



SPRING TERM

1st half -term

February 2015

Issue Number 3



What a short six weeks this term!

Christmas seems ages ago now. Despite the bad weather we have had we have still managed to keep our good attendance up at 95.4%. I have you all to thank for this and fantastic staff who make our pupils time at school worthwhile and most enjoyable.

I am gradually accomplishing my homework of knowing all the 405 pupils names and trying my best to spend some time with the nursery children – I have my apron for painting down there in their safe keep. I am told they look forward to me visiting and I do the same.

Visits between the various key stages should be a lot easier when we are in our new building hopefully Summer half-term 2016.

The update on the new build is as follows:

- Building should commence in April 2015
- It should take about one year to complete
- Keys should be handed over, hopefully, Summer half-term week 2016
- Miss Thomas and I have visited a recently completed school to learn from their experience and to have a feel of class sizes and how various rooms are functioning
- Half day weekly meetings will commence again soon with consultants, architects, electricians, IT experts and other sectors involved in the project.

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YEAR 1

In Year 1 our topic is Our World. We have been looking at things that live in our world having recently watched eggs hatch and grow into chicks. In Literacy we have been looking at different traditional tales such as The Little Red Hen and The Gingerbread Man. We have then revised the story to create our own versions. In Maths we have looked at number lines, number patterns with missing numbers.

SAVE THE DATE

RED NOSE DAY

Friday 13th March 2015 COMIC

RELIEF is a major charity with a vision for a just world, free from poverty.

The theme for the day will be

‘WEAR SOMETHING RED’.



Mrs McDermott

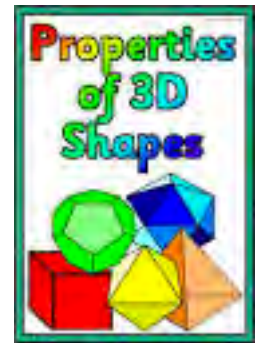


We welcome Mrs McDermott back on a part-time basis to begin with on the 9th March. She will be in Year 2 working alongside Miss Hanson. As from September she will be with us on a full-time basis. We all look forward to her expertise in teaching, the great relationship she has with her pupils and parents/carers and to the stability that this class so deserves.

Year 3

In maths we have looked at different written methods for solving multiplication problems and describing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and categorising these.

In Literacy our genre has been stories with a familiar setting and in particular we have used the text 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne. We have looked at adding subordinate clauses and adverbial phrases to add effect to our writing.



Our topic is 'How Humans Work' we have conducted our own germ experiments and investigated teeth, light and shadows and altering sounds. We have also looked at the journey of our food as part of our digestive system; we are visiting Eureka on the 25th of February to complement our topic.

SEND Reviews

Thank you to all parents who attended the review meetings. If you would like an appointment please contact your child's class teacher or Miss Thomas. The new passports will be sent out shortly. Reviews for pupils with Statements will be the week after half term.

School Council are planning a number of events for next half term, including some fund raising events. Further details to follow.

EASTER READING COMPETITION

We will be holding an Easter Reading Competition beginning on Monday 2nd March until the 27th March 2015. To qualify for an Easter egg, each child will be expected to read TEN times a week – the structure of the week/reading will be confirmed nearer the time. This was an annual event held at the Junior School, which we hope will have the same great impact on reading now that we are a primary school.



ZERO TOLERANCE

First and foremost, children come to this school to learn. When parents/carers send their children to this school they expect that at the end of the day they have had a good, safe, happy day and acquired new learning. This cannot take place with disruptive behaviour in the classroom or school environment no matter how low level this may be. To this effect, we have revised the School Behaviour and Discipline policy (***we informed you of this last term***) – this is available on the school website (www.tgps.uk.com) or you can request a hard copy from the main office. This policy became effective from the 1st December, 2014 and we will be enforcing all the stages and strategies consistently across the board. This is a ZERO tolerance school – we want each and every pupil to do extremely well academically, to be the best they can and to stand up confidently in our ever competitive world. I sincerely hope that this is what you want for your child/children too, in which case we are all singing from the same hymn sheet.



Foundation 2 - Reception

In Foundation Stage 2 we have been season of Winter. We have been Antarctic and Arctic regions. We have these are in relation to our country. interest in the animals and their investigations on the properties of ice different temperatures. The children and ice first hand in our outside area. point for our writing and have produced both descriptive writing and a five sentence story. The external environment has been developed a lot over the course of the year to allow for more appealing areas of learning and the internal windows have been enhanced too.



using our senses to investigate the looking at cold climates and the used google maps to find out where The children have shown real habitats. This has led to and how water can change with have loved experiencing the snow We have used Winter as a starting point for our writing and have produced both descriptive writing and a five sentence story. The external environment has been developed a lot over the course of the year to allow for more appealing areas of learning and the internal windows have been enhanced too.

