

Myton Park Primary School

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Spring Term 1 2016

World Awareness Week

The first week after half term will be World Awareness Week where each class will learn about a particular country. The week is always popular with the children with opportunities for writing, reading, maths and creative activities. Please encourage your child to talk about the country they are learning about. You could do some research at home together about the country's culture, history, art, cuisine or significant residents from the past.

The countries that will be studied are;

Nursery	England
Reception	France
Year 1	Australia
Year 2	Mexico
Year 3	Italy
Year 4	Spain
Year 5	Russia
Year 6	Brazil

Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday the children discussed Internet Safety. We worked to raise awareness of the importance to communicate safely, sensibly and appropriately when on line. We are working to encourage the children to communicate with people on line, in the same way that they would off line. We talked about the impact of being unkind to people on line.

There are resources on our website to help you to keep your child safe on-line. Please do take a look. If there is anything that you feel we could add that you are aware of, then please do let us know. Click on the Internet Safety tab on the left hand side of the home page.

Assemblies

Assemblies in school will be based on British Values and we will have a focus theme each half term. The theme for this half term has been perseverance. Next term will be honesty. Some of the materials for assemblies will be posted on the website - Parents Information Tab, Assemblies. We will also include special events and occasions - these are all listed on the website for your information, so you can discuss what the children have been learning about at school.

Gardening Club

Our gardening volunteers continue to work hard for the benefit of all of the children. They have plans afoot for starting the gardening again after the half term holiday. In preparation for this, they have been busy building some more raised beds so the children can grow even more after half term. We must say a huge thank you to B&Q for their continued support of school. B&Q have supplied us with a wide range of gardening equipment and wood for the raised beds. Scott Bros have also been instrumental in their support. They have now provided us, free of charge, with 6 tonnes of top soil to fill all of the raised beds both in and outside the poly-tunnel. Please do take the time to thank our gardening volunteers who make so much of this work possible. If you would like to become involved (as little as one morning or afternoon a month would make such a difference to the children) then do be in touch with Keith Coles.

Playground Friends

Our Playground Buddies have been working really hard to develop games at playtimes. We now have a game a week that the children learn on Mondays as part of our Friendship assembly. Our dedicated team of Buddies have written up instructions and these are now posted on our website. These games really do offer support to children in the playground. Please do take a look at the hard work the children have put in.

Sponsorship

We are taking part in the "Clean for the Queen" initiative which is all about taking pride in your community and respecting spaces and belongings. As part of this, the school council have been doing some work on how we could improve the school environment. In order to see their ideas come to fruition, they are trying to seek support and sponsorship from local firms. Mrs Ball has managed to secure some sponsorship from Toyota, which will help to finance the ideas the school council have had for the playground, but they have also had some ideas for inside. Within this, we are looking to do more educational work around recycling - the importance of recycling in caring for the environment, but also using recycled products. If you know of any local firms who provide support and sponsorship within their social responsibility funding initiatives, then please could you let us know? The school council have been working so hard, we are keen to make their ideas come to life.

Curriculum and School development

We continue to work hard to embed the new curriculum through school and the ever increasing targets. We will be adding information on Foundation Subjects and the relevant expectations over the next few days onto the website, so please do take a look at the information for your child's year group.

PE & Sport

All of Key Stage 2 took part in the cluster cross country run. The children were a credit to themselves - displaying an excellent attitude in very cold conditions. We have 10 children who have made it through to the finals at Preston Park on Wednesday 10th February.

9 children from year 5 and 6 took part in a local cluster competition. The girls did themselves proud, and whilst they did not win, the other schools commented on their fabulous attitude and team work. Well done girls - we are so proud of you. We have also had teams represent Myton Park in basketball competition and in the swimming gala. Again the children were magnificent ambassadors for Myton Park. We will find out at the very beginning of net term if anyone has made the swimming finals, as not all of the initial competitions have been completed.

Gold Award Sporting Status!

Sporty Bear came to school to present our National Schools Sports Award as we gained Gold Award status. Only 6 of the 60 schools in Stockton achieved this award so we are very proud. Many thanks to all of the staff involved, for their continued commitment to Myton Park and to the children who participate with such enthusiasm and respect.

Participation in PE Lessons

May I take this opportunity to remind you that PE is an important part of the curriculum? We have had a rising number of parents asking if their children can miss PE as they are a little under the weather or have very minor injuries. Unless parents have spoken specifically to Mrs Lee, then we will need to insist that children participate in PE. In the vast majority of circumstances, if they are well enough to be in school, then they should be well enough to take part in PE.

