



Spring 1 Newsletter

With God's love, we are lights for the world'



Dear Wenlock families,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your families have had a restful and enjoyable first half of the Spring Term. I want to update you on some of the exciting events and initiatives that have taken place this term and what we have planned for the coming months.

Firstly, we will continue focusing on writing by embedding the 'Talk for Writing' style of teaching English. In the next half term, we will have World Book Week instead of World Book Day to celebrate our love of reading and books. Miss Ayres and Ekamjeet planned a great Number Day this term with lots of activities for children to join in with. We have been inundated with 'courage' nominations linked to our Value this half term. Our next Value is forgiveness, which ties in with the Easter story; it's Y4's turn to lead in the church. Look at the end of the newsletter for the Forgiveness homework.

We had 'visitors' this term in the form of a SIAMS inspector. SIAMS is like OFSTED but for church schools. I was hoping we would have the report to share with you by today, but it has not arrived in my inbox. I look forward to sending this to you all as soon as I get it. Thank you to those parents who spoke with the inspector, and you will be pleased to hear that our Shine Ambassadors and children who chose to talk to the inspector, well... shone! They were amazing.

We were all so proud of the children that went to Wembley to sing at the Young Voices concert this term. They were a credit to the school as well as singing beautifully. Our Girls football team had some amazing wins in their league this term too.

As always, we value your feedback and input and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We will hold our next parent forum after half term, so I hope many of you will attend. We are committed to working in partnership with our families to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our children.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to another successful half-term ahead.

Ms Olivia Burke
Head Teacher

I wanted to explain why our school is a 'Nut Free' school. As you may know, many children have a severe peanut or tree nut allergy. These allergies can range from mild to life-threatening, and exposure to even the tiniest amount of nuts can cause a severe reaction. We have several children at Wenlock that are allergic to nuts.



We have implemented a nut-free policy to keep our entire school community safe. This means that we ask all children, staff, and visitors to avoid bringing any foods containing nuts onto our school grounds. This is also linked to our Fruit and Vegetable ONLY policy for snacks. A few children are bringing cereal bars (which contain nuts) or unhealthy snacks that do not meet our healthy school criteria.

We understand that this may be an inconvenience for some, but the safety of our children and staff is paramount.

Key Dates

Monday 19th—Friday 23rd February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 26th February	Inset Day—School closed to children
Tuesday 27th February	Children return to school Consultation evenings start—Book via Arbor Consultations
Thursday 29th February	Year 4 Alina Class Swimming Lesson
Monday 4th March	Y4 to St Anne's Church
Mon 4th—Fri 8th	World Book Week! - More details to follow Dress up day on FRIDAY
Thursday 7th March	Year 4 Alina Class Swimming Lesson
Thursday 14th March	Year 4 Alina Class Swimming Lesson
Monday 18th March	Year 6 visit to Chiltern Academy to see 'The Little Mermaid' 11.15—13.45
Thursday 21st March	Year 4 Alina Class Swimming Lesson
Monday 25th March	Lower school Believe and Achieve awards—9.15am—Invited parents only
Tuesday 26th March	Easter Service 10am at St Mary's Church—Year 4 parents are welcome
Wednesday 27th March	Upper school Believe and Achieve awards—9.15am—Invited parents only
Thursday 28th March	Year 4 Alina Class final Swimming Lesson
Thursday 28th March	Last day of Spring Term
Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 15th April	Inset Day—School Closed
Tuesday 16th April	First Day of Summer Term—Children return to school
Thursday 18th April	Vesper Class begin Swimming Lessons—further details nearer the time
Monday 29th April to Wednesday 1st May	Year 6 CYE Residential trip

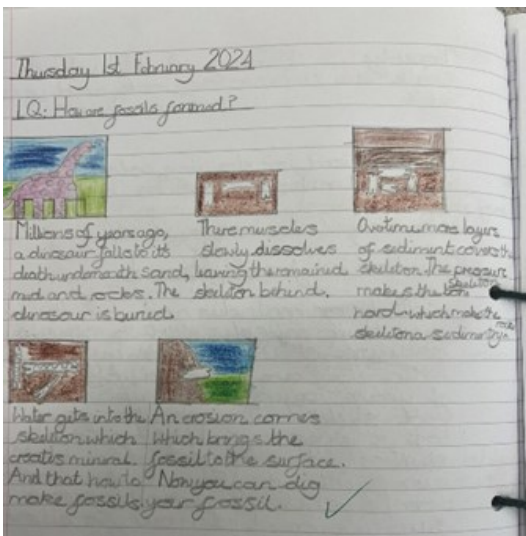
Attendance

Well done to Omega Class who achieved the highest attendance week ending 9th February at 99.66%