YEAR 6

As the SATs draw ever closer, Y6 have been busy revising and preparing. In maths, the children have been revisiting area and perimeter, equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. The children have then been using and applying this knowledge. In English, after researching facts and information, the children have written non-chronological reports. Grammar and reading activities have been taking place most days to further develop crucial skills.



We would like to take this opportunity to ask for your full support in the run up to SATs with homework and reading. The work that we send home is linked with skills covered in the classroom during that week and therefore works to further embed your child's understanding. ***Boosters will continue to take place in the run up to SATS week and we would ask, again, for your full cooperation.***

Please do not hesitate to contact the Y6 teachers if you would like any guidance on how you can further support your child.

Diary Dates First Half-term - February 2015			
Date	Day	Activity	Time
13th February 2015	Friday	End-of- half term	3.00pm - Juniors 3.15pm - Infants
23rd February 2015	Monday	Pupils back to school	Usual opening times

Diary Dates February to March 2015			
Date	Day	Activity	Time
23 rd February 2015	Monday	Pupils back to school	Usual opening times
24 th February 2015	Tuesday	Infant Drop-in Fayre (Pastoral Manager)	8.45am to 10.15am
25 th February 2015	Wednesday	Y3 Trip to Eureka	9.15am to 4.15pm
27 th February 2015	Friday	Harnessing Parent Power Workshop	TBC
5 th March 2015	Thursday	World Book Day – Dress up as your favourite book character	All day
10 th March 2015	Tuesday	Junior Drop-in Fayre (Pastoral Manager)	8.45am to 10.15am
13 th March 2015	Friday	Sports Relief – Red Nose Day	All day
16 th March 2015	Monday	KS1 Parents Meeting Day	All day
17 th March 2015	Tuesday	KS1 Book Fair	TBC
17 th March 2015	Tuesday	KS2 Parents Meeting Day	All day
18 th March 2015	Wednesday	EYFS Parents Meeting Day	All day
18 th March 2015	Wednesday	Year 4 Big Bang Parties	TBC
24 th March 2015	Tuesday	Infant Drop-in Fayre (Pastoral Manager)	8.45am to 10.15am
27 th March 2015	Friday	End-of-term	3.00pm - Juniors 3.15pm - Infants
13 th April 2015	Monday	Pupils back to school	Usual opening times

Diary Dates 2014 to 2015

13 th February 2015	School closes – Spring Half-term
23 rd February 2015	School re-opens to pupils
27 th March 2015	School Closes – End of Spring Term
3 rd April 2015	Good Friday
6 th April 2015	Easter Monday
13 th April 2015	School re-opens to pupils for Summer Term
4 th May 2015	May Day
22 nd May 2015	School Closes – Summer Half-term
1 st June 2015	School re-opens to pupils
20 th July 2015	School Closes – End of Summer Term
21 st July 2015	Training Day - 5



YEAR 2

It has been a short but busy half term for Year 2 and we have been working hard! We have been developing our writing skills using the FANTASTICs, learning about making more interesting word choices and using this to write better stories and descriptions. In Maths, we have been learning calculation strategies, number bonds, doubles, halves and counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 every day to sharpen our mental maths skills.

Our topic is called Earth – Our Home, and we are focusing on habitats, particularly The Rainforest. In Literacy we read The Great Kapok Tree and learned about the animals that live in The Rainforest, wrote fact files and created 'Habitat for Sale' posters. We have linked our maths skills to our topic by collecting data on the number of animals in the rainforest, creating tallies, pictograms and block graphs. We have made macaws, snakes and butterflies for our rainforest displays. After half term we will be continuing this topic by making models of the layers of the rainforest, showing more of our knowledge by writing non-fiction texts and exploring measures by looking at rainfall. We are really enjoying our topic and we are looking forward to learning more about habitats.

Spring Term in Foundation Stage 1 - Nursery

This half term we have been exploring different modes of transport in a variety of ways. We have also had a visit from Mr Foster, the lollipop man, who helped us learn how to be safe on our way to school. Latterly, we have focused on winter-how it affects us and our immediate environment. The snow came at just the right time!



YEAR 5



This term year 5 have begun their topic 'Mission to Mars'. Their learning journey began with a visit from Starlincs planetarium, where they were able to star gaze and learn about different constellations. Following this, they have carried out research about space and Mars, having been given the challenge of finding out if it would be possible to move to and survive on Mars. So far, they have written science fiction story openings, designed their own space shelters and the classrooms have been transformed with the introduction of a rocket and space buggy where the children can sit and work. The children are being given the responsibility to choose their most productive learning space. They have welcomed the change to their learning environment and are becoming more immersed in their learning.

