



ANSTON HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Rayner

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Our values are: **RESPECT, RESILIENCE, TEAMWORK, ASPIRATION and KINDNESS**



SPRING TERM 2 NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

Thanks to all of you who have supported school recently at our parents evenings- we hope you found these useful and although 10 minutes never seems long enough, we hope you found the learning discussed informative giving you an idea of what your child has learnt, the efforts and progress made this school year so far and enabling you to see how you could further support your child at home from the target sheet.

It was lovely to see so many of the KS2 parents at the dance festival at Wales High School or at Mr Sowden's leaving events. As always your support is appreciated and we hope you've enjoyed attending these events. The response to the parent survey sent out recently was really pleasing and will help as we continue on our journey of school improvement; I'll analyse all the findings and get back to you all after Easter with regard to the comments and suggestions made. I'll also be sending out a pupil survey in the Summer term to find out more about what our pupils think!

Please do follow us if you can on X (formerly Twitter) or our website blog as we regularly update these with things we are proud of. You can find more out about what your child is learning from class pages or the curriculum pages on our website however if you want additional information about your child and their own progress and attainment; contact your child's class teacher and they will get back to you for either a call or face to face meeting. In addition to this, we will also email out to parents the class newsletters and/ or WHISK sheets so you know what your child is learning about as we start the new themed units. Some are approximately 6 weeks long and others shorter at around 3 weeks- the general feedback from both staff and pupils is that they're enjoying it so we hope you've been hearing all about it at home too.

Have a lovely Easter break and thank you all again for supporting school, Mrs Rayner

Learning meets the world curriculum – Foundation Stage

In FS1 we have loved learning all about transport and travel during our theme 'Ticket to Ride'. We found out about different types of transport in other countries, such as gondolas, tuk tuks and snowmobiles! We had fun painting our own. We read The Train Ride story and talked about where we might visit on a train. We also explored cars and ramps to see how far and how fast they could travel. We built our own boats too. We also took part in Comic Relief, World Book Day and Easter celebrations this half term! It's been extremely busy!

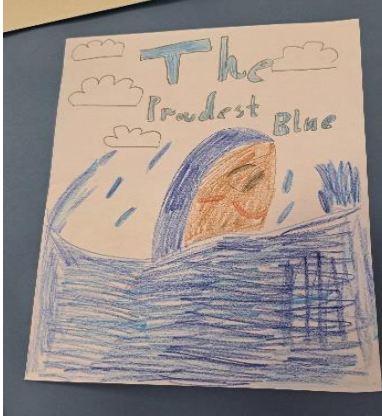



FS2 have been learning all about transport this half term. We have had a great time exploring and investigating how things move, such as paper aeroplanes and boats. We have been learning about how we can travel on land and water using different modes of transport to get from one place to another.

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| <p>Year 1- Mrs Cawkwell & Mr Smith</p> | <p>Year 2- Mrs Divit</p> |
| <p>Year One have been learning all about the Powhatan people and how Pocahontas was such an important part of building relationships between the Native Americans and the English colonialists. She was the first Native American to come to England! The children have loved this learning and have made tribal artwork and masks from the ball Pocahontas attended in London. We also loved World Book Day where we looked at the story 'Lost and Found'. We are looking forward to our next topic called 'Royal Patrons'.</p> | <p>Year 2 have had a great half term learning about Flora Drummond and how she fought for equal rights for women. We have really enjoyed producing our own book in English; we rewrote the story, 'The Prouddest Blue' from a different character's viewpoint. We even created our own front covers and blurbs!</p>  |
| <p>Year 3- Miss Bennett</p> | |
| <p>Class 3 have had an amazing term! All the children have got so involved with their learning and have shown such resilience in everything they have done! They have loved learning about fractions in Maths and have really got to grips with the mathematical vocabulary - ask them what a unit fraction is! In our Dimensions learning, they have just finished their Come Fly With Me topic and have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about Africa. We've been talking about what Fairtrade means and many children have been spotting the Fairtrade symbol in the supermarket! After half term, we will be moving on to our new Dimensions topic called the Wordsmith where we will be learning all about the history of slavery and Ignatius Sancho. Miss Bennett is really looking forward to the Summer term with Y3!</p> | |
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| <p>Year 4- Mr Bishop</p> | <p>Class 7- Our Speech and Language resource- Mrs Martin Chambers</p> |
| <p>Year 4 have been getting stuck into their new Dimensions unit: Window on the World. They provided some lovely answers to our catalyst questions which sparked some brilliant discussions in class. So far, they have explored where the UK imports different foods from. The whole class were surprised how far some foods have travelled before we get to eat it. We also have looked into why some species have become extinct, endangered and even how and why some animal's status has changed over years.</p> | <p>This term we have been learning about Flora Drummond and Elizabeth Blackwell who both played a huge part in equal rights for women. We have been thinking about who we are and our families in PSHE and RE. In English, the children LOVED going on a treasure hunt which led to stories by Nick Butterworth we have been enjoying listening to these stories in class.</p> |
| <p>Year 5- Miss Curle</p> | |
| <p>In year 5 we cannot wait to find out what our next Dimensions work is. This term we have loved learning all about the human body from the theme "Go with the flow" where we have learnt all about the circulatory system. We have some incredible scientists in year 5 and some potential heart surgeons from the passion they have shown! I have been blown</p> | |

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away by the children knowledge and recollection of not only the parts of the heart and blood but the way in which the circulatory system operates.

We also loved our "Been around the world" theme. We explored reasons why people immigrate and emigrate from a historical viewpoint to modern day. We have loved learning about, and comparing, life in Hong Kong to life in the UK. The children were amazed at the real estate price comparison between the UK and Hong Kong. Ask your child about the cages in Hong Kong and house prices- you will be amazed.

