

Newsletter 17th February 2017

Turner Road Portsmouth PO14PN T 023 9282 6514 info@arkdickensprimary.org arkdickensprimary.org

Dear Parents and Carers,

It hardly seems possible that this week brings us already to half way through the school year; a term and a half gone and a term and a half to go. Time has just flown by!

During this week the children have continued to work hard, with just a few children still struggling a little to fully understand that we are here to learn, to play well together and to try our very best in all we do. I do hope you all are able to have some relaxation time together, to have some fun times next week ready for the children to come back after half term, ready to do amazing things once again with their learning!

We look forward to seeing you all after half term and I am going to leave you with some tasters of what each year group is doing as soon as we return.

Just one date for your diary: Meet the Principal will be on Thursday 2nd March from 8.45am. This is a really good opportunity for you to come and meet with me and talk though a whole variety of things related to the school and the direction we are headed in. It will give you a chance to ask any questions you may have about anything school related; tea and biscuits too! See you there.

Superhero Mission Completed

On Friday 10th February we sent out a superhero mission to all parents. The mission was to come and share a book with the children.

This mission was accepted by so many parents and carers and was lovely to see so many books being shared.

Thank you to all those that could attend-look out for more missions coming soon!





After half term in Nursery

We have had an amazing half term finding out about pets. We have learnt lots and had the chance to meet many different pets; it has been very exciting.

Next term our topic is 'Growing'. Can the children bring in a baby photo (12-18months old) to make a display of how we have changed. To celebrate Pancake Day on Tuesday 28th we will be cooking our own pancakes! Have a lovely half term break!

What will Reception be up to?

This week the children have enjoyed writing about the Big Bad Troll from the 'Billy Goat's Gruff' and building bridges like the one in the story.

After half term, we will be using the story of 'Little Red Hen' for our topic. Why not take your child to see a real life hen at College Park or Victoria Park? They've got lots of other animals at both parks as well. Best of all, both are completely free and great fun. Have a fabulous break!



This week in Year 1, we have been writing our own fairy tales based on the story of Hansel and Gretal. We have been thinking of interesting describing words to describe the setting and the evil character.

After half term, we will be focusing on geography for our topic 'Who am I?'. Please talk to your child about where different members of your family come from and, if you can, show them these places on a map. We will also be continuing our science topic on plants and trees. It would be helpful for the children to look at different plants and to identify the seeds.

Thank you.

Year 2

This week Year 2 have been using the skills they have learnt in literacy to write a diary recount of their trip to Goodwood farm. In maths, they have been practicing solving addition and subtraction equations by drawing images. After the holiday, we will be using the text' Cloudy with a chance of Meatballs' as a basis for our writing. Maybe you could have a family film night during the holiday and watch the movie to prepare the children for this?

In maths, we will start learning about fractions. Over half term please help your child with their spellings and start getting them ready for some maths later in the term by using money. You could play shop using real coins over the holiday to get them used to making different amounts. Rowling class need to bring back their Carnegie library books as they will be going to the library on the first day back.

Have a great half term.

Year 3

This week in maths Year 3 have finished their unit on telling the time. They have also published their own persuasive advertisements in literacy. It's been a fantastic end to the half

term; the children have been very successful in their learning.

After half term children will be focusing on multiplication and division in maths. In literacy we will be looking at and writing our own fables. We are also very excited to be starting our geology unit in Science.

During the half term, it would be great for children to continue to revise time and their multiplication and division facts. We would also like them to be reading a wide variety of books at home. It would be super helpful to ask children questions about what they are reading. We hope that you and the children have a great break and the children come back feeling refreshed after their hard work this term.

Year 4

In Year 4 this week, the children have been showing their creativity in literacy. They have been busy writing a persuasive script, trying to persuade people to buy their favourite piece of art they saw at the Aspex Gallery in Gunwharf last week. It would appear that we have some very successful future salesmen and women in our year group.

After half term we are moving on from Australia and are heading to Africa. During Spring 2, we will be exploring African culture, history animals and much more. To continue with our creativity, children will be creating their very own African masks.

In the meantime, if the children could start their own research about Africa to give them a head start into the new term that would be most helpful.

Let's also keep up the hard work around telling the time and working out times tables quicker.

We wish all children a very happy, well deserved and safe half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 4 team.

Year 5

Year 5 have been working hard this week, to (successfully!) overcome rounding decimals! As the resilience in the classroom has increased, so has the children's attitude to learning and therefore progress!

In literacy, we have been writing a letter in application for a job at Willy Wonka's factory the vocabulary used in these letters has been astounding!

After half term, our class text will be Matilda by Roald Dahl - a letter will be coming your way about watching the film. We will be doing a lot of work in literacy and guided reading about this text, so if you have a copy - read it to get ahead! (The book is currently £3.49 on Amazon if you would like to read it during half term.)

The homework for half-term has a lot of information about the 500 word challenge - so please help your child in any way you can.

Please ensure that your child is reading leisurely when possible - reading is the best tool for helping with writing and reading.

Have a great half-term!

Year 5 Team

Year 6

This week in Year 6, Travers have been working on their World War 2 projects - which are looking fantastic! Luther King have been learning about key figures and money during the WW2 era and have produced some great fact files.

After half term, we will continue our World War 2 topic. We would love for you to continue to do your own research over the holidays - for example: rationing; how World War 2 ended or key figures at that time.

In literacy, we will we be writing our own information texts so it would be great if you could read some during half term. For maths, we will be looking at 2d and 3d shapes and missing angles; in preparation, it would be great if you could answer any shape and angle questions from your SATs test booklets and bring them with you on the first day back.

Have a lovely break; rest after all your hard work and have fun!

Important Reminder



We need to reiterate to you the importance of parking safely near our school. Our car park is busy at all times and must be kept clear for emergency access.

Please **<u>DO</u> NOT** park by the school gates or use our car park to drop your children off to school.

For the safety of your children please make sure you find a safe place to park.

AttendanceWinners

Well done to all our Attendance winners this week: Curie Class, Rowling Class & Nelson Class.

Also well done to Potter class, Nightingale class, Peake Class, Wilberforce Class, Curie class & Luther-King class for the least amount of lates this week.