The attendance for the whole school was 94.92%

Our school target is 97%

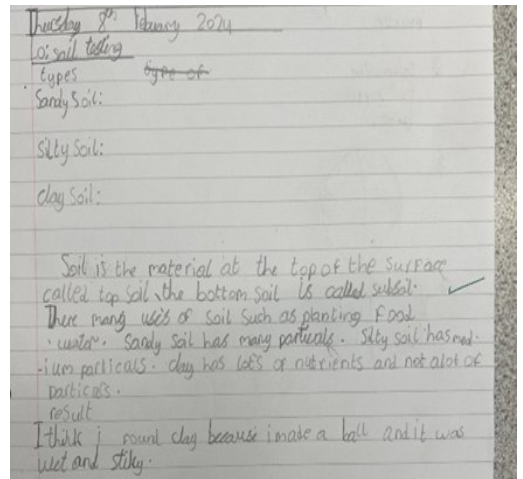
Genesis Newsletter—Spring 1



In Genesis class this half term we sadly said goodbye to Miss Jilani and wished her good luck with her baby and welcomed back Mrs Clarke. Our learning has been filled with lots of excitement and it has been so lovely to see the inquisitiveness and enjoyment within our lessons.

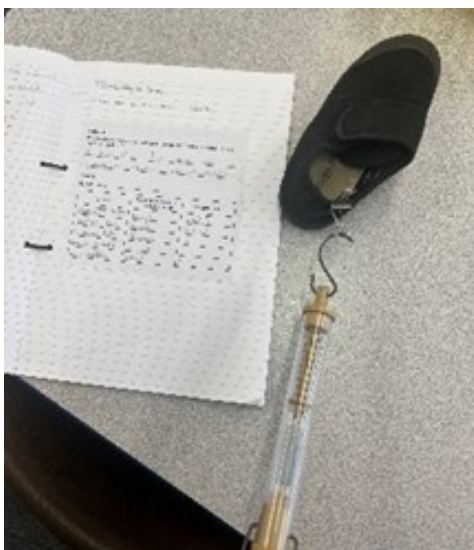
We started off our geography unit by exploring different rocks. 'In geography, we

looked at real rocks and felt them. They were igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks.' **Ergi**. We did our own research into different types of rocks and their uses, it was really interesting! Next, 'we learnt about how fossils are made from dead animals being squashed under sedimentary rock.' **Kieran**. Our Geography learning then moved onto soils. 'I loved making the balls with the silty, clay and sandy soil to feel them. When you put water in sandy soil, the water stays in the sand. In clay soil, it gets sticky and squishy and silty has medium particles.' **Grace**.



In Science we are exploring and investigating forces. 'We learnt about force meters in science, they have a handle and a hook used to pull things and forces measured in Newton's **Nelson**. We have carried out an experiment to see what impact different surfaces have on the friction of our shoes.

In Maths we have been exploring length and have 'learnt about meters, cm and mm' **Amani**. It has been challenging but fun to learn how to convert different measurements between meters, centimeters and millimeters.



I have been extremely impressed with effort of the children in Genesis class this half term and all of their hard work. I cannot wait to learn more about them and see their excitement for learning continue to grow for the rest of year 3.



Omega Class News! - Miss Nye

The first half of the Spring term has come to an end and I am proud of the effort the children have shown throughout the curriculum; from learning about volcanic rocks, to using a force meter in Science and writing powerful similes in English. "In Maths we have been learning about measurements and we used a ruler to measure items around the classroom"- **Fatima**. "I love Maths"- **Layla-Belle**.

Omega Class' Highlights:

"My best part of this half term has been writing because I want to be a writing wizard"- **Rashella**

"I like learning about different kinds of rocks, because it is so fun and you get to feel the rocks - **Adam**

I liked learning about Gurus in RE because it gave me the chance to learn about a different religion. It is important to learn about significant people in religion - **Nuzhat**

I loved cooking ratatouille. We learned how to slice and dice vegetables and fry them in a frying pan"- **Sofia**

"I loved learning to spell and read"- **Arewa**

"I loved learning about measuring in Maths because I love Maths"- **Kaiyann**

"My highlight this half-term has been to peel and chop potatoes in our DT lesson"- **Halima**

"My highlight was in English when I was challenged to make a story about a kitten who didn't have a tail"- **Candace**

"I love learning my timetables and I love to play hit the button"- **Caitlyn**

"In Science, I liked using force metres to measure push and pull" - **Daniel**

In English, we have been learning a modelled text through the use of actions. We have been using outstanding adjective within a simile to compare a character or setting.

