SUMMER NEWSLETTER - JULY 2025

FOREST MOOR SCHOOL

Half term 6

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER LETTER- MRS CRICHTON

Dear Parents,
As the academic year draws to a close, I'm thrilled to reflect on a term filled with remarkable growth, learning, and countless moments of kindness and joy.
Our Student Council has been outstanding, leading important discussions on Food Technology hygiene and sparking exciting recipe ideas. Their enthusiasm extends to planning termly theme days for next year, promising even more enriching experiences! A huge thank you to all our council members for their dedication and for ensuring student voices are heard.
This year has also brought new faces and warmer weather, and I've been incredibly proud to see our students adapt with resilience. We continue to prioritise Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) learning, equipping children with tools to navigate change and regulate emotions. I've personally witnessed countless acts of kindness and compassion, a true reflection of the caring spirit within our school.
Our Farm has been a highlight, with the return of our chickens and the arrival of five delightful new lambs! Students have shown incredible responsibility and empathy in caring for these animals, developing real-life skills. Throughout the school, learning has been diverse and engaging and some celebrations to note are:

- Maple Class excelled in online safety, sensory play, and explored Ancient Egypt.
- Beech Class mastered chicken care and percentages, while delving into Myths and Legends.
- Blackthorn Class showed amazing resilience, teamwork, and celebrated their progress in Food Technology and Art.
- Chestnut Class enjoyed outdoor education, learned about news and media, and even turned chicken care into an enterprise project!
- Elm Class made strides in SEMH skills through various trips and a fascinating Zoolab visit, alongside strong progress in Maths, English, and Science.

Across all classes, our curriculum has provided a rich tapestry of learning. Students have honed Maths skills from shapes to data analysis, developed vivid narrative writing in English, and explored variation, adaptations, and fossils in Science. PHSE has been vital, focusing on online safety. Our Forest School continues to build confidence through den building and bushcraft, while sensory play supports regulation. Art provides a powerful outlet for emotional expression, and Food Technology has seen delicious culinary creations. Finally, PE has fostered physical fitness, teamwork, and problem-solving through football and badminton.
As we conclude this wonderful year, my deepest gratitude goes to our students for their hard work, our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment, and to you, our parents, for your continued support. It's been a joy to witness such flourishing minds and spirits.
We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year!
Have a safe and wonderful summer!
For some ideas for free days out around Yorkshire please see the below link:
https://yorkshiretots.com/free-days-out-in-yorkshire/

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Maple

MR HURREN

Forest School

Maple Class embarked on an exciting initial fishing trip, laying the groundwork for future angling adventures. This wasn't about catching the biggest fish, but rather about building essential knowledge and skills for safety and success. Our primary focus was on safety around water. Pupils learned about staying clear of the edge, understanding currents, and the importance of never going near the water without an adult.

We then delved into the local aquatic life, discussing what types of fish we might be able to catch in the future, such as roach, perch, or even carp, and what they look like. This sparked great curiosity about the ecosystem. Crucially, we spent significant time on using the equipment appropriately. Pupils were introduced to rods, reels, and tackle boxes, learning how to handle them safely, cast correctly (without hooks, of course!), and care for the gear. This foundational trip aimed to equip Maple Class with the confidence and understanding needed, with the exciting aim of going on a full fishing trip in the future where they can put their new skills into practice and hopefully reel in their first catch!

Sycamore

MR MANNING

Explore - Ancient Egypt

This term, we journeyed back to ancient Egypt, diving deep into the monumental construction of its pyramids! We unraveled the engineering marvels behind these colossal tombs, from the ingenious methods used to quarry and transport massive stone blocks, possibly with sledges over wetted sand or by boats on canals connected to the Nile. We explored theories of how ramps, whether straight or spiraling, were employed to raise the stones, revealing the immense human effort and detailed planning that went into creating these iconic symbols of pharaonic power and eternal belief. Pupils examined various artefacts from the past. They discovered how ancient objects like pottery, tools, and jewellery offered clues about daily life, beliefs, and even social structures. By carefully observing details and thinking like archaeologists, they pieced together stories, understanding that each artefact held valuable information about the people who made and used it long ago.
We investigated why Ancient Egyptians created death masks. They explored their designs, materials, and how they helped guide the deceased into the afterlife.

