



St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

East Challow, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 9RY

Life in all its fullness John 10:10
Belonging, Compassion and Resilience



Friday 14th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards the end of term, we have much to celebrate this term. We have settled into the year well, and our children's leadership teams around the school are already beginning to make a difference to our school environment and the opportunities available for the children every day.

This week I met with School Council who are planning new play spaces in and around school, and redoing some of our playground markings. Their enthusiasm for their role is exemplary and Ewan, our chair has really thought about the best way to manage this project. Playleaders outside continue to set up and run different activities at lunchtimes, while today House Sports was organised by our House Leaders. I know everyone is very excited to find out how well each House did – results to be announced in our final assembly.

I hope you all found the parents meetings this week useful and you can see how well the children have settled back into learning by the progress they are making. We value our strong partnerships with parents and I know the teachers all value this as I do too.

Just a reminder that on **Thursday 20th October** we will be asking for **donations for the Food Bank** as part of our Harvest Service. They will accept most dried, tinned or packet store cupboard staples as long as they have a shelf life of at least three months. I know many of you will be feeling the pinch of the cost of living crisis but if you can donate, we would really appreciate it.

Save the Date!: **Saturday 3rd December** we will be holding a Christmas Fair at school. We are really excited to be able to use the school for this event which is one of our major fundraisers this year. We will of course need lots of helpers to make this event the best it can be, so please do email the office directly with offers of help.

What's been going on around the school

Wrens and Kingfishers

Only one more week until half term! Unfortunately, this week Mrs Thorpe has been unwell, meaning that we've met a few new faces in The Burrows. The children have adapted superbly to the change, and many were keen to show the new teachers their surroundings and skills- Well done to all and we wish Mrs Thrope a speedy recovery.

Hopefully you will have noticed that our theme of the week has been bear hunt as I'm sure the children will be retelling the story at home as they have been at school. We have been mapping out the events of the story and creating our own maps too, thinking about the labels we would use on the map and how we show which direction to go. In nursery we have been joining in with repeated refrains and phrases when being read to, why don't you go on a bear hunt with them and I'm sure they'll chant the refrain!

The reception children have learnt the new 'n' and 'm' sound as well as revisiting the previously learnt sounds. Reading books will be sent home after half term, as they are becoming familiar with those new sounds.



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We have been painting self-portraits this week, focusing on our similarities and differences. The children used mirrors to see what colour their eyes were and what other features they could add. This has been a fantastic way to reinforce that we are all different and it was interesting to see how the children compared themselves to each other (not just using their appearances). To continue working on our painting skills and techniques, we looked at Kandisky's work and discussed the shapes used within his paintings. The children had a go at creating their own versions and we have noticed many holding the paintbrush correctly, taking care in their brush strokes and showing curiosity of what happens when colours mix.

During the first term in both nursery and reception, it is key that we begin conversations with the children about their emotions and supporting them in self-regulation. We have used picture cards to show different emotions and are thinking about other words to describe how we feel, besides 'happy' and 'sad'. We have used book 'The Way I Feel' by Janan Cain to help us understand different feelings.

The children (both classes) thoroughly enjoyed going on a sensory walk around the school with a checklist. We explored what we could see, touch, hear and smell and returned to the classroom with bags full of exciting findings such as apples, twigs and a variety of different leaves. We have been adding more resources to our outdoor area and love to see how the children use them in their play- cardboard boxes being the biggest hit, of course.

Thank you to so many parents for attending the meetings this week, it was great to get to know you a little better and celebrate how your little people are settling in.

Next week we are looking at houses and our community, we ask if you have any small boxes that we could use for junk modelling, if you could bring them in to share.

Thank you,

Ms Dyet and the Early Years Team

Robins

This week, we have been thinking hard about the kind of non meat dishes that might tempt the Gruffalo away from eating quite so many of the other animals in Nut Wood. There were some very imaginative ideas! In science, we have been looking at animals, including humans and their offspring, noticing where the offspring looked similar or different to their parents. Following on from our reading of the Owl Who Was Afraid of The Dark, we also learned about the lifecycle of a barn owl.