"I really liked creating my own stories and writing about where animals lived"- **Mahfouz**

"A simile is a technique that describes and compares one thing with another thing"- **Mohsin**

"An example of a simile is; a bunny is as soft as a teddy bear"- **Molly**

"I like making story maps and writing stories"- **Imarniyah**

"I like writing stories about animals and I use adjectives to describe them"- **Tamara**

In Religious Education, we have been learning about 'Inspirational Gurus in Sikhism'.

"I learned that Guru Har Krishan healed people who were sick"- **Yahya**

"I learned that Guru Angad made community kitchens to feed homeless people and people in need"- **Liyana**

"This shows our school values of courage and kindness"- **Zine**

Here are some goals and achievements that we hope to reach in the second half of the Spring term;

"I would like to achieve the writing wizard award and gain my pen license"- **Alayna**

"I want to improve my handwriting to make it neater and so that I can read back through my work and edit it"- **Cody**

"I want to get a star award for my handwriting improvement"- **Denis**

"I want to learn all my timetables"- **Zanid**

"I would like to increase my drawing skills. I hope to be able to draw a detailed dragon"- **Michele**

"I want to get my pen license, which means I have to focus on the neatness of my handwriting"- **Aya**

I have been incredibly impressed with Omega Class' effort and all their hard work! I cannot wait to continue our journey as we move further in Year 3. Have well-deserved half-term break and be ready for fun-packed learning on your return.

An awesome half term in Alpha



What a wonderful half term this has been as we have been energetic, excited and exploring! The children have thoroughly enjoyed using Spelling Shed and TT Rockstars, which has seen us placed first across the whole school at times!

“In Geography, we have been learning about the Earth and the different layers and rocks which it is made of. We have learned that there are 3 types of rock which are igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. Sedimentary rocks are made of sand, pebbles, rocks and mud.” – Cleo and Reggie

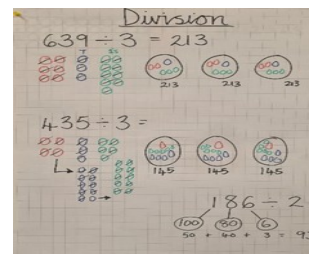
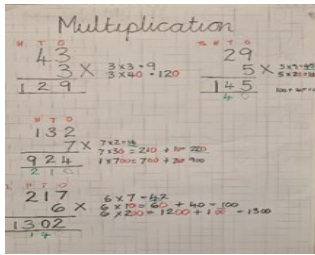
“In Science we have been exploring forces. Forces are pulls and pushes which cause movement. Friction is a contact force between two surfaces, when the surface is smooth there is less friction, which allows the object to move faster – the opposite happens when it is on a rough surface. We investigated the impact friction has using force meters.” Naomi, Umar & Denver

“In DT, we have been cooking ratatouille. We began by learning how to chop safely using different grip, such as the bridge and claw grip. We made the ratatouille using courgette, aubergine, onion and tomatoes and then mixed them in a frying pan, before putting them into a pan and adding chopped tomatoes. It was really tasty!” – Sofia, Vishan & Charles

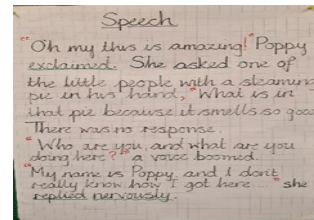
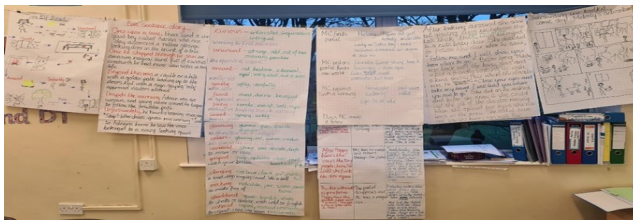


AURORA CLASS - SPRING TERM 1

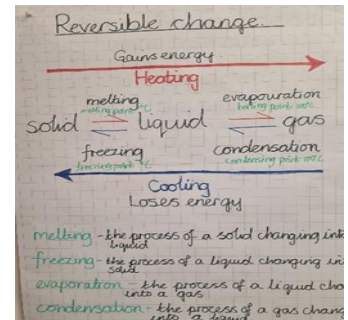
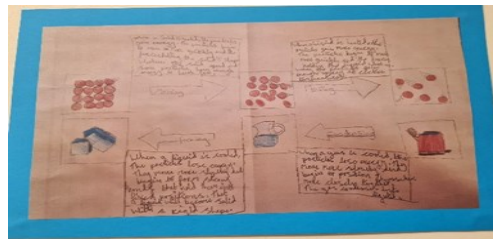
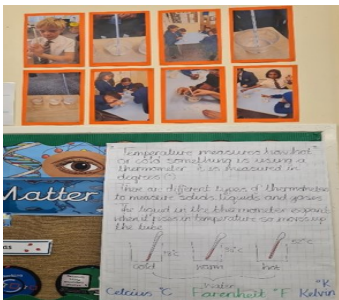
This half term we have been doing multiplication and division in Maths and learning several methods of calculation. We have used Arrays, Part-whole models and the column method.



