



Mercenfeld Primary School



Spring 2 Newsletter

Mrs Randle Interim Head Teacher

We have started the term at a pace – with our Key Stage 2 SATs for our Year 6 children and then Key Stage 2 SATs for our Yr 2's. We have been very proud of how well the children have tackled the tests and have shown resilience and fortitude. Unfortunately, we do have a few more statutory tests this term (including the Year 1 phonic screen and Yr 4 multiplication test) but we know that with your support the children will tackle these with the wonderful 'can do' attitude that we foster here at Mercenfeld.

This is also the term for trips and enrichment opportunities, including our Yr3/4 visit to New Walk Museum. We are passionate about providing these opportunities for our children, especially as these have been so restricted due to Covid. They really do bring 'learning to life'

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Randle



PHSCE (Personal Health, Social and Citizenship Education)

Mrs Farley, our PHSCE Lead, tells us what the children will be learning about in the subject this term

In PHSCE this term, we will be focusing on Relationships and Health Education. Children will be learning about 'body knowledge and awareness', 'personal hygiene', 'illness prevention' and much more. All lessons taught will be age-appropriate and adapted for each class/year. You can find lots more information about this on our website, including frameworks for each year group and parent guides.

This week we have taken part in 'Walk to School' week. The children have really enjoyed learning about the benefits of walking to school. It has been great to see the different ways in which the children chose to 'walk' to school, including scooting and cycling! Certificates will be sent out at the end of the week, so look out for these in your children's book bags. We really appreciate your support with this and hope that it has encouraged your children to walk to school on a more regular basis.

In June, we will be celebrating 'Healthy Eating Week' by completing lots of fun activities. We look forward to sharing this with you.



A New 'After School' Club

We now have a great new Dance club that runs on a Monday after school for KS1 and 2 with Alix and her team from Alixandra Dance. Lots of the children leave the session stating 'That was fantastic!'



Transition and New Classes

Classes are currently being finalised but we are pleased to let you now that we will only have one mixed age range class in school next year in EYFS. The other classes will all be single age range.

We are putting together our transition arrangement to ensure that it is smooth and seamless for the children. You and your children will be notified as soon as possible about their new classes.

This year we will be undertaking home visits for our new reception intake which is a fantastic opportunity for Mrs York to start to get to know her new class. We are also starting to put things onto a designed area on our website to support this often daunting time.

Au Revoir to Mrs Allen!



Our wonderful 'front of house' staff member, Mrs Allen, will be leaving Mercenfeld Primary before the end of term.

Whilst we are all very sad that she is leaving us, she has secured a wonderful job at Maplewell Hall Special School where she will be able to use many more of her talents in her new role.

Every member of staff and every pupil, and we are sure you as parents, wish her the very best and thank her for her dedication and commitment to us all. She always has a smile on her face, is willing to do anything that is asked and put her hand to anything. We will miss her very much but are so proud of achievements with us.

An advert for the post will be going out from the Trust shortly and we hope to recruit as soon as possible.



Our PTFA needs YOU!

We are looking for wonderful volunteers to join our PTFA. The valuable work that they do for the school enables us to provide additional experiences and resources to the children that our budget cannot cover.

Our existing committee members are stepping down and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and commitment to Mercenfeld.

A huge thank you to our Chair Angela Rossa, Treasurer Kirsty Brown and Joint Secretary Anna Smith for their service

We would love to be able to fill these roles, otherwise the PTA will need to fold. If you are interested in joining the team and finding more information please email ptfa@mercenfeld.bepschools.org

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 8th June at the school. All are welcome. We have sent further information in the children's book bags this week

Brass

Our fantastic and talented Year 5 children performed with Mr G, our Brass tutor, to parents.

Thank you to all of you that came to hear their pieces. To see and hear how far they have come and what they have achieved in such a short time was amazing and humbling. We really hope it has inspired them to continue to play – whatever musical instrument they decide.

Year 3 will now have the opportunity to learn and play with Mr G on a Friday. We are all looking forward to their concert next academic year!



Commando Joes

Our new Commando Joe's character scheme is now well underway. During our Monday assemblies, the children are introduced to one of our character words. That week, the children are invited to write down and place examples of when they have used this character skill on the display in the hall. These are then spoken about during our Friday assemblies. The character words we have looked at so far are positivity, team-work and communication. All children will also be taking part in some our Commando Joe's character missions.

