



YENTON NEWSLETTER



Yenton Primary School

Issue No. 2

24th October 2018

Chester Road, Erdington, B24 0ED 0121 464 6588

Head's message - Paul Smith

Dear Families,

It has been a fantastic beginning to the new term and I can't believe how fast the first half term has gone. I have been very impressed by the way in which all of our children have settled into their new classes and have risen to the challenges of their new year groups. I have been especially impressed by the way in which our youngest children have settled into "big school". We have also had lots of new pupils start across the school and they have all settled in well and have joined the Yenton family. A very warm welcome to one and all.

We have also had some visitors to our school this half term. As part of our continuing drive to improve Teaching and Learning across our school, and also as part of the process of joining Robin Hood Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), Mr Paul Weston (Independent Educational Consultant) visited our school again to review our progress. He was pleased once again with what he saw and was also able to give us several useful pointers in how to continue to move our school forwards. A few highlights of his report were "the quality of teaching is strong overall" and "Pupils enjoy school, feel safe and say that the majority of pupils behave well". We were also visited by Mr Richard Hunter and Dame Sylvia Morris from Robin Hood MAT. They really enjoyed looking around our school and talking to the children, who could clearly articulate the learning journeys that they were on. Both were very impressed by how engaged the children were and how unified the staff are in their desire to continue to move our school forward.

It has been a very busy half term with lots of interesting visitors to our school assemblies. Our local PCSO has delivered a Firework safety assembly, our ears were wowed by a visit from Rockademy. And Andi Markham and his puppets educated and entertained us all. Please follow all of our school exploits on our twitter feed—it is an excellent window into some of the day to day activities that are happening at our school.

Please all have a fantastic half term holiday and we are all looking forwards to seeing everyone back in school at the normal time on Monday 5th November.



Hooks and Cornerstone experiences



As part of our Talk4Writing and Cornerstones curriculums, teachers use various ways (known as "hook" days) to get children interested in their termly writing or Cornerstone topic. Hook days provide children with the opportunity to visit interesting and different places or to enjoy visiting experts in school to help enhance their Cornerstones topic. Some of our hook days for Talk4Writing have included dressing up as monsters, solving murder mysteries, attending Mad Hatter tea parties and much, much more. Some of our Cornerstone experiences have been visits to Warwick Castle and Cannock Chase museum, and being visited by a real "live" Roman Legionary. Please ask your child about their hook days and Cornerstones experiences.



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!



Reception children and Years 1 to 3 have enjoyed the mixed weather of first half term in the forest. Lots of 'hands on' activities have been linked to our exciting Talk4Writing and Cornerstones topics. If you follow Twitter you would have seen some of the fantastic work the children have produced so far. Over the next half term our focus will be the changing seasons, hibernation and helping our local wildlife as the weather starts to cool down. Thanks to the parents who have donated

some pine cone bird feeders, which will be hung around the forest for our local woodland birds to enjoy. Over the forthcoming weeks the forest becomes a magical place to be, with a beautiful carpet of orange, yellow and red. The ever changing scenery will be linked to lots of stories, creativity and adventures. I am planning to run a Forest School workshop next half term so parents and carers can come and get a feel for what takes place during these sessions. I will send some more details out after the half term holiday: Mrs Carns - Forest School Leader



Parking around school

We understand that parking around the school is difficult and will only get more problematic as the weather inevitably becomes worse. However, we have a minority of parents who insist on parking illegally and dangerously when dropping off or picking up their children. This is unfair on our neighbours and is putting our children in danger. Please park appropriately and safely if you have to use your car to drop your children off at school.



School Admissions for September 2019

If you are a parent of a child who is due to start school for the first time in 2019, or transfer from infant to junior school, the process to apply for school places is now open and closes on **15th January 2019**. All parents who are about to commence this process should first register for an online school admissions account at the email address below. Parents resident in Birmingham local authority are required to submit their Reception and Year 3 preferences via the online application form. 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 2019**.

We are holding open sessions for all eligible pupils to come and look around our school. The sessions are on **Monday 26th November at 9:15am, 2pm or 5:30pm**. 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 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!

Did your child's class win a RUFUS award last week? Mrs Berriman, ably supported by her dog, Rufus, have been encouraging all of our children to be in school on time. Promptness and arriving for school on time is an important life skill to teach your child. The table below details the amount of lost learning time over the year if your child is a few minutes late each day. The school gates open at 8:30am and the children can come into school from 8:50am. The school gates close PROMPTLY at 8:55am. Make Mrs Berriman and Rufus proud and come to school on time!! The class with the least number of lates will win a prize!!

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

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 continue to learn our letter sounds in phonics, as well as introducing our first talk for writing traditional tale. In Maths we will be focusing on practising careful counting, adding one more and number recognition, as well as exploring 3D shapes and positional language. It will be RB's turn for forest school, so get those wellies ready. RG will now be starting their PE lessons. What a busy half term we have in store!

Year 1

Our Cornerstones this half term is Enchanted Woodland where children will be exploring the forest school and creating their own enchanted woodland stories. In maths we will be learning 2D and 3D shapes in everyday environments. We will be continuing to learn number facts to 10 using addition and subtraction. 1M will be having the opportunity to join Mrs Carn in the forest school on Fridays and 1V and 1A will have PE on Fridays.

