



YENTON NEWSLETTER



Yenton Primary School

Issue No. 4

28th March 2018

Chester Road, Erdington, B24 0ED 0121 464 6588

Head's Message - Paul Smith

Dear Families

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing this message to you for the last newsletter, but what a fantastic and busy half term it has been. There have been many highlights, from seeing the "Bug Lady" in Reception, to watching Y3 construct Volcanoes (with the help from their parents), to being visited by our local MP and also having a very unusual snow day! We have also had lots of Parent workshops this term, where you, as parents, can work alongside your child to see what they are learning, and to see how much teaching has changed over the years. These have been very well attended and have proved very popular with children and parents alike. One of the main highlights of this term was the visit from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. We are all very pleased with the judgement she made and the comments that are in the inspection letter that has been shared with you. If you haven't seen a copy, please check it out on our school's website. I would like to wish all of you a happy and restful holiday, and like to wish those families who are celebrating Easter a very "Happy Easter"! Please remember that school restarts on Monday 16th April at the normal time. Many thanks for your continued support this term. Happy Holidays! Mr Smith.

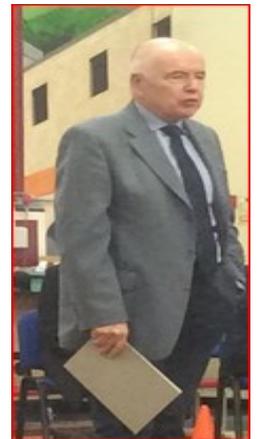
World Book Day

Once again, our children and staff excelled themselves in celebrating World Book Day. The children (and the staff) all had a wonderful day celebrating much loved literary characters, from Harry Potter to Snow White, Matilda to The Very Hungry Caterpillar! It was fantastic to see the effort you had all put in. Reading is a key skill for all of our pupils and it is essential that they are reading as much as possible at home. Please try to hear your child read at least three times a week and fill in their reading diaries. Thank you for your continued support in this very important area.



Fundamental British Values week

Last week was Fundamental British Values week, and it was all kicked off by a visit from our local MP, Mr Jack Dromey, who spoke to the children about his role as an MP. The school council also met one of our local councillors. They were both very impressed with the level of knowledge and engagement shown by our pupils. The fundamental values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance were all discussed and highlighted in class. Please ask your child about this very important work.



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School Attendance

Mrs Berriman (aided by her dog, Rufus) has held another “No Lates” challenge and it was very pleasing to see that the overall number of children coming to school late reduced during this week! Please try to keep this up—being 10 minutes late every day for school means 50 minutes lost per week, which works out to 1900 minutes, or almost 32 hours of lost learning! This is more than a week’s worth! Well done to RG, 1V and 2F—Key stage 1 winners, and 6H—Key Stage 2 winners. Enjoy your golden time rewards!

Our school attendance is currently 95.2% and the national average is 96% - we all want your children to come to school to learn, and we will contact you should your child become unwell and is not well enough to stay in school. Please do keep sending your children to school—we have wonderful staff and many exciting opportunities, but we can’t teach your child if they are not in school! Many thanks for your continued support.



Cornerstones Creativity!



As you know, the school has adopted the Cornerstones curriculum to bring creativity and excitement to our topic lessons. We have had many exciting adventures, both in and out of school. We hope that your children have come home buzzing about topics such as Wriggle and Crawl; Burps, Bottoms and Bile (my personal favourite!); Pharaohs and Paws,



Claws and Whiskers! Please make sure you check out twitter feed to see some of these fabulous topics in action!

School Dinners

Mrs Jay and her team have been working very hard to provide interesting and tasty meals for all of our children. She has recently updated the school’s menus and copies of these are now available on the school website. We are also holding some more “special” days—please watch out for texts alerting you to these in the near future. Well done Mrs Jay and her fantastic team!



Staff changes

Sadly, and after many years supporting our school, Mr Palmer, our ICT operations manager, has decided to move on to challenges new. Many of you would not have met, or even been aware of Mr Palmer, but he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the ICT provision in the school is working and is fit for purpose. We are all sad to see him go and wish him every success for the future.