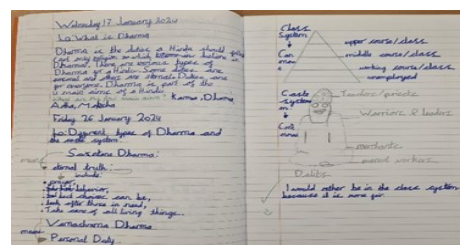
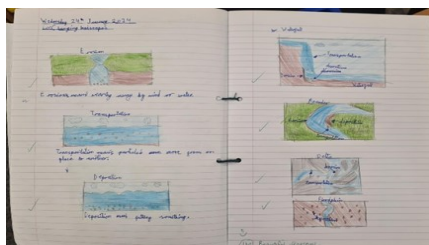
In English we have been innovating the story of Elf Road and using noun phrases in our descriptions as well as some direct speech.



Our Science topic is States of Matter so we started looking at how everything is made up of particles. We have also done experiments to show reversible changes and how water can change between all three states from water to ice or steam and back again through the processes of boiling, freezing, condensing and evaporating.



Geography is all about Rivers and Mountains, so far we have learned how rivers are formed, as well as some of the most famous rivers in the world. Our R.E. topic has been Hinduism and in particular the concept of Dharma. We have compared this with other religions including Christianity and seen many similarities between what people of many different faiths believe.



In Art we have been looking at different methods of shading to bring our pictures of landscapes to life and create a more 3D effect, as well as remembering what we previously learned about colour schemes.



Alina half term update



There it goes, another half term that has just flown by. In Alina class we have been busy mastering column multiplication and used different manipulative to begin to understand the process of dividing. In English we have allowed our imaginations to find a special portal that has taken our characters away into another world. But I do wonder, did they ever make it back?

We have been going deeper into RE discussion this term thinking about our dharma within school and the world. We have learned about the story of Rama and Sita who we believed embody excellent examples of following and fulfilling their dharma.

In Science we have been investigating different states of matter and their changes as a result of different temperatures. We also stumbled across a number of reversible changes. But the most fun shared by the children has been our studies into rivers and the purpose behind having them. The children really are experts so please don't hesitate to ask them what they have learned.

Please don't forget our Lexia, spelling bee and times table rockstar competition. We can't let vesper and Alpha class remain above us!

See you again in the second half of the spring term.

Mr Clark



Solar Class Newsletter—Spring 1

Wow! It's been a speedy yet fabulous half term. The children in Solar class have worked tremendously hard with their learning this term.

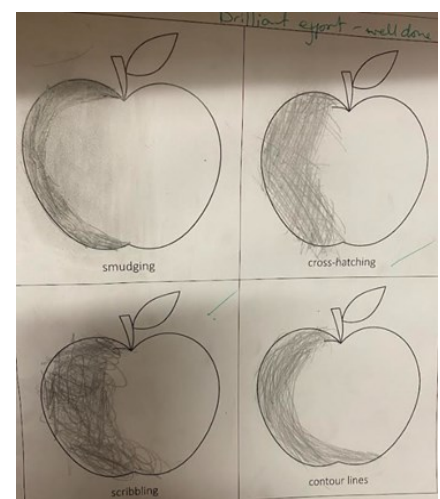
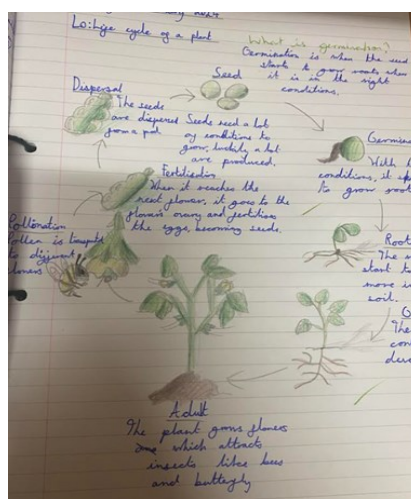
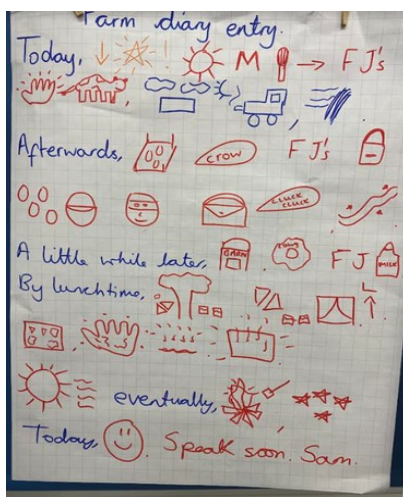
In English, we have explored different settings and innovated our own stories with various settings. The children were very creative and we had settings from enchanted forests to the dark woods. Children used a range of descriptions in their writing including relative clauses. The children have also looked at recounts particularly diary entries and are in the process of inventing their own.

