



Wordsworth Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and children-

Another fantastic half term in Reception. The children have knocked our socks off with their brilliant phonics! They have made such amazing progress. Bikeability was also a huge success with some children even learning to ride a bike with no stabilisers in just a week! Mathematics continues to be a focal point with children really developing their understanding of numbers to 5. They are maths whizz kids!



In Science, **Year 1** have been looking at their super senses. They went on a walk around the school grounds using their sense of sight and hearing. The following week they tasted and smelled different crisps. They also used their sense of touch to try and identify different items in the 'feely box'.



Year 2 had a special visitor come to school to support their learning about important people in history. They took part in an exciting interactive workshop learning about the Crimean war and the influence nurses had during this time.



In Science **Year 3** have really enjoyed learning about magnetic forces this half term. They have compared different strength magnets. They had a variety of magnets such as fridge magnets, trains, magnetic shapes and some they had brought in from home. The children tested their strength by picking up paperclips, paper fasteners or clips.



Autumn 2 2022

In outdoor learning sessions, Year 3 used natural resources to make Christmas pictures. They had to work well as a team to make sure our picture looked like our plan.



This half term, **Year 4** have been writing information texts all about musical instruments. In Science, they have been learning about sound, doing many fascinating experiments and in DT, they have made Christmas Gift Boxes!



Year 5 enjoyed welcoming a visitor to support their history learning. They took part in an exciting acting workshop to understand what life might have been like in Baghdad in 900 CE. 5HB and 5L have also had a great time developing their swimming skills; it has been lovely to see the children grow in confidence. The children have also used their cooking skills to design and make seasonal fruit crumbles. The children thoroughly enjoyed baking (and tasting!) their creations.



In History, **Year 6** have been learning about the Roman Empire. They investigated the reason why the Roman army was so successful by practicing Roman battle strategies using shields they had decorated.





Roles and Responsibilities at Wordsworth



The first week back after half term was a successful Election week, electing positions of responsibility across the school. We were so impressed with the letters of application and the speeches recorded by the Year 6 Head student candidates, with such wise words such as 'You can do anything in life if you put your mind to it.' It was a very close election and we are so very proud of all of the candidates who wrote letters of application, talked in assemblies and recorded speeches.



We are grateful to Southampton City Council who once again lent us their official voting booths and ballot boxes so we could provide an authentic experience for the children voting. They all impressed us with how mature and sensible they all were on voting day, taking their confidential vote very seriously. We are pleased to announce that the results are officially in and our head boys and girls are as follows:

Head girl: Amelie Horwood

Deputy Head girl: Olivia Benko

Head boy: Ethan Christie

Deputy Head Boys: David Andrew and Jack Moverley



We have also appointed a record number of Prefects this year; School Council members from Year 1 – 6, Community Champions from Year 4 and 5 and Librarians from Year 3 and 4. Our Eco Councilors appointed in January remain in place and our Sports Leaders are currently going through the application process. It is wonderful that so many of our children want to take on additional responsibilities. We have been so impressed by their efforts in their new roles so far.

Workshops at King Edwards

Some children from Year 5 had the opportunity to visit King Edwards this term to take part in a Science workshop. The children took part in lots of different investigations, including dissecting a rat! Art workshops also took place at King Edwards where the children made their own ceramic masks; these will be sent home once they have been fired in the kiln. Mrs Lewis and Mrs Smith commented on how proud they were of the children who took part and how brilliantly they represented our school.





Music

Autumn 2 is always a very busy time for Music in school.

In YR the children rose to the occasion and put on a great Nativity for parents last week. In their weekly music lessons, as well as learning their songs, they have had the opportunity to play lots of percussion instruments and many of the children can play along to a beat.

In Y1 the children have been exploring "Superheroes" in their music lessons. They made up a class story based on pieces of music that they listened to, and then used the story to create their own music, using lots of different instruments. The children also had time to learn some songs for their Christmas performance to parents.

In Y2 the children have been learning to follow symbols to show them when to play. These started off as picture symbols but they have now learned to play crotchet and quaver rhythms and have composed their own rhythm grids. They have been learning their Christmas songs and are looking forward to performing them on Thursday.

In Y3 the children have been learning drumming techniques, using our class set of bucket drums. They have been reading rhythm notation and learning to work as a team, playing different rhythm patterns with songs and pieces of music. They also had their first opportunity to take part in our Christingle Celebration and have been busy learning the songs for this.



In Y4, we have been using plastic cups to make music! These can be used very creatively by playing them in different ways. The children have been following rhythm notation and symbols which show them how to play the cups and have worked to create some class performances. The year group have enjoyed learning their Christingle songs and preparing to perform them.

In Y5 the children have been looking at musical structures and how pieces have sections which might be heard several times. They have used Boomwhacker tubes to play along with pieces of music, making sure that they play the right notes at the right time. They enjoyed learning their Christingle songs, especially the "Glory Rap".

In Y6 the children have been looking at music related to World War I. They used the notes from "The Last Post" which make a triad to compose their own melodies for song lyrics, and learned to play a two-part fanfare, reading the pitch and rhythm notation. It was the last opportunity for them to take part in our "Christingle Celebration" at St James by the Park Church.





Choirs

We have had many children who have wanted to participate in our choirs this term. The Y2 choir were invited to take part in the "Christmas Tree Festival" at St James Methodist Church at the end of November. Together with children from Shirley Infant School, they performed songs from "Christmas with the Aliens". Our Y3/4 Choir have been a very committed group, and performed at our Christingle Celebration. Our Y5/6 Choir took part in a performance at the Townswomen's Guild Christmas party. They performed very professionally and I was very proud of how well they represented our school out in the local community.

Orchestra

Our school orchestra, made up primarily of Y5 and 6 players, have been meeting every Friday afternoon to rehearse. They have enjoyed playing a range of pieces together, learning to follow a conductor and controlling the volume of their playing.

We know you will join us in thanking Mrs Thompsett for all her hard work this term, not to mention coordinating the fabulous Yr R, 1 and 2 shows and the magical Christingle. Mrs Thompsett works tirelessly across two schools leading staff and children in all things performance related as well as teaching music and leading the choir and orchestra.

Thank you Mrs Thompsett!



Please see the flyer below about a family event happening locally this Saturday





Parent Forum and Communication

Thank you to those parents who have attended a Parent Forum this half term. We have decided to launch two new initiatives to help improve communication with our families further. The first of these will be a weekly noticeboard update letter, with the aim to keep all updates in one place, rather than lots of small emails throughout the week



Coming soon...Wordsworth Weekly Pin board

Containing: Important dates and reminders
and snippets of helpful information

Secondly we have now launched an official school FaceBook page as a further means of communication and to ensure all information shared is accurate. We will use this page as a means of highlighting and celebrating achievements, sharing information and reminders, publishing any letters we send out and giving you more information about current or upcoming projects.



Now live- Wordsworth Primary official 'facebook' page.

Feel free to follow us.

We are still fine-tuning it but we are aiming to regularly post here from the Spring Term onwards.

We have also scheduled in **Open Door Events for each Year group** for parents to come in and see your child's work. These will be in **week 3 and 4 of the new term**. Please see the Year group newsletter for the specific date for your child's year group.

Notices:

- A reminder that we open for the new term on Tuesday 3rd January 2023
- There are two INSET days in January: Friday 27th January and Monday 30th January 2023
- We close for Half term on Friday 10th February 2023
- We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year ☺