Year 2

Our Cornerstones topic will be 'Land Ahoy'. Children will learn all about the sea, seafaring and pirates! We will focus upon geography skills, where we will learn to read maps and identify significant places around the world. We are looking forward to this topic and may even get a visit from a real life pirate! *Aaaarrrrgggghhh!*
During our T4W we will be learning the humorous fictional story of 'Pirates Love Underpants' by Claire Freedman. We will then go on to write our own stories, focusing on using expanded noun phrases, suffixes and contracted words. For our non fiction unit we will be looking at a diary entry from Captain Cook. The children will be learning to use different sentence types and will create their own diary entries and information booklets.

Year 3

Next half term, we will spend a week consolidating the addition and subtraction that we have learned in Autumn 1. We will then move onto multiplication and division in the run up to Christmas. The children will learn to count in multiples of 3, 4 and 8 and will then proceed to learn how to multiply numbers together using the knowledge of their multiplication tables.
As part of our Talk 4 Writing journey we will be immersing ourselves in the story of Hansel and Gretel. This unit of work will focus on using expanded noun phrases, using a range of punctuation as well as coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. During the second part of the half term, children will produce an explanation text/ leaflet based around food. Our Cornerstones topic for the half term will be 'Scrumdiddlyumptious'. As part of this topic, the children will learn about food, eating a healthy and balanced diet, the importance of regular exercise and the journey that our food makes from farm to plate. We will even have a visiting cook to show us all how to make healthy snacks!

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 newspaper reports. In Maths, we will be continuing to practice written methods for addition and subtraction, and then applying this to measurement. 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. Linked to this, we will be learning about Native American tribes. 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

Next term we 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. Please collect cardboard and cleaned: yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, bottles etc. for our Tracey Island inspired creations! During English, pupils' writing will link to the classic novel - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Shakespeare's The Tempest and cinquain poetry about diamonds. In mathematics, we will be learning all about multiplication and division and the formal methods used to carry out calculations effectively (so, get practicing those timetables, revise factor and prime numbers). We will also be exploring the real meaning of Christmas in Religious Education and will continue learning French words and how to form conversations.

Year 6

Next half term, our topic will be Frozen Planet. We will start by making and observing icebergs and research these using the internet and non-fiction books. Using globes and maps, we'll identify the Polar Regions, comparing the Arctic and Antarctic and will also think about how we can protect the polar environment. We will be researching our favourite polar animals and we'll create animal artwork inspired by the Inuit people. In English, we will be looking at a range of genres and applying year 6 skills to create some amazing pieces of writing. We will also be reading the book 'Skellig' by David Almond in guided reading. Can we work out the mystery of the creature in the light? In our maths lessons, we will continue to learn and understand the four operations including identifying factors, multiples, prime numbers and using our knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations and problems.

Parents' evening

We are holding our first Parents' evening of the term on **Wednesday 7th 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 7th. 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.

**There is no such thing as failure....only learning experiences
We only fail when we stop learning.**

PTFA update

Thank you all for your support of the recent PTFA activities, especially the recent school disco and the school tuck shop that runs most evenings after school. We are pleased to tell you that the disco has managed to raise over £600 which will be used to help support the school in buying additional resources, such as t-shirts and fabric pens for the recent behaviour reward afternoon. A big thank you to Mrs Woodcock and all of the helpers who give up their time to volunteer and make this all possible.

Important documents

All of the children should have come home with a Data Checking Sheet. We use this to ensure that the details we hold are accurate and update any changes that have happened. This is especially important should we need to contact you in an emergency. Your child should have also brought home a Pupil Premium Form. This is also very important as the school uses this information to get extra funding which can then be spent to improve educational outcomes for all of our children. Pupils in years 1- 6 should have also brought home a Parental Permission document for photographs, swimming and local outings. With the data protection law changing, we may need to ask your permission again. We would like to thank all the parents/carers who have returned their Data Checking Sheet, Pupil Premium Form and Parental Permission document Form. If you have not returned your forms PLEASE can you do so as soon as possible (before we break up would be ideal!) If you have not received any of the forms please can you ask the office for another copy. Many thanks.

Dates For Your Diary

Day	Date	Diary Item
Thurs	25th Oct	Flu vaccinations—Reception to Y5: More details to follow
Fri	26th Oct	School closes for half term at the normal time
Mon	5th Nov	School reopens for all pupils
Wed	7th Nov	PARENTS' EVENING 3:45pm—6:45pm
Mon	12th Nov	Parliament and Anti-Bullying week begins
Fri	16th Nov	Children in Need day—Spots for Pudsey!
Tues	27th Nov	*****PTFA Winter Fayre***** DATE HAS CHANGED
Tues	4th Dec	*****Christmas Disco***** DATE HAS CHANGED
Friday	7th Dec	Book fair begins at our school
Tues	12th Dec	Music concert—More information to follow
Thurs	13th Dec	KS1 behaviour reward—cinema trip
Fri	14th Dec	Book fair ends
Mon	17th Dec	KS2 Awards assembly
Tues	18th Dec	KS1 Awards assembly
Tues	18th Dec	KS2 Carol concert at local church—date to be confirmed
Wed	19th Dec	KS2 behaviour reward—cinema trip
Fri	21st Dec	School closes for the Christmas holidays at the normal time
Mon	7th Jan	TRAINING DAY—School closed to all pupils
Tues	8th Jan	School reopens to all pupils at the normal time
Fri	15th Feb	School closes for half term holidays
Mon	25th Feb	School opens at the normal time



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twitter: www.twitter.com/Yenton Primary