In Geography, we have been learning all about farming in the UK and all around the World. We took a trip to our school allotment where we explored the different aspects that are needed to create a successful allotment. Children have been discussing and researching climate zones and the regional farming and growing that can take place in these areas. We have also looked at the life cycle of a plant.

In DT, the children have been looking at seasonal vegetables. They had the chance to taste a range of vegetables that are currently in season and rate them. They have also spent time learning different ways to prepare these vegetables such as chopping and grating. After the break, they spend time planning and cooking.

In Art, we have been exploring line, light and shadow. We have learned about artists such as Pablo Picasso and discussed his artistic style. The children have practiced and used various shading techniques to create their own drawings such as contour lines and cross hatching.

This term in R.E, we have been discussing holiness in Judaism. The children have really enjoyed learning about this religion as well as making comparisons with their own and other religions. The children have completed some lovely pieces of work showcasing their ideas and thoughts about what they have learnt so far.



Lunar Class Newsletter—Spring 1



What a busy start of the new year it has been for Lunar class! The children have reaffirmed our vision of being shining examples to all and have worked hard in many of their subjects.

In English, we have been continuing our suspenseful writing with *The Old Mill*. The children enjoyed creating spooky scenarios with fantastic imagery. The children are becoming more creative with their adjective choices. They have continued their skills of writing in the past tense with diary entries.

In Mathematics, the children have progressed and improved some of their skills in fractions, particularly when converting to decimals and seeing where they would be on the number line. Many are now challenging themselves with more complicated problems.

We have explored the life cycles of different animal groups and used the correct terminology in Science. Some children were surprised to find out that a platypus is a mammal that secretes milk from its sweat glands. The children have put their choreography and co-ordination skills to the test by learning and creating their own hand and foot jive movements to rock 'n' roll music.

“Sow, Grow, Farm” is our driver topic this term and the children have enjoyed learning what an allotment is and different farming techniques. DT is linked with our geography learning and we have delved into the world of seasonality. The children have improved their culinary skills by peeling, cutting and grating a potato. Some children showed some flair by cutting their potato into French fries.

Lunar class have blown me away with their artwork as their shading and drawing techniques have developed. The children have explored the concept of holiness in Judaism and are now well-versed in the events of the book of Exodus.

In recent weeks, we have discussed staying safe on the internet, what positive and negative influences might be and learning about what can affect our mental health.



Stellar class Newsletter—Spring 1

What a fantastic and busy half term we have had in Stellar class.

The children have worked hard in their learning this term. Let's have a look at some of their achievements.

English

This half term, the children have been continuing with Talk 4 Writing and looking at the features of a Diary entry and exploring the underlying patterns of an example to support their own creations.

Maths

We have been exploring relationships between fractions and decimals, comparing and ordering decimals and understanding values of decimals.

The children have worked really hard in their Maths.

Art

The children have been discovering artists such as Pablo Picasso and Rembrandt. We have been looking at light, line and Shadows using line drawing and different shading techniques. For this the children have used an array of resources such as pencil, ink and chalk.



Aviary Newsletter—Spring 1

Another term has gone by and the children have worked exceptionally hard! They have put a lot of effort into every topic and have taken every opportunity to challenge themselves in their learning.

During this term, the children have tackled the dreaded algebra. They pushed their way through and now have an excellent understanding of the topic, so hopefully they will be confident if it comes up in their SATs! They also studied ratios and can find different proportions in Maths.

The children have been exploring warning stories and have attempted to recreate some stories of their own. The purpose was to test to see if children can use different features to make a story suspenseful.

In Art this term, the children have been studying the Inuit people and looking at their different art styles. The children first had the opportunity to practice carving their own designs onto a piece of soap, which they did find tricky! Next, the children used stencils to print paintings using designs already made for them. To take their learning further they will be designing their own stencils to use and make their own prints.

