselves and those around you. Try to keep your distances to help manage the spread of the disease and we will see you all healthy and happy once this is all over.

All the best

Iain Franklin KS 1 Phase leader