Another ICT technician, Mr Smythe has been appointed to take over from Mr Palmer after Easter—I am sure we will all welcome Mr Smythe into the Yenton family.

Parking in and around our school

I am aware that parking around schools is always an issue, but some of our parents are parking illegally and dangerously in and around our school. We have been working alongside the local police to try to stop this small minority of parents before a child is seriously injured or even killed. To date the local police have issued over **20 fixed penalty fines** for illegal or dangerous parking, and will continue to work alongside the school to deter this small minority of parents. Please show your care and park elsewhere!

Forest School update



As we move into the summer term the forest becomes a hive of activity. Our woodland environment is central in supporting this dynamic approach to learning as we look forward to welcoming back some frogspawn in to our 'washing up bowl' pond where we can watch and learn about the life cycle of a frog. This is wonderful opportunity for the children to see first-hand the changes that take place over the summer. The children will also enjoy taking part in activities which are often linked to their 'Talk for Writing' topics such as building birds' nests, looking at habitats and welcoming new residents into our Bug Hotel. Please watch out each week for our live Tweets from the forest!
Mrs Carn—Forest School Leader



Reception

Next term our topic is "Can you tell me a story?" where we will be exploring many different traditional tales including 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. In Maths we will be learning all about capacity, sharing and halving. It will be RG's turn for forest School and they will be looking for signs of Spring, but don't forget your wellies! In PE we will be doing gymnastics focusing on balancing and climbing equipment safely.

Year 1

Year 1 next half term will be beginning their new cornerstones unit: The Enchanted Wood. If you go down to the woods today you're sure of a BIG surprise! What can you hear? The fluttering of fairy wings? The pitter patter of animal paws? The Enchanted Woodlands will see Year 1 exploring our natural environment from the tree tops to the woodland floor and everything in between. We will look around our local environment and discuss what human and physical features we can see. Year 1 will have the opportunity to also go into the Forest School to explore and learn about nature.

In Maths we will be looking at addition and subtraction and then moving onto measures where children will begin to record lengths and heights.

In English we will be looking at writing journey stories and using the Forest School to help us get children inspired and creative.

We will continue with phonics and begin to prepare children for the Phonics test in June.

Year 2

In English, Year 2 will focus on a recount based on our Mini Beast experience. The focus will be on time connecting words or phrases, past tense and chronological order. In maths our focus will be on investigating numbers through fractions. Recognising, finding, naming and writing fractions (halves and quarters, three quarters). We will also be solving problems involving multiplication and division, and practising our multiplication tables. In Cornerstones our topic this term will be Wriggle and Crawl. Our Science focus will be living things and their habitats. We will also be doing field work in geography and playing a musical instrument. Our Year 2 Trip takes place on Tuesday 17th April to Conkers to study mini beasts and their habitats. The children will also have opportunity to take part in a barefoot walk!

Year 3

In Mathematics, we will be continuing our work on Fractions. We will be moving onto finding equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions that have the same denominator and ordering fractions that have the same denominator. In guided reading, we will be reading a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books such as, 'The Ottoline and the Yellow Cat' by Chris Riddell, 'The Hedgehog' by Dick King Smith and a range of poetry by poets such as Roger McGough and Christina Rossetti. During guided reading, we will continue to work on inference and information retrieval. Through our English learning journey, we will be writing a warning tale based on the story of Pandora's Box and the mysteries within it and a non-chronological report based on 'Zeus' the king of the ancient Greek gods on Mount Olympus. Our cornerstones topic is, 'Gods and Mortals' and will be focusing on learning about ancient Greece and the ancient Greek gods. We will be learning about historical events such as the Olympic Games, the reign and death of Alexander the Great and the invasion of the Romans. During P.E, we will continue with our swimming lessons, working on improving our front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

Year 4

Next half term, Year 4's topic is Road Trip USA, studying all about the United States of America. In English, we will be looking at stories from other cultures and news reports. Linked to this, we will be learning about Native American tribes in Cornerstones. In Maths, we will continue to practice our written methods as well as learning about decimals and shapes. As well as this, we will be improving our recall of our times tables and division facts. In Cornerstones, we will be using maps to locate countries and oceans around the world, and famous landmarks in the USA. As well as this, we will be learning about electricity in Science, and programming in Computing. Throughout the term, we are going to be learning more songs on the Tenor Horn and Flute.