Commando Joe Traits



R- Resilience
E – Empathy
S- Self- awareness
P – Positivity
E – Excellence
C- Communication
T- Team work
RESPECT





Spotlight on.....



Our Subject Leaders

In the Primary phase of education the teachers are required to be 'jacks **and** masters of a trades!' Unlike in secondary, class teachers deliver all the subjects across the week in accordance with the National Curriculum. Each subject within school has a Subject Lead who oversees their subject, ensuring it is delivered in accordance with the scheme, is progressive and builds on previous learning and is being taught at a high standard. They are also responsible for ensuring that the subject is well resourced, giving training and support to staff members as well as keeping up to date with the latest education research. The Trust supports all our Leads with regular Subject Leader Networks where fellow leads from across the Trust get together to share, network and learn.

All this on top of their classroom responsibility!

Here are our Subject Leaders at Mercenfeld ...



Mrs Collins - Geography



Mr Perkins - PE



Mr Noon - History



Miss Ma- Computing



Mrs Brassington - RE



Mr Dunn - Science



**Mrs Weatherill- English
and Phonics**



**Mrs. Jewitt – Maths
and Languages**

Gardening Club



We are so lucky at Mercenfeld Primary School as we have our very own garden, vegetable patch and greenhouse.

With the help of children from across the school our on-site garden is looked after.

The children learn how to look after the plants and the equipment whilst developing cooperation and other social skills.



The children talk excitedly about clearing areas of ground by pulling up old weeds; using and caring for tools such as long stalk forks and spades. The children also find out about creatures that they find during their gardening activities – they have even found a frog!

Most excitingly of all the children are able to sample some of the home-grown produce and have described the peas as the 'most delicious and fresh things' they had ever eaten!

For a small suggested donation, you too can sample the produce – please check out our fruit and veg hut, situated by the front of the school.



What we will be learning during the Summer Term...

EYFS – Koalas

Puddles and Rainbows

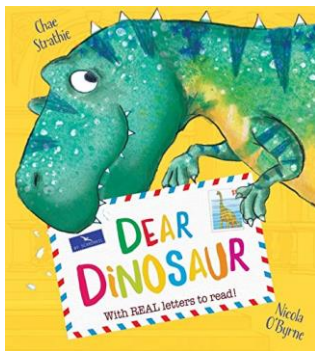
This mini project teaches children about the weather that happens during spring and allows them to explore natural phenomena, including rainbows. It supports them to explore colour in the natural world.

Dangerous Dinosaurs

This exciting project teaches children about the different animals that roamed Earth millions of years ago and how they are related to animals that live on Earth today.

Literacy -Writing simple phrases and sentences, reading comprehension, correct formation of letters

Maths - Number problems, cardinality 1 -15, one more and one less (fewer), comparison, patterns, positional language and shape

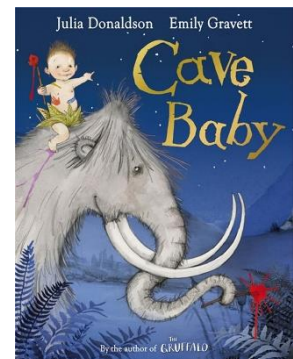


Focus books

Dear Dinosaur

Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs

Cave Baby



Yr 1 - Toucans

This term we look at **School Days** – comparing life as a school child today with life as a school child in Victorian times. The children will revisit geographical skills from our last unit and use these to explore the local area of Markfield then and now.

We will flex our creative muscles again when we learn about how artists such as James Rizzi have represented Street Views, as well as designing and making our own sandwiches in Design Technology!

In computing, we will find out about methods for Data Handling which may come in useful when we put on our science hats to find out all about Plant Parts and Animal Parts.

Our English topics will see us writing stories about familiar settings and finding out about how to write a letter. This is the term when we really get to show off how good we are at phonics because we will be taking part in the Phonics Screening test too.

Learning how to measure time and money, apply arrays, multiply and share numbers and begin to know about fractions will be a few of the topics we cover in Maths.



Yr 2 Meerkats and Zebras

We are having great fun with our new topic 'Magnificent Monarchs'. We are finding out about the English and British monarchy from AD 871 to the present day. Using timelines, information about royal palaces, portraits and other historical sources, we are building up an understanding of the monarchs. Towards the end of the summer term we will research several of the most significant sovereigns. We hope to arrange a fun dress up day and really get into the role of a magnificent monarch later in the term.

