



Year 2 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 17th October 2016

Dear Parents

What an exciting week we have had! Our assembly this week was led by Revd Dr Patrick Richmond from Christ Church, Eaton and he talked about healing and comfort, linking it to our charity, Nelson's Journey. Bird Family meetings were our full introduction to charities; children were asked what a charity was and children shared names of charities that they had heard of or supported. We talked about Nelson's Journey and the work that they do in bringing back smiles to children and families. Children then heard all about 'worry eaters', adorable cuddly toys who gobble up your worries into their zip-up mouths!

Thursday was 'wear something purple day' in aid of Nelson's Journey. We were very impressed with the children's outfits and we thank you for your contributions. Children also decorated our famous shortbread biscuits for a friend, to make them smile! We set them a challenge to design their own 'worry eater', with a prize awarded for a person in each class. Sarah Hyde from Nelson's Journey came in today to judge our entries and award the prizes. We were really impressed with all the entries and creative ideas.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the PTA for their AGM and coffee morning and also James Mayhew for an exciting day of talks and workshops. James is the author of the 'Katie' series and is an amazing illustrator. He told the children stories whilst he drew and painted illustrations as well as encouraging Year 2 children to have some practical experience of creating their own stormy sea scene in the style of Turner. James also talked about practising ideas and the importance of making mistakes. He said he enjoys making them, as it is all part of learning. We thank James for an amazing day...look out for some of his beautiful art work as it begins to adorn our Pre Prep walls.

Today we welcomed lots of grandparents for coffee and cake before visiting their grandchildren's classroom and all the children from Reception to Year 2 joined the Prep children for a whole school assembly, where Mr Bevington shared the Julia Donaldson story *A Squash and a Squeeze* and its many messages!

Literacy lessons

We have been looking at questions. Teachers use plenty of these but this week it has been the children's turn to think about the questions they ask. The formation of a question is quite a skill and the use of question words is paramount. Who, what, when, where and why are good words with which to start, and recognising that the question mark completes the sentence is a key aspect of punctuation. We have looked carefully at the difference between a statement and a question. Our word building challenge has been to find words beginning with 'wh'. With our visiting farmer in mind, the children have composed some interesting and pertinent questions to ask Mr Wright.

As a break away from the norm, our spelling words are taken from the list of common exception words. We hope that you will be able to help your child to learn these over half-term.

Our creative writing this week has been to retell the story of The Little Red Hen. In preparation for this we have thought up some appropriate adjectives to describe the characters in the story. Following on from this we have continued to think of some good excuses as to why the animals could not help the Red Hen. The classes have drawn out a story plan of images relating to the order of events. The concluding piece of work was an independent exercise recorded in their yellow books. In handwriting, we have focused on h, b, p and j. It is pleasing to see more and more children writing in cursive script in all their written work.

Maths lessons

Our focus this week has been on ordinal numbers. We have been using ordinal numbers to describe position in a sequence. The children have been challenged to assemble towers of eight cubes wherein certain cube positions were certain colours, e.g. 'the 2nd and 7th cubes are red'. We have also revisited place value. Using exactly 9 coins, the children were asked to find and record all possible amounts using 10p and 1p coins.

Other lessons and activities

Our farming topic has drawn to a close this week. To celebrate this, we welcomed Mr Wright (Beatrice's dad) to School to give us an insight into the life of a farmer. He showed us a series of pictures and explained how interesting life as a livestock farmer can be. The children were eager to ask their own questions to find out more. The afternoon was concluded with some taste testing of the delicious sausages that Mr Wright had brought with him.

In science we have completed our ongoing experiment to find out what plants need to grow and thrive. Cress was planted and placed in different positions and situations. Last week the children were asked to predict which position would produce the best outcome. This week the children were curious to discover the results, which they then recorded.

Over half term:

Over half term you might like to find out about the Gunpowder Plot and why we have fireworks. Following on from our wonderful workshop by James Mayhew your child would definitely enjoy a visit to an art gallery. If this is not possible, painting and creating works of art would be a splendid alternative.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 7th November: Start of second half of term

Thursday 1st December – 8.30am-10.00am: Year 2 coffee morning in the Pre Prep Hall, followed by the Year 2 Christmas production in the Read Hall

We hope you have a wonderful half-term break with your children.

Mrs Bush, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Harries