In Geography our topic is the Frozen Kingdoms, the children have been studying the Arctic and Antarctic. They have looked into their differences and similarities between the two places and the day and night cycle they have. They have also explored the effect of climate change on them as well and the impact it may have in the future.

Finally, It has been an absolute pleasure to teach Aviary class this term. I hope they enjoy a week's rest and see them all next term!



Aquarium Class Spring 1 Newsletter

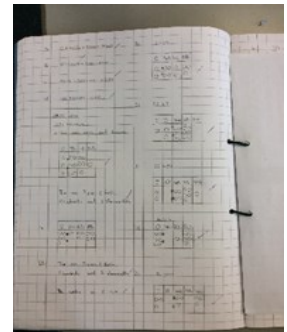
Wow! What a half term. The last 6 and a half weeks have flown by and it is crazy to believe that we are now half way through this academic year and the children's last year at Wenlock CE Academy! We have had a lot of fun this half term, stretching our limitless imaginations and making unique contributions to our learning, helping us to flourish and grow.

English

We have been enthusiastically continuing our Talk for Writing journey, producing excellent and imaginative warning stories and writing persuasive letters. We have thought carefully about the grammar that we are using in our writing as well as revising key grammatical features that we have learnt over our time in Key Stage one and Key Stage two.

Maths

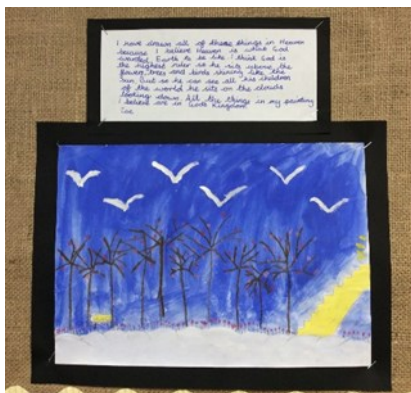
We are flying through our Maths curriculum and have revised the key elements of ratio, algebra and decimals. We have also extended our prior learning by digging deeper into different algebraic equations and beginning to make links with decimals, fractions and percentages.



RE

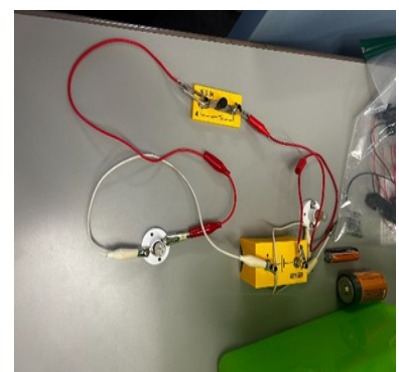
Our big question in RE this half term has been "What kind of King was Jesus?" from our big idea of God's Kingdom. We have looked at a range of texts, both from the Bible, popular hymns that are sung and different prayers. We have analysed how the Christian teachings of love and justice can help us to live our own lives and how the Christian Values link to our own beliefs and values. We have had some wonderful, respectful discussions where we challenged ideas and thinking, as well as linking everything back to the story of creation and how the world has ended up the way according to Christian beliefs.

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back to the
it has today



Science

This term we are focusing on electricity in Science, with a big focus this half term on circuits and voltage. We have been busy revising what we can remember about components and conductors of electricity. We have also had fun making our own circuits and testing different hypotheses that we have come up with in group work.



Geography - Frozen Kingdoms

Our main driver foundation topic this term looks at the Arctic and Antarctic, and the impact that our actions are having on these areas of the world. We initially looked at the polar landscape before considering how human factors are impacting what is left of these regions. Climate change and global warming have been two main factors in our study so far, combined with the study of Inuit Art in our art project.

Arboreal Spring Newsletter

This half term in English we have looked at a narrative called 'The Canal' and we have also looked at a persuasive letter about the plastic pollution. The children have enjoyed learning about how to develop a character through speech and looking at modal verbs and emotive language to be persuasive.

In Maths, the children have been challenging themselves with learning about ratio, algebra and decimals this half term. They were very excited to be able to form equations and solve them using bar models to help them. They have really pushed themselves and are developing their reasoning and explanation skills using Maths vocabulary.

Linked to our Geography topic of 'Frozen Kingdom', the children have been looking at Inuit art. They have enjoyed learning about the different art mediums they used and focused on the skill of creating and using stencils.



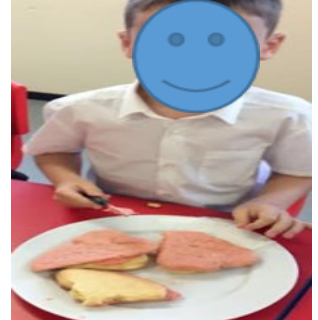
Our RE topic has really got the children thinking and discussing our big question of 'What kind of King is Jesus?' They have used parables, songs and art to develop their ideas. They created and explained what they thought Jesus' kingdom might look like, linking it to the learning in the previous lessons.