Sycamore

MR MANNING

Experiences - PE

Playing football offers a fantastic blend of physical and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) benefits. Physically, it's a dynamic workout, improving cardiovascular fitness, agility, coordination, and strength through constant running, kicking, and quick changes in direction.

Beyond the physical, football is a powerful tool for SEMH development. It teaches teamwork, communication, and cooperation as players work towards a common goal. Learning to win and lose gracefully builds resilience and emotional regulation. The shared experience fosters a strong sense of belonging and social connection, combating feelings of isolation. Problem-solving on the pitch enhances cognitive skills, while achieving personal and team goals boosts self-esteem and confidence. It's a holistic activity that nurtures both body and mind.

Sycamore

MR MANNING

Forest School

Den building offers profound benefits for children with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. It provides a safe, contained space where they can feel secure and in control, vital for those who experience anxiety or dysregulation. The activity naturally promotes problem-solving, teamwork, and communication, as children collaborate to design and construct their shelters. This shared goal helps develop crucial social skills, fostering negotiation and compromise. Furthermore, den building encourages imaginative play and creativity, allowing SEMH children to express themselves and process emotions in a non-verbal way. The physical engagement also offers a healthy outlet for energy, contributing to overall well-being.

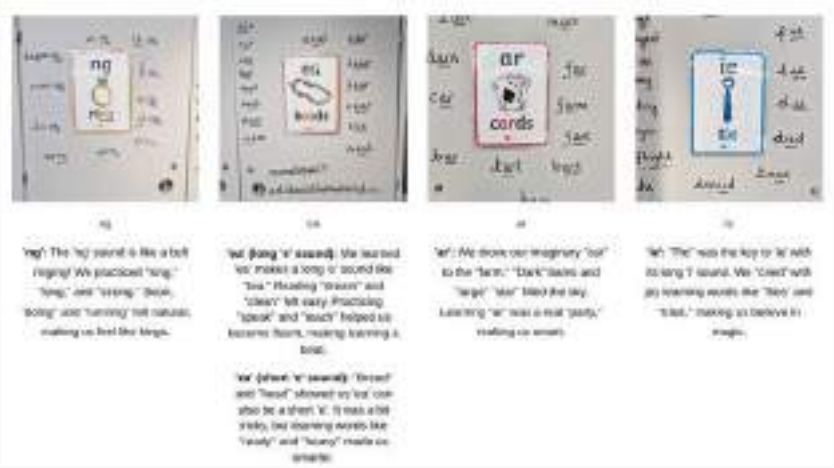
Engaging in activities like fire-starting and bush craft fosters a profound sense of accomplishment and boosts self-esteem. The structured yet hands-on nature of bush craft provides a calming focus, reducing anxiety and promoting mindfulness.
Problem-solving inherent in these skills enhances cognitive function and resilience. Working collaboratively on tasks improves communication and teamwork, strengthening social bonds.

Sycamore

MR MANNING

Phonics

Phonics lessons often delve into common digraphs and trigraphs, helping children decode and encode words. The sound 'ng' represents a single nasal sound, as heard at the end of "sing" or "ring," contrasting with individual 'n' and 'g' sounds. The grapheme 'ea' is incredibly versatile; it most commonly makes the long 'e' sound in "tea" or "read," but can also produce a short 'e' in "bread" or "head." The 'ar' sound reliably gives us the "car" or "star" sound, an important r-controlled vowel. Finally, 'ie' typically makes a long 'i' sound, as in "pie" or "lie," teaching children to recognize this vowel team. Mastering these sounds is crucial for developing strong reading and spelling skills.



Sensory Play

Slime and foam offer a fantastic sensory experience, engaging touch, sight, and even sound. Children can explore the gooey, stretchy texture of slime, observing how it drips and oozes. Foam provides a different tactile sensation—light, airy, and sometimes bubbly—inviting squeezing and squishing. These materials can be enhanced with scents or colours for added sensory input.

A "balancing chairs" tabletop game, on the other hand, hones fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and strategic thinking. Players carefully stack miniature chairs, trying to maintain balance and prevent the tower from toppling. This game also subtly introduces concepts of gravity and stability in a fun, engaging way, encouraging focus and precision.

Sycamore

MR MANNING

Art

Sketching nurtures SEMH skills by offering a visual outlet for emotions, reducing stress. It boosts mindfulness, promoting a sense of calm and accomplishment. This creative process aids in emotional regulation, self-awareness, and provides a healthy coping mechanism for improved mental well-being.