Year 5

Year 5 start an exciting 'Allotment' project after Easter where they'll be working scientifically to explore plant reproduction and life cycles. We'll be spending time in Yenton's outside area so will need a change of old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. We look forwards to creating botanical drawings and paintings. Pupils will be reading "Tom's Midnight Garden" where they'll be working on perfect form verbs to mark relationships of time and cause. They'll also be writing explanations about The Water Cycle. In Mathematics we will be starting on Shape and geometry: angles, shapes, translation and measurements that will all link to taking DT to new heights where pupils will be making planters and structures for growing plants.

Year 6

Next term, Year 6 will be continuing their topic on blood heart. We will be investigating how to test their own fitness and heart rate and will look at how we can keep our heart and body healthy. In writing, we will be looking at the narrative 'The Giant's Necklace' and be carrying out pieces of creative writing linked to the text. We will also be continuing to work towards our upcoming SATS and will be carrying out revision games.

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Nelson Mandela

PTFA

The PTFA have been very active over the past term, raising money to help support all of our children at our school—for example, buying additional items to help make the learning experiences of our children that much richer. Through events such as the spring disco, Easter craft fairs, selling refreshments and much more, they have raised over £2000 (less the cost of the items bought). We would like to thank all of the members of the PTFA, and especially Mrs Woodcock, who give up their time voluntarily and, of course, all of you, who make these events such wonderful occasions for all in our Yenton family!

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Y3 Parents' workshop

All of year 3 parents are invited to a workshop run by the school therapist, Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Carn on April 19th from 1:45 -3:30. The purpose of the workshop will be to give strategies to support your child emotionally. This will be very informal, with the chance to ask questions or raise any concerns and with the added enticement of refreshments! Letters will be sent about this early next term. If this workshop proves a success, it will be extended to parents of children in other year groups,

It's good to be in the Yenton Zone!

Our new behaviour system continues to have a positive impact on the children's behaviour across the school. As ever, your encouragement when your child receives a bronze, silver or gold reward has played a massive part in this improvement. This half term, the children will be rewarded with an Easter Eggstravaganza on March 28th. This will involve the children taking part in an Easter egg hunt and craft activities. Our thanks again to the PTFA who will be running this event. Most children in school will be attending our Easter Eggstravaganza because they have maintained a good standard of behaviour throughout the last 6 weeks. Well done to all of the children attending!



Dates For Your Diary

| Day | Date | Diary Item |
|-------|------------|--|
| Wed | 28th March | KS1 Awards assembly |
| Thur | 29th March | KS2 Awards assembly |
| Thurs | 29th March | School closes for Easter holidays |
| Mon | 16th April | School opens for all pupils |
| Tues | 17th April | Y2 trip to Conkers |
| Mon | 7th May | May Day Bank Holiday—school closed to all pupils |
| Mon | 14th May | KS 2 SATs exams week begins |
| Fri | 18th May | Royal Wedding Tea Party themed lunch |
| Wed | 23rd May | KS1 Awards assembly |
| Thurs | 24th May | KS2 Awards assembly |
| Thurs | 24th May | PTFA cake sale |
| Fri | 25th May | School closes for half term holiday |
| Mon | 4th June | School opens for all pupils |
| Mon | 11th June | Phonics screening check for Y1 and some Y2 pupils begins |
| Thurs | 28th June | PTFA summer fayre |
| Mon | 2nd July | Diversity week begins |
| Wed | 4th July | World Music day |
| Thurs | 5th July | Summer disco and Leavers' Fish and Chip Supper |
| Mon | 9th July | Y3 trip to The Thinktank |
| Thurs | 12th July | 100% attendance reward trip |
| Fri | 20th July | Half termly attendance reward afternoon |
| Fri | 20th July | School closes for summer holidays |