Lighthouse News Spring 1

This half term the Lighthouse have explored several topics including; Fear and Courage, Respect, Worry, Mindfulness and Love.

As part of our nurture sessions for 'love' the children had great fun participating in a shared cooking session where they created heart shaped sandwich cookies. This session helped the children build on fundamental social skills such as sharing, cooperation, patience. It also helped them develop their Numeracy and Literacy skills through measuring ingredients and reading the instructions.



Sports and Clubs Updates

This half term we have had some excellent results in the girls football. The girls played within a county finals tournament where they were a credit and flourished with the opportunity of their first experience of tournament football. The girls football league was also back under way with 2 stunning victories for the Wenlock girls who were overjoyed and so they should be. The girls have come a long way in our first year of competitive girls football. You are all an inspiration for other girls in the school. Look out for the girls football club starting next term.

Outside of school, Cody has been showing our values of resilience by supporting dad with his challenge to run 100k in February. Cody has racked up the miles and at an electric pace. Something I hope he is very proud of and ready to bring to school as next terms running club comes in preparation for the summer athletics.

Finally a massive congratulations to our numerous gymnastic members who continue to flourish and represent Wenlock in their local clubs, and a huge congratulations to Kaid, who had just secured a 6 week trial period with Luton Town Football Club. I already cannot wait for what next term has in store. It's a busy one!

Mr T. Clark



Picture News For Parents



February 2024 edition

Hello!

Welcome to this first edition of *Picture News for Parents*, a newsletter to keep you updated with Picture News coverage and how children can explore the news in a productive, child-friendly way. But first, let us introduce ourselves!



What is Picture News?

We make weekly news resources to help schools teach current affairs. We go beyond simply telling children what is happening in the world, to instead find opportunities for discovery, deeper thinking and self-reflection.

A Picture News session uses real-life learning, covering topics including real people and scenarios, to bring the world to the classroom. This helps children learn more about themselves and others: what interests them, what they are passionate about, and what they want to change or act on.

This half term's pack recap



Are emojis an important part of communication?

8th January 2024

This first pack of 2024 explored Teddy Cottle's petition for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he thinks it misrepresents glasses-wearers. This story led to wider thoughts of how we use emojis to communicate and express ourselves.



Is an e-reader better than a book?

15th January 2024

This pack detailed a recent study from the University of Valencia, which found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading. This news inspired children to debate how they felt about print books versus e-readers, and reflect on the value books bring to our lives.



Is fashion important?

29th January 2024

News of BBC's new programme, *Style It Out*, was the subject of this pack. The contest show requires budding designers to only use second-hand materials, which led us to explore sustainable clothing and the impact fast fashion is having on our environment.



What makes someone inspirational?

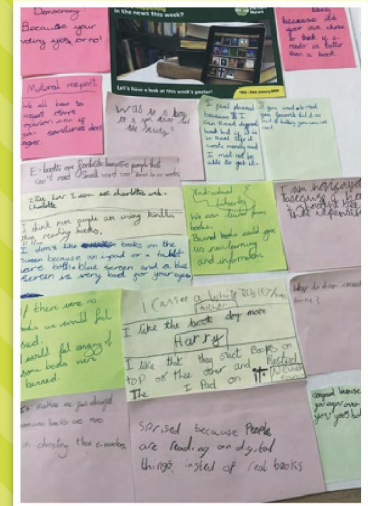
5th February 2024

This pack covered the news of Spain's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome, Mar Galcerán. Talk of Mar's election led us to explore the power of pursuing interests despite facing obstacles, and prompted discussions about what traits make someone inspirational.



Picture News & Schools

Our schools share on social media how they're using Picture News resources with children. Whether it's classroom discussions, sessions led by children, assemblies, PSHE or debate clubs, there are plenty of ways for children to learn about the news in their school setting. Here are some examples of Picture News in action!



"Picture News is an integral part of our school week. The children really enjoy the resources and show a very mature attitude when discussing the questions posed. Ofsted were impressed by the content of the assembly that they saw and mentioned it in our recent report."

Rosanna O'Hara, Unstone Junior School.

Picture News Take Home

You can keep up-to-date with the topics we cover in the 'Take Home' resource included in every Picture News pack!



Goodbye!



Katie N, Editor
katie.n@picture-news.co.uk

Thank you for joining me in this first edition of *Picture News for Parents*. This is a new venture for us, so we'd really appreciate any feedback or ideas for what support you'd like to see from Picture News.

