



YENTON NEWSLETTER



Yenton Primary School

Issue No. 2

18th October 2017

Chester Road, Erdington, B24 0ED 0121 464 6588

Head's message - Paul Smith

Dear Families,

The first half term seems to have flown by once again and we have had an exceedingly busy half term at our school. All of our new reception pupils have settled in to the routines of "big school" and all of our new arrivals across the school have also settled well—welcome to one and all.

As part of the school's continuing drive to improve teaching and learning for all of our pupils, we were once again visited by Mr Paul Weston, an educational consultant and one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMI). He was very pleased with the progress the school has made over the past year and can see improvements in the consistency and quality of the education provided to our pupils. To quote from his report "**this is a school on the up**"! A huge well done to all of our staff and pupils for this extremely positive report. One of the new initiatives at our school is the introduction of the Cornerstones curriculum to refresh and reinvigorate our curriculum. Please ask your child about their new Cornerstones unit and follow the imaginative and inspirational "hooks" that kick off all of these units... For example, Year 1 are making rockets to return a shipwrecked aliens to their home next term!

Please make sure you follow all of our exploits on the school's twitter feed—it is a fantastic way of seeing what our children get up to at school. Have a lovely half term and we will see you all back on Tuesday 31st October.

Yenton on Tour!

We have started the school trip season with some very successful trips out , and once again, our pupils' behaviour when out and about was of the highest standard. Y4 had a very informative visit to Wroxeter Roman Museum to learn all about the everyday life of Romans in Britain. Year 2 have visited Kenilworth Castle as part of their Cornerstone unit "Towers, Tunnels and Turrets" and had a wonderful time finding out all about this fantastic example of a medieval castle. Our thanks to all of the staff who organised these enriching experiences for our pupils.



If you have any unwanted children's toys, including large Duplo, toy cars or dressing up costumes, please hand them into reception . Many thanks!



email: enquiry@yenton.bham.sch.uk



web: www.yenton.bham.sch.uk



twitter: [www.twitter.com/Yenton Primary](https://www.twitter.com/Yenton_Primary)

Forest School rocks!

Autumn is one of my favourite seasons to be outdoors and experience the changing scenery. RD, 1V and 2A have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the sights, sounds and smells of the forest as we move to new and exciting activities to match the time of year. Over the coming weeks we will be discussing why leaves fall off the trees and why some animals hibernate. I am looking forward to making some spooky Halloween forest potions, identifying the various trees of our forest by making leaf kebabs and making hedgehog homes and pine cone bird feeders to help our local inhabitants as the weather starts to cool. If you would like any information about Forest School please feel free to ask me. Mrs Carn



Parking around school

We understand that parking around our school is a difficult issue, one that all schools face. Unfortunately we have some of our families who are parking illegally and dangerously close to our school, including parking in the private car park of the flats opposite our school. Traffic problems are a nuisance to our neighbours and pose a health and safety risk to our children. Please show you care and **PARK ELSEWHERE**.



School Admissions for September 2018

If you are a parent of a child who is due to start school for the first time in 2018, or transfer from infant to junior school, the process to apply for school places commences on 2 October 17 and closes on 15 January 2018. All parents who are about to commence this process should first sign up for email updates **'Primary School Admissions 2018'** at Sign up for email updates.

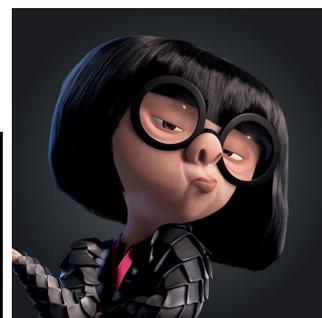
Parents resident in Birmingham local authority are required to submit their Reception and Year 3 preferences via the online application form (see link). Applications are completed online at <https://eadmissions.birmingham.gov.uk/prefs.php> Birmingham resident parents must also use this form to apply for schools in other local authorities. The deadline for all applications is **January 15th 2018**.