Another great term full of learning and fun in year 5- just how we like it! Massive well done to everyone in class, you are working so hard- keep it up!

Year 6- Mr Brooks

Year Six have almost finished their 'I Have A Dream' unit of work (their first Dimensions- Learning Meets the World topic)! They have designed their own 3d art and made it out of paperclips (not easy!) before sewing their own symbols for peace out of fabric (easier!). Earlier, they learnt the words to some 'folk slave songs' and accompanied them on the glockenspiels whilst learning about Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. We have lots of 'booster' groups going on at this time and the children are working towards finishing key stage 2 on a high in the core subjects. Everybody will be doing some playleader training over the course of the next few weeks and getting the chance to put this into practice in the summer term.



Maths Passports and TTR

We are having a real push on improving mental arithmetic in particular multiplication facts and number knowledge across school. From FS to year 5 the children have maths passports and these have been really well received with the children working hard on these in class and at home. This in addition to the Times Tables Rockstars will help the children have a quicker recall of times tables in order to apply these to all areas of maths. Additional support resources for maths are in the home/school learning log as well as all the log ins.

Reading in school

Part of our school improvement journey is focussed on reading- We are focussing our PTA fundraising this year on creating 2 libraries in school; a Foundation Stage/ Year 1 and 2 joint library area and a separate Harry Potter themed KS2 library. Our sponsored read in collaboration with ex member of staff Mrs Habershon will help us add to the stock and we are proud and thankful to have raised a massive £996! Truly phenomenal! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

If anyone would like to donate to our library we also have an Amazon wishlist. We're hoping to add different titles to this especially as we discover new authors and texts.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/14SUEWII03G7T?ref =wl_share

There are designated pages within the home/ school learning log where the children should be logging and commenting on what they have read- having taken feedback from parents and pupils we will look at ways of including further information in these ready for the new school year. We're always on the hunt for bookshelves in good condition or beanbags/ cushions which we could make use of so please see Mrs Moore, Mrs Divit or myself if you have anything you think we might be able to make use of.

Online Safety

We sent an email recently about Discord, which is a voice, video and text chat app and as we receive updates on potentially concerning online safety issues or direct information regarding apps/ games we will email these out directly to parents. There is additional information here;

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<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-discord-on-how-your-kids-can-use-it-safely/>

We are constantly looking for ways to educate our children, share guidance with families about how to protect our children online and are looking at our curriculum and how it equips our children with the skills they need to stay safe.

| INSET dates 2023/24 | Just a reminder... timings |
|---|--|
| Our INSET dates; Monday September 4th (Autumn 1) Friday December 22nd (Autumn 2) Monday June 3 rd (Summer 1) Monday 22 nd July (Summer 2) Tuesday 23 rd July (Summer 2) | Can I please remind families that we start our day at 8:45am promptly. We would like all our children to line up on the yard in their designated classes from 8:40am with the bell ringing at 8:45am and the children entering the building to start their day. Staff are happy to speak with parents at the start of the day with regard to anything urgent or necessary for the day or if a longer conversation is needed- please ask them to give you a call at a convenient time. We recognise mornings can be tricky and traffic is bad at times but we are noticing an increasing numbers of pupils entering school later each day- our electronic gates close at 9am and we would appreciate it if parents can exit the school site as soon as your child/ children enter school. The timings of the gates closing/opening is to safeguard our children and the site in line with Trust policy. |

Just a reminder...attendance

Our attendance target is 96% - we are currently at 95% as a school and have overall good attendance when measuring us against other similar schools however we have an increasing number of pupils absent regularly. Any absence from school, either a holiday or frequent absences from learning due to illness leaves your child vulnerable to falling behind with their learning. Attendance is monitored in line with Trust and Local Authority policy and we monitor attendance which falls below 96% and have to issue letters, follow the Early Help attendance pathway for persistent absence and issue fixed penalty notices where necessary for holidays.

After school clubs

| | What | Who | Where |
|-----------|--|----------|-------------------|
| Monday | Football with Mr Smith (starts 15.4.24) | Y3,4,5,6 | KS2 hall or field |
| Tuesday | Badminton with Mr Smith (starts 23.4.24 after taster session at WHS) | Y3,4,5,6 | KS2 hall |
| | Dance club with Lizzie (starts 16.4.24) | Y3,4,5,6 | KS1 hall |
| Wednesday | Multisports with Mr Whaley (starts 17.4.24) | Y1,2 | KS2 hall |
| Thursday | Basketball with Mr Smith (starts 18.4.24) | Y3,4,5,6 | KS2 hall |
| | Newspaper club with Mrs Rayner (starts 18.4.24) | Y3,4,5,6 | Dining hall |

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April 2024

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| 16.4.24 | Badminton taster session @ Wales High School (info from Mr Smith to follow) |
| 17.4.24 | Year 1 Phonics parents meeting in KS2 hall @ 8:45am |
| 18.4.24 | Year 4 Swimming (12-week programme) |
| 18.4.24 | DISCO (info from PTA) |
| 18.4.24 | Year 1 local area walk (letter to follow from Mrs Cawkwell) |
| 24.4.24 | Jenny York author visit (children can bring money for books on the day) |
| 25.4.24 | RSE (Relationships & sex education) consultation meeting for parents 8:45am |
| 30.4.24 | U9 & U11 Tag rugby festival @ Wales High school (info from Mr Smith to follow) |

May 2024

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| 1.5.24 | Year 4 Multiplication check parents meeting in KS2 hall @ 8:45am |
| 13.5.24 | Year 6 SATS week |

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: Sports Day this year: FS1&2 Monday 24th June 9am

KS1 (Years 1&2) Wednesday 26th June 9am KS2 (Years 3,4,5,6) 1:30pm

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