FORGIVENESS

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value FORGIVENESS. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Forgiveness

Everyone makes mistakes, it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt others and then we need to say sorry. Sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us. When this happens we need to be able to **forgive**. **Forgiveness** can be difficult and costly but without it a new start is impossible.

Talk together about:

- A time when you needed to say sorry
- A time you didn't say sorry but wish you had
- A time when you had to **forgive** someone who had hurt or upset you
- How it feels when you are given a new start because someone has **forgiven** you

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"Without **forgiveness** there is no future.... If you can **forgive**, then you can move on and even help the person you are forgiving to become a better person"

Desmond Tutu



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Maze

Design your own version of the maze tree in the story of Zacchaeus.

You can either draw it on paper or use other materials to create it. It's up to you! Take it to school to display in the Challenge Gallery.



READ TOGETHER...

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Zacchaeus was a little man. He was a tax collector and had become rich by making others pay lots of money in taxes to the Romans and to him. He didn't have many friends.

When Zacchaeus heard Jesus was in town, he wanted to see him. But Zacchaeus was short and Jesus was always surrounded by a crowd. So Zacchaeus decided to run ahead of the crowd and climb a sycamore tree. From there he could watch for Jesus. As Jesus drew closer, he held his breath excitedly until Jesus stopped right beneath his tree. Jesus looked straight up at him! "Zacchaeus," said Jesus with a smile, "come on down. I want to stay at your house today!"

Zacchaeus hopped down. "You are welcome at my house, Jesus," he said with a huge grin.

But others grumbled, muttering to each other. "Why does Jesus want to go home with the rich, cheating tax collector? He isn't good enough for Jesus to come and stay at his house."

Zacchaeus heard what the people were saying about him and he wanted to put things right. He turned to Jesus and said, "Master, here and now, I promise to give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone in taxes, I will pay them back four times that amount."

Zacchaeus wanted to turn over a new leaf because Jesus believed that everyone deserved a new start and now Zacchaeus believed it too!

Bible story based on Luke 19:2-10



QUIZ

Tree Maze

Help Zacchaeus find his way down from the top of the tree, to meet Jesus.



★ HALL OF FAME

Desmond Tutu

Desmond Tutu was Archbishop of Capetown from 1986 to 1996. Throughout his life Desmond Tutu worked tirelessly against apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid was a system that treated people differently because of the colour of their skin. People who were non-white were not given the same rights in the country as white citizens. For example they had to live where the government told them to, they were not allowed to vote, had to use separate transport, go to different beaches and use separate sports facilities.

There was much violence and oppression in South Africa during the years of apartheid, and when it finally ended in 1992 some people were left feeling bitter and angry and wanting revenge. In order to give everyone a chance to talk about the things that had happened to them Desmond Tutu set up the 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission'. Many people who had behaved badly could hear from those they had hurt. There was the chance to say sorry and sometimes receive **forgiveness**. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped to provide an opportunity for a new beginning for South Africa, a chance to build what Desmond Tutu called a 'Rainbow Nation' in which everyone had the same chance in life no matter what the colour of their skin.



FASCINATING FACTS

Crosses across the world

The cross is a very special symbol for Christians it reminds them of Jesus' death on the cross which brought **forgiveness** for the world.

Different shapes and designs of crosses reflect different traditions and communities across the world.

Maria Gomez was a Christian Primary School teacher in El Salvador. She angered the authorities in her country because she campaigned for the rights of poor people. Eventually she was murdered. Later a local artist was commissioned to paint a wooden cross with scenes showing her life and her work among the poor women in the rural villages of El Salvador.



The Celtic cross originates from Ireland. St Patrick described the circle on the cross as symbolising the endless love shown by Jesus. The cross is decorated with natural shapes and animals to remind us of God's creation.

The Black and White cross comes from South Africa and was designed during the time of apartheid. The Bible teaches that people are equal in God's eyes, no matter what their background or the colour of their skin.



The Jewish New Year Tradition

New Year for Jews normally falls during September. On the first afternoon of the new year, the festival of Rosh Hashanah is celebrated. Families visit a nearby stream, river or even the sea for the ritual of Tashlich (in Hebrew, the language in which the Jews' holy book the Torah was written, Tashlich means throw away).

After a celebration meal Jewish families gather left over breadcrumbs. These crumbs represent the words or deeds that each family member feels sorry about. When the crumbs have been thrown into the water, fish eat them or they are washed away. This symbolises the way that God **forgives** the bad things that people have done and washes them away so that there can be a fresh start for the New Year. During the ceremony the following words from the Torah are read aloud, "You (God) will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our transgressions into the depths of the sea." Micah 7: 19