Art plays a crucial role in academic development and socio-emotional (SEMH) understanding. Academically, engaging with art fosters critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and creativity, which transfer to other subjects like math and language arts, often leading to higher grades. It enhances memory and concentration, and provides alternative learning pathways for diverse learners.

For SEMH, art offers a powerful non-verbal outlet for emotional expression, helping students process feelings like stress, anxiety, or trauma. It builds self-awareness, empathy for others' perspectives, and emotional regulation skills. Collaborative art projects also improve social skills, communication, and a sense of belonging, contributing to overall well-being and resilience

Sycamore

MR MANNING

Food Technology

Cooking spaghetti bolognese was a satisfying culinary journey. First, we browned our mince with onions and garlic, creating a fragrant base. Next, we stirred in chopped tomatoes, a rich stock, and our chosen herbs, then let it simmer gently for at least 30 minutes, allowing the flavours to deepen and meld beautifully. Meanwhile, we boiled our spaghetti until al dente. The enjoyment came from the process – the bubbling sauce, the aroma filling our kitchen – and culminated in the simple pleasure of serving. We tangled the glossy pasta with the hearty, rich sauce, perhaps with a sprinkle of cheese, for a comforting and universally loved meal.

Beech

MRS ATKINS

Our Term in Review: Dynamic Learning and Fun!

This term has been a hub of activity and achievement with Beech. We've been hard at work on the farm and in our KS3 area, becoming expert chicken caregivers and building them ladders. Maths moved outdoors, making learning about tenths a sunny experience. Our Food Technology kitchen was busy, churning out tasty Chicken Pasta and Strombolis.
In English, we explored Myths and Legends, then crafted our own mythical creatures and legends, drawing inspiration from classic tales. Explore class immersed themselves in Medieval England and the Black Death, learning about historical faith and scientific advancement. In Science, sustainability truly resonated, with students feeling a strong connection to our planet. We have produced some wonderful work and really delved into our learning this term.
It was a great term for building connections, ending with a fantastic trip to Billy Bob's for ice cream and fun!

Blackthorn

MR THOMPSON

This half term in Blackthorn, we're truly celebrating the small but mighty steps our Year 7 students have taken every single day. We've witnessed incredible resilience and growth, both within the classroom and during outdoor activities. Students are now working incredibly well as a team, demonstrating improved collaboration in various projects. They're also navigating challenging emotions with newfound strategies, showing remarkable progress in self-regulation. Each achievement, whether it's mastering a collaborative task or managing a difficult feeling, is a testament to their unique journeys. Overall, the consistent kindness and significant strides made by the class truly reflect the supportive environment we've fostered together.

During their outdoor education trip to Crocodile Rock, the Blackthorn class truly shone, building on their incredible progress. They demonstrated remarkable care and collaborative spirit, similar to how they handled the bird's egg discovery, effectively practicing their SEMH targets for teamwork. The students showed great responsibility in navigating challenging terrain, consistently looking out for one another and communicating concerns to ensure everyone felt safe. Through these shared experiences, they developed stronger empathy and understanding for their peers, with every act of support showcasing their growing teamwork. Ultimately, the trip highlighted their fantastic progress in achieving their SEMH targets, proving their ability to apply these vital skills in real-world situations.

Blackthorn

MR THOMPSON

The Blackthorn students made great strides in their food technology lesson, successfully preparing chicken and vegetables. They significantly developed their knife skills and demonstrated excellent hygiene practices throughout the cooking process. We also observed improved time management and strong teamwork, as they coordinated tasks and helped each other effectively. Ultimately, their independence and confidence in the kitchen truly shone, resulting in delicious and healthy meals.

The Blackthorn students thrived during their art experience, confidently making bracelets and expressing themselves through drawing. This creative outlet provided a valuable opportunity for emotional regulation, as they could focus and channel their feelings into their artwork. Their developing fine motor skills were evident in the intricate details of their bracelets and the precision of their drawings. Furthermore, the activity fostered self-expression and confidence, as students proudly showcased their unique creations and shared their artistic choices.