Charity Run

Mr Lamb is running in the 2016 Great North Run. He will be representing the charity Arthritis Research UK. If anyone would like to sponsor him, then Mr Lamb would be truly grateful. If you would like to donate then please follow the link <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndyLamb1>

Class News

Nursery

This half term we have enjoyed reading Traditional Tales. The children have made gingerbread men and have joined in confidently with the repeated refrains "Run, run as fast as you can". We have looked at changes in the weather and explored ice and talked about what happens if it is left outside, next to a radiator etc. We froze objects in ice and had lots of discussion about how they got in there and, more to the point - how we would get them out!!!

We have been developing our thinking skills and intend to practise these through a range of activities. Staff will put a question on the "home" board each session, for example "Do you like sunny days or snowy days?". The children will put their name under the picture which they prefer and say "why". At first this will need lots of modelling by parents/staff. Children hopefully will begin to realise that there is no right/wrong answer and they do not have to agree with their friends.

Reception

Once again we have been very busy in Reception. Since the Christmas holidays we have been learning all about polar animals, Frozen and super heroes. The children have written facts, made super hero masks and told stories in the role play area using Frozen characters. The children are beginning to do writing in different areas of the classroom for example labels for their models, making plans for things they are building and practising their school writing on the interactive white board. The children have also had opportunities to make fruit salad and ice cream and have enjoyed eating them!!!

Thank you to all the parents for coming in to talk about the jobs that they do. The children are really enjoying listening to what you do and have become much more confident to ask questions about the various jobs. This helps the children have a greater understanding of all the important work done in their community. Thank you also for your support with helping the children to prepare for their show and tell. We hope each group will enjoy sharing something important to them with the rest of the class. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 1

We have had a fantastic year so far! We really enjoyed showing you our work at our family assembly. We are loving our Dragons topic and have particularly enjoyed making clay dragons. We visited the library where Kath told us some amazing stories and we found out about Chinese dragon dances when we celebrated Chinese New Year. Our English work is getting better every day and we have been writing descriptions, instructions, stories, letters and information. We are working hard on our phonics, ready for your big phonics check in June. In Maths, we are working on our addition and subtraction and counting out in 2's, 5's and 10's. We really enjoy our PE lessons but sometimes find it hard to keep track of our clothes. Please could you ensure that your child's uniform and PE clothes have their name inside to make getting dressed much easier.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 2

We are continuing to work on our handwriting challenge and some of us have reached Sapphire level. We all need to make sure we keep tall letters tall! We have been working on how to write a good explanation. Our class assembly was a lot of fun and we are becoming more confident at performing. Our Thinking Skills are developing and we have become good at listening to each other and also saying what we think. We enjoyed making dragons and worked well together to make and bake our own cakes.

Year 3

This term the children are learning about Europe. They have found out what Europe is and were challenged to jigsaw together a map of Europe identifying and locating the different countries. They have studied France, Germany and next half term we will be finding out about Italy, Spain and Russia. When studying France the children had the opportunity to try different foods including Brie, Camembert, a baguette, madeleines, crepes and brioche. Why not try some different European foods at home and let us know what you thought of them?

We have also completed our 2 weeks of swimming lessons, where everyone made great progress, even if it was just building their confidence in the water. The children have also been lucky enough to have had dance lesson by Dance Fusion where they have been learning Greek dancing to "Zorba the Greek".

In English we have performed poetry and studied different story genres. They have been enjoying reading the class novel "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". Next half term they have chosen "Matilda" also by Roald Dahl.

Year 4

Happy New Year from Year 4. Having returned from the Christmas holidays, we have been learning about Modern Europe. We have studied the continent in detail and have also taken a closer look at European countries and their culture including Germany and France.

In English we have been studying the features of narrative s before writing our own stories. We have studied other forms of writing including writing to explain letters; this has been based around our topic.

We have worked very hard in Maths this term. Learning about measurement, place value, co-ordinates and decimals. More recently we have focussed our learning around fractions.

Year 5

In Year 5 we have been enjoying learning about how to look after our environment linked to our topic "Keen to be Green". We have composed poetry to encourage people to look after our planet. Look out for our "Rethinking Waste" display in our classroom - we have made our own polar landscape from recycled objects.

We have created our own Mystery Story - "Mytonhearst Manor". We applied our skills which we have developed during our English lessons.

Our Science topic this term is called "Evolution". We have been learning about Mary Anning and her discovery of fossils.

Year 6

Year 6 are enjoying their topic "Keen to be Green". We have thought about how to help the environment and created our own life size dress using recycled objects, including crisps packets, newspaper and bottle tops.

Our love for reading is forever growing - we have looked at how JK Rowling used lots of different techniques for flashbacks in the Harry Potter series.

We have enjoyed learning about poetry and looking at the artist Andy Goldsworthy's work. We created our own visual poetry - they were very impressive!!



Future Dates

Friday 12 Friday February 16

Monday 22 February 16

Wednesday 24 February 16

Thursday 24 March 16

Monday 11 April 16

Last day of this half term

Children return after February half term

Photograph Day

Children break up for Easter holidays

Children return after Easter holidays