



Half termly review

17TH DECEMBER 2021

Message from the Headteacher

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the
Headteacher

Overview of
Nursery

Overview of
Reception

Overview of KS1

Diary Dates

Attendance

Reminders and
Updates

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of the Autumn term and unfortunately not the way we had planned. We are very grateful to all the families who have supported us through this last week and have done as much as you could to ensure we continued to keep children, families and our staff safe. We have put tighter measures in at school for our last week, but fortunately the children still got to eat their fabulous Christmas dinner cooked by our very own chef and have some festivities in their own classes. Our thoughts are with those who have been affected by COVID. We wish each and everyone of you a speedy recovery.

This half term as always has been about hard work and fun. The children saw a nose cone land from space, we all attended school in our pyjamas and ate cakes in the name of charity and have made the very best of the seasons changing and learning about the "Great Outdoors". It is amazing to see how much progress children have made since coming back to school in September: not only academically, but socially, personally and physically, some of our children have grown so tall!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL the staff for their dedication and hard work at our school, to thank the families and children who brighten our lives each and every day and also our Governors who support the development of our school. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and hope you are able to enjoy whatever it is you have chosen to do over the festive period.

Take care

Mrs Jo Orbell



Overview Of Nursery This Term

In nursery we have been finding out about the children's interests and looking at different celebrations. We started enjoying the spectacle of fireworks and Diwali. The children loved making rockets using bubbles to power them. The children were very creative with lots of bright colours and patterns. We used playdough to make Diva lamps to celebrate the festival of lights.

Next the children had great fun finding out about pets. The children were highly engaged in our school vets role play activities and got hands on finding ways to make the animals feel better. We spent time reading stories, looking at pets and describing them. This linked in with Children in Need where we enjoyed stories cuddling up with our teddies.

We had our own global week but focused on our lovely local area. We looked at videos of our local area and what is in and around Fishermead.

To finish off the term we have looked at winter and Christmas. The children loved learning how to melt ice. We have learnt about the story of Christmas and learnt lots of wonderful songs. The children have been very creative making lots of lovely things.

Overview of Reception This Term

In Reception we had a great time learning about fireworks and Diwali. Learning why people celebrate them and the traditions around them. We created our own Rangoli patterns using ice and fire work pictures. Then we focused on one of our core books 'Stick Man'. The children loved these three weeks and we could have carried it on longer. We even made our own Stickman.

As a class we created our own class story. Coming up with characters, events and settings. The children showed wonderful imagination with flying fish characters making appearances.

To finish the term we loved learning about Christmas. We learnt the Christmas story and were becoming well practised with our nativity. The children loved creating their own presents in the roleplay area, demonstrating excellent fine and gross motor skills.

Well done on an amazing half term.

Overview of KS1 This Term

We have been all spaced out in Key Stage One this half term! Our Space topic was chosen because a very exciting event happened in our playground... the nose cone from The International Space Station crash landed near our outdoor classroom! Luckily we were not inside the classroom at the time, and Mr Morris was ready to spring into action with his fire extinguisher! Our hero! We had an email



from an astronaut aboard the Space Station so we decided to find out more about what it was like to live in Space. We carried out our own scientific investigations into materials and insulation and used the results to design and make our own space helmets. Rabbits and Owls made some fabulous helmets, but Squirrels class tried a new material and the helmets came out looking like icebergs! Oh well, I am sure Squirrels class will make improved versions next time! We also researched and wrote about astronauts, we found out a lot about Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon! We wrote reports about the most famous astronaut in history and lots of the children can repeat the famous words he said as he stepped out of The Eagle onto the surface of the moon. We were so inspired we had our own astronaut training school where we had to taste freeze dried food and study moon rocks!

We have had a big focus on history this half term, as we not only learned about the Space race of the 1960's but we also learned why we hold Remembrance Day on November 11th. We showed our respect by making poppy wreaths and learning about the bravery of the soldiers throughout history. We went even further back in history and found out why we have fireworks on November 5th to celebrate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot.