During the farm visit and goat walking, they showed increased calmness and empathy, carefully interacting with the animals and following instructions. This patience carried over into PE, where their focus and coordination notably improved during badminton sessions. We've also observed a significant growth in their cooperation and communication, whether guiding a goat or rallying with a partner. These varied experiences highlight their fantastic development in self-regulation and social engagement across different environments

Chestnut

MRS TAYLOR

This half term in Chestnut class we have been enjoying the nice weather and have been getting outside as much as possible!

The class all love their Outdoor Education lessons and always come back wanting an ice pop due to the lovely warmer weather.

In Maths this half term we have been learning about how to calculate percentages. We started with 1% and 10% but the students have become more confident with finding a percentage of up to 3 digit numbers.

In English this half term we have been focusing on news and media. The class have learnt about misinformation and what is fact / fiction. Furthermore they have all created their own news reports and filmed them reading their own news!

In Dear Time we have been listening to a variety of news articles to further their understanding of the English topic.

Chestnut class always love food technology and have made a variety of sweet and savoury dishes. They enjoyed making brownies the most.

Away from the curriculum Chestnut class have been caring for the schools chickens. Each day they change the chickens water and feed them. The students enjoy holding the chickens and giving them a stroke. We are excited about the prospect of getting more chickens soon. We have turned the chickens into an enterprise project, by collecting and selling the eggs in order to get a trip out for icecream.

Chestnut class, really enjoy their transition time whereby they can access the class Uno, Knex or board games. The students can independently navigate transition times which is lovely to see!

Oak

MR PARKIN AND MISS JAUNCEY

Oak Class End-of-Term Newsletter: A Half Term of Growth and Discovery!

Prepare to be amazed, because this half term, Oak Class has absolutely outdone themselves! As we wrap up what has been an unbelievably vibrant and enriching term, I simply couldn't wait to share the incredible journey our students have been on. It's been a whirlwind of growth, unparalleled resilience, and pure, unadulterated fun!

The talk of the school has been our magnificent merger with Elm Class! I'm bursting with pride at how our students embraced this exciting change. They've not just adapted; they've thrived, demonstrating an extraordinary level of resilience and blossoming into an even more cohesive, fantastic unit. Watching them forge new friendships and master the art of teamwork has been truly heartwarming. This was particularly evident during our thrilling team sports sessions, where their football and dodgeball skills were matched only by their incredible sportsmanship! They've become masters of fair play and cooperation, expertly picking balanced teams and cheering each other on with infectious enthusiasm. These activities have been invaluable in developing their social skills and fostering a strong sense of belonging within the larger group.

In the realm of Maths, our Oak Class stars have been soaring! We've harnessed the power of technology to transform fractions into an exhilarating adventure. The interactive games didn't just reinforce their understanding; they ignited a genuine passion for the subject! And as if that wasn't exciting enough, we've been immersing ourselves in the fascinating world of currency through spirited games of Monopoly. Our students are now not only comfortable with money but are also strategizing like seasoned financiers! These engaging activities have significantly boosted their confidence and problem-solving abilities. Beyond these topics, they've also been honing their social graces through engaging card games, mastering the vital skills of turn-taking and confident counting, which are crucial for positive interactions.

Oak

MR PARKIN AND MISS JAUNCEY

English has been a revelation, with our focus on news and media truly sparking their creative genius! Our students have been crafting persuasive headlines and captivating stories with an astonishing flair, even dabbling with AI tools to elevate their work. This innovative approach has not only supercharged their creativity but has also honed their critical thinking skills, making them sharp, discerning consumers of information.

This term, Oak Class delved into the fascinating world of evolution in our science lessons. We explored how living things change over incredibly long periods, adapting to their environments to survive and thrive. We learned about natural selection, where characteristics that help an organism survive are more likely to be passed onto future generations. From the tiny changes in a population of bacteria to the incredible diversity of life on Earth, our students were captivated by the idea that all living things are connected through this continuous process of change. We even discussed how humans have evolved, both physically and in our behaviours, to navigate our world, drawing parallels to how our own adaptability helps us overcome challenges, much like we've seen in Oak Class this term!

And who could forget our absolutely delightful escapade to Billy Bob's Ice Cream Parlour?! It was an absolute joy to witness their fantastic social skills in full bloom as they laughed and played in the barn, and savoured every delicious scoop of ice cream together. These precious moments of connection are truly invaluable, fostering bonds that will last a lifetime. These experiences are vital for developing their emotional regulation and creating positive memories.

