

Powerstock CE VA School

Learning Together to be the best that we can be!



NEWSLETTER February 2020

Firstly, thank you to Heather and Ashley for our delicious pancakes on Shrove Tuesday!



What's been going on in...

Seatown Class -

We have been looking at balanced arguments in writing and focusing in a cross curricular way on the RE topic of Sikhism and our class novel this half term has been *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke. In Design and Technology we have been designing and strengthening paper structures. We have also had

fun in dance...who knew that we could learn so much from the Haka! We learnt about the history and origins of the dance and who uses it today.

In our lessons, we learnt not only to perform using facial expressions, voices and acting skills, but the way in which we moved our bodies needed to be strong and powerful. We used the techniques of canon and unison to add creativity to our dances and even tried to incorporate moves from our own chosen sport within our compositions. Teamwork was a vital part of our work which proved to be a challenge at times.

Every group succeeded in producing and then performing their dance to parents and the school in the last celebration assembly before half term!



We never knew paper was so strong!

Cogden Class -

We have been enjoying our Romans topic and learning all about the kind of food they might have eaten, Roman soldiers and the invasion itself. The children have loved our roman story Roman Rescue and been inspired to write their own "going back in time" stories. In Maths we have been looking at calculation, fractions, decimals and some 2D shapes. We have enjoyed our Science topic of Light and thought about how different materials are used. In PSHE, the children have enjoyed learning about money – where it comes from and how retailers want us to spend it! In our RE topic we have begun looking at Buddhism and the Four Noble Truths.



So which is the best way to fix a handle to your Roman shield...?

We spent a lovely afternoon doing design technology finding out!



Burton Class -

Burton Class has enjoyed learning about the Rainforests. So far they have looked at maps finding out where the Amazon Rainforest is. We have enjoyed learning about some of the animals that live there: including the red eyed tree frog and the Flying Squirrel! In Dance we have been moving and turning in high and low ways to the music of Ravel's Bolero. In gymnastics we

have been learning different rolls and balances and we will now work on performing a short sequence moving smoothly between each action. We have been learning to tell the time in Maths and look at fractions of shapes and amounts. In Phonics the children work with their year group, Reception Class have now learnt all of their single letter phonics (Phase 2), Year 1 have completed Phase 3 and are now working on split digraphs and alternatives for each sound and Year 2 are following their phonics programme.

We are delighted with the practise that all of the children have been putting in with their spelling zapper homework, please do continue to support your child each week to learn their weeks spellings as it really helps them and gives them confidence in the weekly spelling test which the year 1 and 2 enjoy each Tuesday!

Our Rainforest Collage



Burton Class Bug Hotel from their wonderful Thursday afternoons at forest school!

School Council

The School Council have been working on our school environment and especially our energy usage in school. They ran a poster competition and we now have in place, reminder posters to switch lights off when the rooms are not in use (including the staff room!). It is going well so far and it is great to

see the children take this on as their responsibility. You may notice a change in this respect at home!

Two representatives from the council will be going to Beaminster School on 15th June to meet with the WDSC schools to share their ideas on environmental issues and bring new ideas back into school.

Our School Garden

As many of you may know, Janet and Jackie have been looking after our lovely quiet garden for many years. Jackie has also been coming into hear readers in Cogden class since she finished her work as a TA six years ago but now she has decided to retire properly! We will be so sad not to see Jackie in school each week (rain or shine!) and will say goodbye properly at the end of term. This does leave us without anyone to tend the garden however. We wondered therefore if some parents might like to set up a "Muddy Fingers" gardening group...we are purchasing a new picnic bench for the area and will provide tea and cake each week to help along the greenfingered work! Let us know if you would like to join in (when the warmer weather comes!).



Bad weather/School Closure

If the school is to be closed due to snow or ice, you will be texted first thing in the morning or possibly the night before if appropriate. There will also be a notification on the website and an email sent too. You can also check on Dorsetforyou on:

<https://mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/closedservices/Service/schools>

This website is updated hourly in bad weather.

Zero Waste and Healthy Snacks

We will be having a look at the children's snacks in the next two weeks to gather some idea of how we are doing. One of the School Council's next jobs will be to ask all the children and compile a list of snack ideas to take home to parents so that we can avoid unhealthy snacks and of course not throw away unnecessary plastic.

Powerstock School Association (PSA)

Kyla and her group have been busy again so please have a read of the meeting notes previously emailed, to keep up with planned events and benefits for your child in school.

Attendance

Attendance is improving across the school and the children all know the importance academically and socially of being in school whenever possible. They have responded well to the "100%ers" group which operates each half term and exists to acknowledge children who have been in school everyday for that period. The children also know that there are six occasions throughout the year where hopefully they can be a "100%er" and also that they are recognised in many other ways in school.

The highest attending class this past half term is **Cogden Class again with 95.63%.**

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil premium is extra funding given to the school to support more disadvantaged pupils of all abilities. Your child's school could receive pupil premium funding which they may use to support your child, for example, in school or with the costs of uniforms or trips. Pupil premium is paid for pupils that are eligible for free school meals, or have been eligible for free school meals in the last 6 years. The funding can't be accessed unless the child's parent or carer applies for free school meals. The funding is currently £1,320 per pupil.

You may register your child if you get any of these benefits: • Income support • Income-based jobseekers allowance • Income related employment and support allowance • Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act

1999 • The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit • Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed £16,190 • Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you would like to find out more, please collect a letter and registration form from the office.

Reminders

- Please could parents switch off vehicle engines when waiting outside school. We are concerned for the environment as well as our children's health.
- Please label your child's clothing. We have a lot of unclaimed items in various locations around school!
- Coats, hats and gloves please for these chilly autumn/winter days!

Diary Dates update:

28.2.20	Safewise trip for KS2
2.3.20	Secondary school offer date
5.3.20	World Book Day
9.3.20–13.3.20	Sport Relief
11.3.20	Cross Country Relays yr 3, 4, 5 & 6 t.b.c
31.3.20	KS1/2 Cricket Festival t.b.c
3.4.20	Break up for Easter return on 20 th April.
22.4.20	KS1 Swimming for 5 weeks
23.4.20	Tri Golf event at Colfox yr 3&4 t.b.c
1.5.20	Class Photos
8.5.20	Bank Holiday
11-15.5	KS2 SATs week
12.5.20	Yr 3 & 4 Tennis tournament t.b.c
20.5.20	Beaminster School yr 6 Science explorer dome
22.5.20	Break up for half term
1.6.20	Inset Day. Pupils back 2.6.20
3.6.20	Quad kids yr 5 & 6 at Colfox t.b.c
4.6.20	KS2 Sports Day
9.6.20	KS1 Sports Day 1.30 pm - reserve date 16.6.20
1.7.20	Beaminster School open evening 5-7pm new parents & students
6.7.20 & 7.7.20	Beaminster School Induction days
8.7.20	Yr 6 New Parents Information Evening 7pm
14.7.20	School Production – 1.30 pm
15.7.20	School Production – 6.30 pm
17.7.20	Break up for Summer
Note:	Pilates is in the Hut every Monday morning at 9am for an hour for our school community so do come along if you are free! £5 per session.