We are holding open sessions for all eligible pupils to come and look around our school. The sessions are on Thursday November 9th at 9:15am, 2pm or 6pm. If you cannot make one of these sessions, please contact the school and we will be happy to make alternative arrangements for you to have a look around. Please feel free to pass this information along to any parents or friends who have eligible children and who are looking for their child's first school.

Mrs Berriman's late challenge!

Children who arrive late for school are missing out on important learning interventions and targeted teaching so it is very important that all of our children arrive at school on time. Children should be in school at 8:50am and the school gates close at 8:55am promptly. Any pupil arriving after this time are deemed to be late. The table below shows how much learning time can be lost due to late arrivals. The classes with the lowest number of lates will receive a class prize, so please make sure our children arrive in school on time!

Minutes late per day	Learning time lost per week	Learning time lost per year
5 minutes	25 minutes	975 minutes = 3 days learning
10 minutes	50 minutes	1950 minutes = 6 days learning
15 minutes	75 minutes	2975 minutes = 9 days learning



What We're Up To.....

Across the whole school we are looking at British Values and Respecting One Another

Reception

In Reception our topic is 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?' in which we will be exploring what animals do to get ready for winter and also the different celebrations that happen at this time of year. We will be continuing learning our letter sounds in phonics and introducing our first talk for writing traditional tale. In Maths we will be focussing on practising careful counting, adding one more and number recognition, as well as exploring 3D shapes and positional language. What a busy half term we have in store!

Year 1

Next half term our children will be starting their new cornerstones topic: Moon Zoom. We will be looking at making rockets in D&T and writing instructions in computing to help the aliens return to their planet. In English we will be looking at a fantastic book called Man on the Moon and creating new characters and setting and then looking at writing instructions and recounts. In maths we will begin by looking at 2D and 3D shapes and then continuing with addition and subtraction focusing on number bonds to 20. We are excited to be looking at phase 5 in phonics and using our phonics in reading too. Our authors next month will be: Anthony Browne & David Walliams. Year 1 will be also having a reading challenge and will be rewarded a sticker for every time they have a comment in their reading record as well as reading the top 10 books recommended for Year 1.

Year 2

During Autumn 2, the children will be learning the story of "Kassim and the greedy pirates treasure" and how to use speech and suffixes. Then, we will be learning some pirate poetry and how to use alliteration and similes. In Maths we will start the term with measure, choosing and using appropriate standard units to estimate and measure length/height and mass. We will use maths investigation to compare and order length and height using greater than/smaller than symbols. We will then move onto investigating graphs, constructing and interpreting tally charts/block graphs and various tables. Our focus will also be multiplication and division including solving problems. In cornerstones our topic will be Land Ahoy. We will use our geography skills to navigate, investigate and explore the world. Within history we will investigate famous sea rescues.

Year 3

In Talk 4 writing we will be looking at narratives – "Hansel and Gretel", and the children will be writing their own stories based on this. In non-fiction we will be looking at "Making a Pud Pie" where the children will be writing instructions. In maths we are doing multiplication and division, the children will learn their 3,4 and 8 times tables and use these to solve problems. Also we are looking at measures - children will compare, add and subtract different untold of measure, they will also learn how to measure the perimeter of 2D shapes. Our Cornerstones topic is called Scrumdiddlyumptious where the children will be learning all about food and where it comes from.

Year 4

Next term, Year 4's Cornerstones topic is The Blue Abyss. We will be learning all about oceans and seas, and the living things that live in the deep, blue sea. In English, we will be writing journey stories and persuasive letters. In Maths, we will be learning written methods for multiplication and division. We will continue to practice our times tables and solve problems using the four operations. During PE, we will be refining our netball and gymnastic skills.