We learned about Diwali and made diva lamps to join in the celebrations. As the term has progressed we have also learned about the Nativity story and have learned songs to sing in our Christingle performance. We celebrate all religions in our school community as one of our school values this term has been tolerance.

As always we have worked hard to make progress with our reading and writing skills, applying these skills to write about all of our topic learning. We have continued to improve our number and calculation skills in Maths, explaining how we found our answers. We have also learned how to describe 2D and 3D shapes using the correct mathematical language, and we have started to use measuring skills.

Overview of KS1 This Term Continued...

In Rabbits Meadow we have been spotting signs of Autumn and talking about the weather as it has changed to Winter. We have used *The Gruffalo* and *Whatever Next* core books to support our learning. We have been acting out the stories and developing our language and vocabulary by talking in structured sentences. We have learnt about forests and space. In Maths we have been adding and subtracting numbers to 10 and trying really hard to use the vocabulary more and less. In Phonics we have been learning lots of tricky words and segmenting and blending words too. We have been squeezing, rolling, turning and painting to make our writing muscles stronger and practising writing our names.

We have loved exploring Christmas resources like tinsel and baubles and reading lots of Christmas stories. Keep helping us learn the words to new vocabulary as you experience things over the holidays. We wish all of our wonderful Rabbits a very merry Christmas.

Next term, we are learning about Owl babies as we settle back into school, then we are flying to the other side of the world to learn about Australia, the rainforest, the outback and the great barrier reef. We will continue to write simple words, talk in sentences and add and subtract numbers to 10. We will use measures in our learning and explore shapes.



Diary dates

Monday 20th December - Tuesday 4th January - Christmas Holidays		
Wednesday 5th January	8:45am	Children return to school
Starting Tuesday 18th January	3-4pm	Reception Gymnastics 5 week After School Club (Places to be booked by Thursday 6th January)
Starting Thursday 20th January	3-4pm	KS1 Board games and Lego (5 Week After School Club) (Places to be booked by Thursday 6th January)
Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February—HALF TERM		
Tuesday 8th March	3-4pm	KS1 Football (5 week After School Club) (Places to be booked by Thursday 6th January)
Thursday 10th March	3-4pm	Reception Board games and Lego (5 week After School Club) (Places to be booked by Thursday 6th January)

Attendance

Half Termly Attendance Autumn 2 2021			
Year	Class Name	% Week Commencing 6th December Attendance	% Half termly Attendance
Rec.	Badgers	90.9%	86.6%
Rec.	Hedgehogs	95.0%	86.1%
KS1	Squirrels	96.4%	92.4%
KS1	Rabbits	97.9%	91.3%
KS1	Owls	93.6%	93.5%
Total attendance		94.9%	90.2%

Well done **Rabbits** with an attendance of **97.9%** for the week beginning **6th December**

Well done **Squirrels** with an attendance of **90.2%** for half the term

Did you Know: Lateness also affects your child's attendance %

REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Starting School or Moving up to Year 3 in September 2022?

For our nursery children who celebrated their 3rd birthday before 31st August 2021 and our Year 2 children, if you have not already done so, you need to apply for your child's school place for next September. Please visit the Milton Keynes Council website to make an online application - www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schooladmissions. Don't delay.

Half Term Activities

There may be some activity packs left at the Parish Office in Fishermead to help keep them entertained during the Christmas school holidays. The Council are also still running free winter activities and food as part of a national project for children in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals. If you are eligible please visit <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf>

Christmas Performance Downloads

We were very disappointed to have to cancel the live productions of the Christmas performances. We have sent the link to everyone who has ordered a download of the pre recorded performance today. Please remember not to share this link with anyone or post to any social media or websites.

Reception and KS1 After School Clubs

There was a letter sent out this week if you wanted to book your child onto the After School Clubs starting in January 2022. Please return the slip by Thursday 6th January 2022 and we will confirm your child's place by Monday 10th January 2022.