We are using our knowledge from our history sessions to help us write letters and diary entries in literacy. We continue to work on our grammar, punctuation and spellings.

In maths we have been working on time. We have covered o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past times. We have looked at telling the time in 5 minute intervals and have solved time problems. We will move onto learning about capacity, mass and weight.

During our art lessons we will learn about portraiture. We will analyse the portraits of Tudor monarchs and compare Tudor portraits and selfies today.

In design technology we will learn about sewing patterns. We will use a running stitch and embellishments.

In science we will recap our knowledge about animal survival, habitats and microhabitats. We will also take part in a range of experiments.

Our work in RE is focusing on 'celebrations' then we will move onto 'places of worship.'

We are super busy and we are really enjoying our learning.



Yr 3/4 – Penguins, Rhinos and Chameleons

Ancient Civilisations

Maths:

In Maths we will be learning how to tell the time to one minute and solve time related problems. We will also be applying addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve money problems.

English:

English lessons will be linked as far as possible to our Ancient Civilisation topic. We will find out about the features of Ancient Sumarian Hymns and have go at writing our own. We will also explore stories from other cultures, reading extracts from a range of books and also write our own, which will give children the opportunity to apply grammar and punctuation skills.

Wider Curriculum:

This topic will give children the opportunity to explore the Ancient Egyptians in detail through a range of curriculum areas including: D/T, Art, PE, History and Geography.

Within music the Year 4's will be lucky enough to be learning how to play some brass instruments, whilst the Year 3's will be exploring some exciting samba music.

Our RE focus this half-term is on food and fasting. The children will learn about why food is important to different religions and the sacrifices that some religions make with regards to food.

In PE pupils will have the opportunity to participate in gymnastics as well as enjoying cricket and rounders, hopefully in the sunshine.

This half-term's computing lessons will focus on extending children's knowledge and ability to use Scratch for coding.

During our PHSCE lessons we will be exploring relationships and aspects of the human body, thinking about human life cycles.

French lessons will be based around shopping; including food and money.

Year 5 – Huskies and Orcas

During the summer term our Topic is Sow, Grow and Farm which links nicely with our science of Life Cycles and our geography topic Enough for Everyone. This will give us plenty of opportunity to get outside and explore nature.

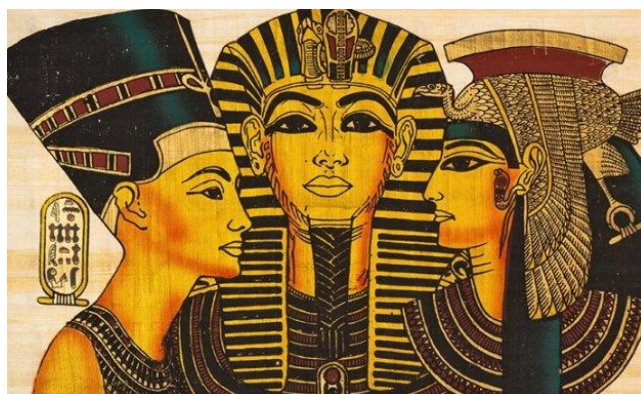
In Maths we are learning about shape and measures and revisiting areas we have covered this year.

In English we are reading and thinking about characters in Coraline. After half term we will be looking at the short film Alchemist's Letter.

Earlier this term, we went on a walk in our local area for a Geography day where the children practiced their map reading skills. All of the children were a credit to the school and themselves.

Year 5 have enjoyed swimming lessons over the past 8 weeks and all the children have improved.

We would like to say a huge well done to all the children for an amazing music concert and a big thank you to all the parents who came. We are very proud of what they achieved over such a short space of time with Mr G.



Year 6 – Panthers and Tigers

This summer term, we have been really proud of how hard the children have been working as they have just completed their SATs. During these assessments, the children applied themselves really well and were super focused.

This term, our main topic is Britain at War and we will be looking closely at both World War I and World War II. The children seem to have been really engaged in this topic so far and are keen to gain more knowledge on the subject.

Auditions for our end of year production have taken place this week and the children well and truly showed off their talents! Over the coming weeks, the children will be working hard on this and our performance will take place during the last week of term. More information and dates will follow shortly.

In PE, the children have been doing athletics, which is perfect timing, as sports day and the annual Saffron Lane competition will be taking place in June.

The photos for the year book have now been taken and we are really looking forward to seeing them at the end of the school year.