Packed Lunches

These days, thanks to Jamie Oliver, school dinners are probably healthier than most packed lunches. We would like to encourage more children to have a school dinner (**free** for infant pupils and £2.10 for junior pupils). However, as a 'healthy school' we support with providing tasty, healthy and children as the alternative. We have chocolate and sweets. Please send packed lunches contain the nutrients children need for sugar, salt and saturated fats. A balanced foods, protein, dairy, fruit and vegetables. ideas and recipes are



www.livewell/child6-15 and **www.bbcgood food.com**. The school council and dinner supervisors would appreciate your support. They plan to deliver an assembly to increase awareness after half term and children will be rewarded with stickers and certificates for improving the contents of their packed lunch boxes.

would appreciate parents/carers balanced packed lunches for your noticed a huge increase in crisps, lunches with plenty of foods that energy and fewer foods that are high in packed lunch should contain starchy Some useful websites for healthier **www.nhs.uk/change4life,**

Lost Property

Please label ALL of your children's belongings – ***we will not accept responsibility for lost property.*** Labeling will ensure that if items go missing and are located elsewhere, we are able to return these to the rightful owners.

COMPUTING CURRICULUM

The new programme of study for the Computing National Curriculum continues to excite and challenge us all but is an exciting and enthralling experience for our pupils.

Here at The Grange Primary School, the children have engaged in programming maths games in Year 4, control games in Year 5 and Year 6 are exploring smart phones - designing a smartapp suitable for children. In Year 6 this has involved learning about different types of coding. We looked at Morse code, semaphore and encryption of information and why it is important that certain data is encrypted.

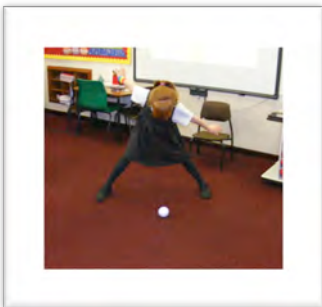


We have made a short animation on the Green Cross Code to teach Year 3 about crossing the road safely.

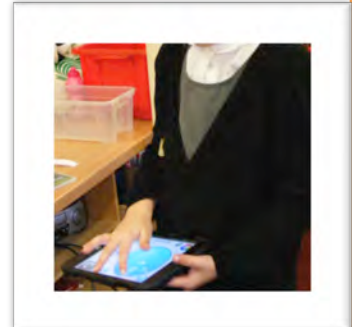
Although ICT is embedded across the curriculum, the children still receive a discreet lesson once a week; this has now been extended to include Year 2. This term in Year 2, pupils are looking at algorithms and using varies types of things to control.



Year 2 word processing - describing the Ceramic Poppy display at the Tower of London.



Driving our new Shpero balls with an ipad

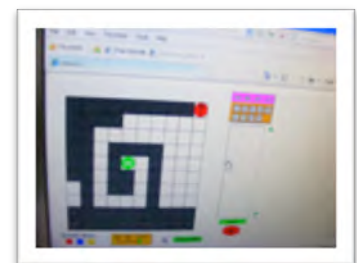
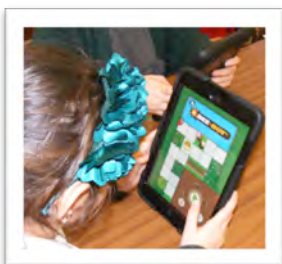


Drawing shapes with the Beebot



Programming the Beebot on the Ipad

Making our own maze for the beebot



Computing/Programming Continued ...

E-safety

- . Safer Internet Day, 11th February 2014
- . <http://66.147.244.88/~kencoris/sid-2014-not-just-a-day-its-an-attitude/>
- . <http://www.saferinternet.org/safer-internet-day>
- . <http://www.childnet.com/resources/safer-internet-day>

It would be great if you could look at some of these resources with your children.

Computer Science Unplugged:

- . A web site set up to provide activities to explain how computers and the internet work without having to use computers. Lots of practical tasks that help youngsters understand how the digital world works. All free including a 111 page book that you can download containing 100 activities.
- . <http://csunplugged.org/>

Don't forget to checkout our school website!

www.tgps.uk.com

YEAR 4

Year 4 have been practising writing a persuasive argument for English. When they were posed with an argument on whether primary school children should be allowed a morning break, the children were able to defend their rights!

For Maths, we have been learning to read time. Time has been an area that children have struggled with, any additional support at home will be greatly appreciated.

Our topic lessons have been on the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We will be continuing to work on this topic after half term.



PE Kit

Please ensure that children have their PE Kits in school when it is their PE day in order to avoid missing Golden Time for not having this. My advice is that the kit is brought into school on Monday and taken home on Friday to be washed. Children need an indoor and outdoor kit as PE during this time of the year is weather dependent.

Headlice

Kindly ensure children with long hair have their hair tied back to reduce the risk of headlice.