As we eagerly anticipate the final week of term, the excitement is palpable for Sports Day! It promises to be a spectacular culmination of all their hard work and dedication – a day filled with laughter, friendly competition, and unforgettable memories. We can't wait to see their perseverance and team spirit shine!

A huge thank you to all those involved with Oak Class in making it an extra special half term, with special thanks to Ms Barnes, Ms Jauncey and Mr Williams for their incredible dedication and support.

Hazel

MR MARSHALL

As the school year draws to a close, it's a pleasure to reflect on a truly wonderful term with this class. We've been incredibly fortunate to enjoy an abundance of beautiful weather, which has allowed us to make the most of our outdoor time. It's been fantastic to see the children playing together with such enthusiasm, fostering a real sense of camaraderie and growing as a cohesive class.

This term has also seen some exciting new passions emerge! The class has developed a remarkable love for bingo, which has brought a lot of laughter and a healthy dose of competitive fun into our learning. Equally, Lego has captured their imaginations, with many intricate and creative constructions taking shape, showcasing their problem-solving skills and teamwork.

Beyond the classroom, our time in Food Technology has been a highlight. The students have not only enjoyed the practical aspects of cooking but have also shown a genuine interest in developing their culinary skills. From mastering basic techniques to experimenting with new recipes, their enthusiasm in the kitchen has been truly impressive.

It's been a joy to witness their development across all areas, and they should be incredibly proud of their achievements this term.

Maths - KS4

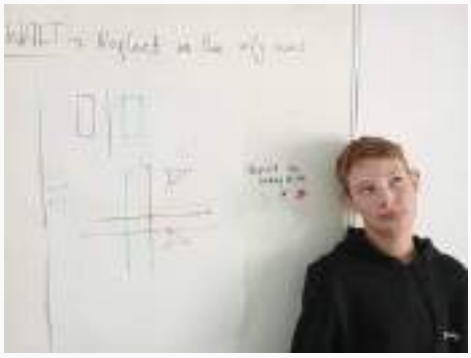
MISS BARR

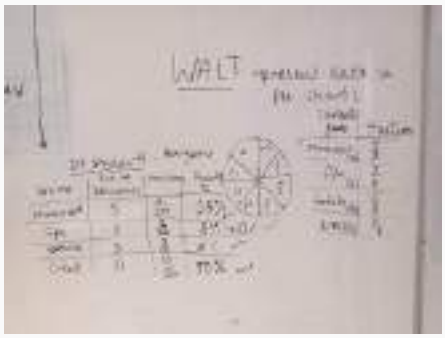
This term has been packed with exciting and challenging topics, and we're incredibly proud of the hard work and progress our students have shown. Here's a quick look at what we've been learning and what's coming up.

Transforming Our Understanding: The 4 Types of Transformation

We've been diving deep into the world of geometric transformations! This topic helps us understand how shapes can move and change position on a coordinate plane without altering their fundamental properties. We've explored the four key types:

- Translations: Shifting a shape from one position to another without rotating or flipping it. Think of sliding a piece on a board game! We've learned to describe translations using column vectors.
- Reflections: Creating a mirror image of a shape across a line of reflection. We've practiced reflecting shapes across the x-axis, y-axis, and other vertical and horizontal lines.
- Rotations: Turning a shape around a fixed point (the centre of rotation) by a certain angle and direction. We've mastered rotations by 90°, 180°, and 270° clockwise and anti-clockwise around the origin and other points.
- Enlargements: Making a shape bigger or smaller by a specific scale factor from a centre of enlargement. This helps us understand how scale models and maps work! We've focused on positive and negative scale factors, and how they affect the size and orientation of the shape.





Maths - KS4

MISS BARR

Why is this important? Understanding transformations is crucial for many areas of maths and beyond, including art, design, computer graphics, and even understanding how satellite navigation works!

Making Sense of Data: Collection Methods and Averages

Data is everywhere, and being able to collect, interpret, and present it effectively is a vital skill. We've been exploring different ways to gather information and then how to summarise it using various averages.

Data Collection Methods:

- We've discussed the importance of reliable data and the potential for bias.
- We've looked at different methods for collecting data, including questionnaires, surveys, observations, and experiments.
- We've explored different methods of representing our data such as pictograms, frequency tables and tally charts, bar charts, line graphs, scattergraphs and pie charts.

