

Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are fit and well. School has continued to be a busy place since our return after the half term break. Please read below to get a flavour of what your children have been doing.

Curriculum update.

Nursery:

Nursery have been learning about autumn and fireworks. They watched some firework videos that inspired them to do some firework dancing using bright coloured scarves. Afterwards they built a bonfire (not a real one!) and pretended to toast marshmallows.

The children went on an autumn walk to find signs of the new season. Using some of the leaves that they found on their walk they made some hedgehog pictures.



Reception:

The children of Year R have been busy learning traditional tales. They have been putting actions to stories such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "The Three Little Pigs" and then using their sounds to write some of the words. In Discovery Time they have been mixing porridge, pretending to be Goldilocks, as well as making houses from different materials for The Three Little Pigs. They have also been thinking about size in our maths lessons and putting objects in order from largest to smallest.



Year 1:

This month the children have been thinking about different buildings in Portswood. As part of their DT project they designed, made, and evaluated their own buildings. The children thoroughly enjoyed designing either a house or shop to create their own version of Portswood High Street and then used Beebots to navigate through the streets. In English they wrote the story of the Three Little Pigs. The children are working hard on using their sounds, finger spaces, capital letters and full stops.



Year 2:

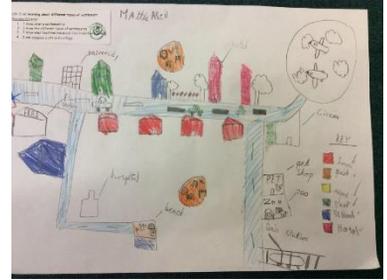
So far this half term, Year 2 have loved finding out about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and the differences they both made to nursing. The children were lucky enough to have a visit from Florence herself so they could ask lots of questions! They worked hard to write diary entries in role as Florence, using lots of brilliant vocabulary.

PE has also been a highlight for the children this half term as they have begun gymnastics. The children are really enjoying improving their balancing and jumping skills.



Year 3:

Year 3 have enjoyed learning all about our skeleton during science lessons. They have drawn around their bodies and added in the different bones, and were fascinated when they explored the differences between animal and human skeletons. The children's focus in geography this month has been 'settlements', and they have learnt about the different types of settlements and created their own city. One lesson the children particularly enjoyed was exploring four figure grid references and learning how to find exact locations.



Year 4:

Over this last week Year 4 have had an amazing time creating their Giacometti sculptures, where they made newspaper models before covering them with mod-roc. In science, the children have continued their work on electricity and have created circuits using buzzers, bulbs and motors. All of this work will be applied in DT when they will be designing and building their own torches.



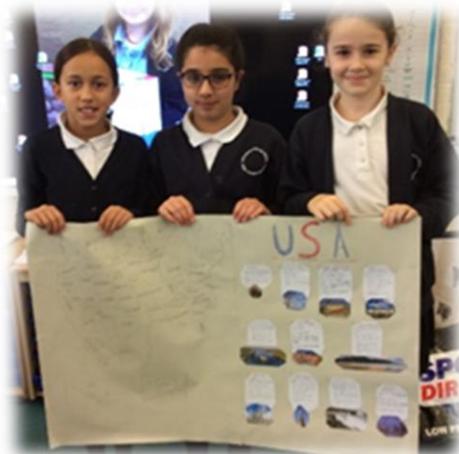
Year 5:

This half term Year 5 have been reading 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. They are loving the story so far and are all really enjoying delving into the characters of Stanley Yelnats and the other inmates at Camp Green Lake. At the moment, the children are applying all their persuasive writing skills to write and publish brochures encouraging parents to send their 'delinquent youth' to the camp. We are really looking forward to finishing the story and enjoying the film together on the last week of term.



Year 6:

Year 6 have made an admirable start to the second half of the autumn term. Learner attitudes have been great and good progress within their learning has been made. In science the children have been learning all about Charles Darwin and his classification systems as well as studying the wonderful world of bird beaks. Geography has seen the children produce some more brilliant work on the North American continent and its varying landscapes and landmarks. The children's general knowledge has been remarkable.



In PE they have been dancing the Charleston and adapting it to choreograph their own routines. The children have also been learning the names of the continents and countries in French in order to become French weather presenters. In English they have been studying non-chronological reports and poetry.

Christmas Cards:

For some families and children, the giving and receiving of Christmas cards is an important part of this time of year. We would like to continue to support this, but do need to make some changes due to the challenging times we are all currently living in. If a child wishes to bring in cards this can be done, but they would need to be only for those people within their classes. These cards would need to be given to their class teacher before or by Monday 14 December. These cards will be then held in 'quarantine' until Thursday 17 December, at which point they will be handed out by the class teacher.

I appreciate this is different to normal years, where the post-box is available and deliveries across the school are made by children on a daily basis, but I hope this goes some way to allowing this part of the festive season to happen for those who wish to celebrate it.

Parking:

Thank you for those parents who are continuing to support the safety of our children by making the conscious decision to consider where they are parking whilst dropping their children off. Some of you would have been aware of the traffic enforcement team out in the local area over recent days. This is occurring at the request of the school, as a means of continuing to raise parents' awareness of the need to park appropriately. These visits are likely to continue, and I wish to make you aware of this fact. Equally, if individuals choose to park in locations that they are not legally permitted to do so, and we consider that they place the safety of our children at risk, then we may take the decision to contact the traffic enforcement team directly and make them aware.

Goodbye

We would like to say a huge thank you to Barbara Wareham who has given Portswood Primary School 38 years of dedicated service.

We say a fond farewell to her both as a lunchtime supervisor and a cleaner, and wish her the very best in her retirement.



Children in Need

The children and parents of our school once again helped us support this worthwhile charity by dressing up in clothes that 'make them happy'. Due to your contributions, both on the day and after, we were able to raise over £464.00.



Thank you again for your participation.

Information Booklet 2020

Please can you return your completed information booklet as soon as possible. If these are not returned, your child will not be able to participate in certain activities.

Many thanks

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11 December 2020, we are inviting all pupils to take part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

The whole school will be taking part by pulling on a Christmas jumper for a great cause.

We are asking pupils to make a suggested donation of £1, to help transform the futures of children in the UK and around the world.

All money raised will go to Save the Children.

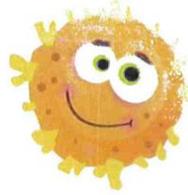
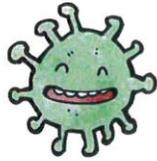
All your child needs to do is wear a festive woolly, instead of their usual school sweater, and bring in a donation. There is no need to splash out on snazzy new sweaters to join in the fun – why not swap, borrow or bling up an old woolly with some festive decorations.

We would really appreciate your support to make Christmas Jumper Day a success – it is a great cause, so together we can make the world better in our sparkly sweaters!

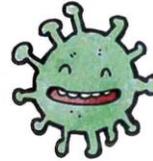


Dates / Activities

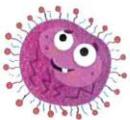
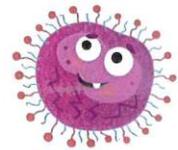
Date	Activity
Tuesday 1 – Thursday 3 December	Year 4 Roman Event
Friday 11 December 2020	Nasal Flu Vaccination
Friday 11 December 2020	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18 December 2020	End of Term
Monday 4 January 2021	Children back to school



Annual Nasal Flu vaccination now due



For children in years R, 1,
2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7



FREE in School

Friday 11th December