Year 5

In the second part of Autumn Term, pupils in Year 5 will be learning all about 'Alchemy Island' - a mysterious island full of surprises and adventure - that will have Cornerstones projects linked to homework, music, design and changing materials in science. During English, pupils will be writing Legends focused on The Children of Hamelin, formal persuasive letters linked to their Cornerstones projects and narrative poetry about The Highwayman. In mathematics, they will be learning all about multiplication and division and the formal methods used to carry out calculations effectively (so get practicing those Times Tables) . Pupils will be exploring the real meaning of Christmas in Religious Education and will continue learning French words and how to form conversations. In PE, Year 5 will be applying skills taught in basketball by playing games confidently, whilst using a range of tactics in attack and defence.

Year 6

Next term, year 6 will be looking at stories from other cultures in English and focusing our writing around this in order to finally create our own. Our topic will be Darwin's Delights. Throughout this topic, we will investigate a range of animals, describing the characteristics of the creatures, and labelling their body parts. We'll use a range of non-fiction books to investigate adaptation, natural selection, variation and inheritance. We will also research Charles Darwin and gain a better understanding of why he was so influential. Our focus text will be Street Child which is one of the year 6 age-related texts. We will carry out activities involving prediction, understanding of the characters, the author's use of language and develop our retrieval skills

Parents' evening

We are holding our first Parents' evening of the term on Wednesday 1st November. This will give you all a chance to talk to your child's class teacher about how they have settled into their new classes and the progress they have made so far. As a school, we value all of the support that parents give us and we are looking forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday 1st. If you are unable to attend, please see your child's class teacher and make an alternative appointment. We are also running our parent questionnaire this week—please check your text messages for the link to Survey Monkey. As a school we value all the feedback we receive, so please take the time to complete this survey.

**Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.
We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek: Barack Obama**

PTFA update

Thanks to the PTFA for a wonderful school disco last week. The children had lots of loud and noisy fun and we managed to raise £665. Well done everyone! Also Filling the Smarties tube has raised £150 so far with Joshua from RD collecting £12,40 and Maisy from 1W collecting £12. Keep on filling those tubes! The PTFA use the money raised to buy additional resources for the school like more reading books for the class libraries, and help fund additional activities, such as the school cinema trip at Christmas .

Behaviour rewards and playground provision

The new reward system in school continues to have a positive effect on our children and we are now looking at improving the provision on our playgrounds. We would like to thank the parents who have taken the time to come into school and offer suggestions for improvements and also the toy donations that you have made. Please keep sending in large action figures, animals, games and magnifying glasses. The children are already enjoying their playground more because of this!

For our half term behaviour reward, the children will be having a pyjama and film afternoon in their own classroom. This will take place on the 20th of October. The children will be able to change into their pyjamas after dinnertime and can also bring in a blanket or dressing gown and teddy bear. As ever, only those children who have maintained good behaviour for the whole half term will be able to attend. Thank you again for your continued support with this. Mrs Murray

Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Diary Item
Thurs	19th Oct	PTFA cake sale
Fri	20th Oct	School closes for half term holiday
Mon	30th Oct	TRAINING DAY—School closed to all pupils
Tues	31st Oct	School open for all pupils at the normal time
Wed	1st Nov	Parents' evening after school
Mon	6th Nov	Bonfire themed school lunch
Wed	8th Nov	School photographer in to take individual and family group photos
Thurs	9th Nov	Open day for prospective parents—September 2018 intake
Thurs	30th Nov	PTFA winter fayre
Thurs	14th Dec	Cinema behaviour reward trip in the morning
Thurs	14th Dec	PTFA Christmas disco in the afternoon
Tues	19th Dec	Children and staff Christmas lunch
Fri	22nd Dec	School closes for Christmas holidays
Mon	8th Jan	TRAINING DAY—School closed to all pupils
Tues	9th Jan	School open for all pupils at the normal time
Thurs	15th Feb	PTFA cake sale
Fri	16th Feb	Half yearly attendance rewards afternoon
Fri	16th Feb	School closes for half term holiday
Mon	26th Feb	School opens for all pupils
Thurs	29th March	School closes for Easter holidays



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