Understanding Averages:

Once data is collected, averages help us find a typical or central value. We've mastered the three main types of averages:

- Mean: The most common average, found by adding all the values and dividing by the number of values. This is great for evenly distributed data.
- Median: The middle value when the data is arranged in order. This is particularly useful when there are extreme values (outliers) that might skew the mean.
- Mode: The value that appears most frequently in a dataset. This is useful for categorical data or to identify popular choices.

Why is this important? Data handling skills are essential in everyday life, from understanding news reports and statistics to making informed decisions based on information. It's a cornerstone of many subjects, including science, geography, and even economics!

We have also been working on building our resilience and applying maths skills to real life problems, for example, using small bricks to build a structure which can hold a certain weight and fits a certain criteria.

I look forward to continuing with our maths learning in September!

English - KS4

MISS BOWLEY

Our Key Stage 4 English students have been diving deep into the captivating world of narrative writing this term, honing their skills to craft compelling and immersive stories. It's been an exciting journey exploring how writers build worlds and bring characters to life!

Crafting Worlds and Characters

Students have been focusing on several key elements to elevate their storytelling:

- Setting the Scene: We've explored how to create vivid and believable settings, transporting readers right into the heart of the story. From bustling cityscapes to desolate landscapes, our writers are learning to make places feel real.
- Sensory Details: To truly immerse readers, students have been mastering the art of sensory detail. They're learning to engage all five senses – what characters see, hear, smell, taste, and feel – to add richness and depth to their narratives.
- Story Structures: Understanding the backbone of a good story is crucial. We've been dissecting various story structures, looking at how plots unfold, how tension builds, and how satisfying resolutions are achieved. This helps students map out their own narratives effectively.
- Dynamic Characters: No story is complete without memorable characters. Our students have been developing complex protagonists and antagonists, exploring their motivations, traits, and how they evolve throughout a narrative. They're learning to make characters feel authentic and engaging.

English - KS4

MISS BOWLEY

Inspiring Texts

To inspire their own writing and illustrate these techniques in action, we've delved into some fantastic literary examples:

- Philip Pullman's Northern Lights: This incredible novel has been a rich source for studying setting description and world-building. Pullman's intricate and imaginative environments, from the frosty landscapes of the North to the diverse cities, provide a brilliant blueprint for students to emulate. We've analysed how he uses language to create such a tangible sense of place.
- Ian Fleming's James Bond Novels: The iconic world of James Bond has offered a masterclass in characterisation, action sequences, and impactful language. Students have examined how Fleming crafts Bond as a sharp, stoic, and solitary figure, and how his smoothly confident dialogue and lethal grace in movement define him. These texts are perfect for seeing how short, punchy sentences and vivid similes can create suspense and excitement.

Students are now busy applying these techniques to their own creative writing projects, and we're incredibly impressed with the imaginative and detailed stories they're producing. We can't wait to share some of their fantastic work with you soon!

Assessing Reading Ages and Expected Levels

To ensure every student receives the most effective support, the English department regularly assesses pupils' reading ages using standardised tests. These assessments provide a valuable snapshot of their current reading comprehension and decoding abilities. For students in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), a broad target is for them to be reading at or above their chronological age. Specifically, to confidently access the demands of GCSE exam papers across all subjects, students typically need a reading age of around 15 years and 6 months or higher. While this is an aspirational benchmark for the end of Year 11, our assessments help us identify students who may need additional support to reach this crucial level, allowing us to tailor interventions and select texts that are both engaging and appropriately challenging for their individual reading development.

5

English - KS4

MISS BOWLEY

Top Tips for Reading at Home

Reading regularly is one of the most powerful ways to boost literacy skills and support your child's progress in English. Here are a few simple tips to encourage reading at home:

- Find What They Love: The genre doesn't matter as much as the engagement! Whether it's fantasy, thrillers, non-fiction, graphic novels, or online articles, encourage them to read about topics they genuinely enjoy.
- Set Aside Time: Even 10-15 minutes of quiet reading each day can make a big difference. This could be before bed, during a commute, or as a break from screens.
- Discuss What They're Reading: Ask open-ended questions about their book. "What do you think will happen next?" "Which character do you find most interesting and why?" "How does this make you feel?"
- Lead by Example: Let your child see you reading! Whether it's a newspaper, a novel, or a magazine, modelling reading habits can be very influential.
- Visit the Library (or Online Libraries): Local libraries offer a vast array of books, and many have digital lending services. It's a fantastic, free resource for discovering new authors and genres.