In maths, we have continued to compare numbers and work on explaining the reasoning behind our choices, whilst in English we finished their Gruffalo stories and created some noisy Gruffalo poetry, which we wrote carefully around our watercolour Gruffalo images.

Ms Winter and Mrs Miller

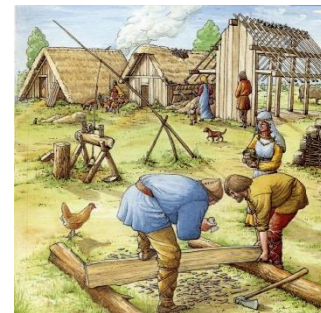
Owls

This week in Owl we have been focusing on a new English game, which can act as an independent plan for their writing. The children are given categories such as verbs, adjectives, adverbs and nouns. The class are given a picture and have to write 5 ideas per category in 2 minutes. They then have a partner in which they score their words with how unique and powerful they are. The children have LOVED playing this and it has been a fantastic reminder of our SPAG focus. The children have then been using the words they have collected from the game as well as class ideas and thesauruses to create powerful descriptions in their writing.



This week we also explored magnetic forces. The children were split into groups and given different styles of magnets. They were amazed at how much they could feel the forces and correctly identified words from our big 6 such as; repel and attract. They were passionate about discussing the earth's core and if the earth was a magnet. All the children had lots of discussion based on their observations and correctly proved magnetic forces at work through a variety of methods.

In History we were looking at the daily life of an Anglo-Saxon. We looked at the jobs typical Anglo-Saxons has in their villages. We then began to construct our own Anglo-Saxon villages and the children had to depict the different roles the Anglo-Saxons would have in the village.



Miss Batty

Red Kites

On Monday we spent time talking about the fact that it was World Mental Health Awareness day. We talked about the Wheel of Wellbeing and the 6 ways that we can look after ourselves. On Wednesday, these were shared with the rest of school when we showed the posters that we had made to let people know how to care for themselves and who to talk to if they were worried about their wellbeing. I have really enjoyed looking at the posters and some of the strategies the children have suggested.

In Science we found out that we can create a spectrum of colour using a prism. We talked about which colours we could see at each end and how this showed which colours were bent the most when they were refracted. We also looked at what happens when you put prisms together in a sequence. During our investigations on Wednesday afternoon, some children also explored

what happens when you combine several convex, concave or mixed lenses together. We used the observations made to understand why the opticians try so many lenses out when prescribing glasses.

Wednesday's English lesson gave everyone the opportunity to imagine they were travelling along the Trollstigen in Norway. We watched a video of the journey from top to bottom in a car and then made use of the vocabulary and grammar we have been learning to write our own exciting recounts of a journey by motorbike. There were some truly hair-raising descriptions.

Finally, maths for Year 5 this week has been learning about Roman Numerals so on Friday the whole class was challenged to order the years that adults in school were born, when given the year in Roman Numerals.

Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Richards

High 5's

Wrens

Jaxon for showing fantastic concentration during a group maths activity and Isabella PT for her perseverance to complete a task.

Kingfishers

Georgie for being a great role model and caring for the younger children and Benji for brilliant engagement during phonics.

Robins

Sophie for working so hard on her writing and Suzy for listening so carefully.

Owls

Bearin for his fantastic contributions in History and for depicted typical Anglo-Saxon roles for clearly.
Noah, for trying so hard in handwriting and taking pride in presenting his work.

Red Kites

Freya for making a visible effort to avoid distractions and to be the best that she can be in every lesson.
Eleanor for a truly traumatising description of a journey from the top (possibly) to the bottom of the Trollstigen

Flu vaccinations – Wednesday 19th October

Don't forget to go onto the portal and either register to **consent to the flu vaccination or to decline the vaccination**. It is important that you first read the information in the **Primary age** [Flu Leaflet Child flu vaccine - NHS](#) which include details about the programme and the small number of children who may not be able to have the nasal spray.

1. Then **Click** the link <https://www.oxfordhealthimms.co.uk/Forms/Flu>
2. **Enter** the Unique School Code OX141459
3. **Complete** the form (one per child). Please complete even if you are REFUSING the vaccination*.

Friday 21st October is an inset day.

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes

Heather Richards and the St Nics Team