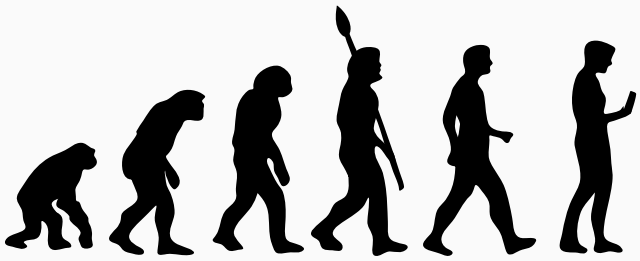
Science - KS3

MR WALTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,
Welcome to our half-term science newsletter, providing an insight into the engaging and educational topics our students have been exploring. Our curriculum is designed to foster a deep understanding of scientific principles and their relevance to the world around us, preparing students for future learning and responsible citizenship.

Key Stage 3: Foundations of Life on Earth
Our Key Stage 3 students have embarked on a fascinating journey into the history of life, focusing on the groundbreaking work of Charles Darwin and the evidence that supports his theories.

- Darwin's Theory of Evolution: Students have been introduced to the fundamental concept of evolution by natural selection. They've learned how advantageous traits within a population can lead to survival and reproduction, and how these traits become more common over generations, shaping the diversity of life we see today. Discussions have centered on understanding the scientific method and how theories are developed and refined.
- Variation and Adaptation: Building on the principles of evolution, students have explored the importance of variation within species and how this variation provides the raw material for adaptation. We've examined various examples of how plants and animals have adapted to their environments, from the streamlined bodies of fish to the specialized beaks of birds, showcasing the incredible ingenuity of nature.
- Fossils: The study of fossils has provided tangible evidence of past life and the evolutionary changes that have occurred over vast geological timescales. Students have learned about the process of fossilization, how paleontologists uncover and interpret fossil records, and how these discoveries contribute to our understanding of ancient ecosystems and the lineage of modern species.



Science - KS4

MR WALTER

Key Stage 4: Health and Human Biology

Our Key Stage 4 students have been delving into topics that have direct relevance to their health and well-being, coupled with essential revision to consolidate their understanding of core biological systems.

- Diet, Drugs, and Lifestyle: This module has equipped students with vital knowledge about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. We've explored the components of a balanced diet, understanding the role of different nutrients and the impact of nutritional deficiencies or excesses. The topic of drugs has covered both medicinal and recreational substances, emphasizing their effects on the body, the importance of responsible use, and the dangers of misuse. Furthermore, students have examined the broader concept of lifestyle choices and their long-term health implications, encouraging them to make informed decisions about their well-being.
- Circulatory System Revision: As part of their preparation for upcoming assessments, students have completed comprehensive revision on the circulatory system. This vital system, responsible for transporting blood, oxygen, nutrients, and waste throughout the body, has been revisited in detail. Students have reinforced their knowledge of the heart's structure and function, the different types of blood vessels, and the composition and role of blood, ensuring a solid foundation for their examinations.

I hope this overview provides a clear picture of the stimulating learning experiences our students have had this half-term. We encourage you to discuss these topics with your children at home to further reinforce their understanding and spark their scientific curiosity.

Kind regards

Mark Walter

Outdoor Ed- KS3

MR HOLE

KS3 Adventures in Nidderdale and the Yorkshire Dales!
This term, our KS3 classes have been out and about, enjoying a fantastic range of educational and exciting trips across Nidderdale and the Yorkshire Dales.

Exploring Local Geology and Aquatic Life
We've run several trips to Grassington Stepping Stones and Lead Mines. These historic locations offered a unique opportunity for pupils to delve into the geology of the local landscape, understanding how the very ground beneath their feet was formed over millennia. They learned to identify the distinct features of sedimentary rocks, providing a tangible link to geological processes. Furthermore, the pupils explored the fascinating aquatic life found along the river edges, identifying various invertebrates and learning about the delicate ecosystem thriving in these clear waters.

Outdoor Ed - KS3

MR HOLE

High-Altitude Views and Moorland Discoveries
Our trips to High Crag Ridge and Coldstones Cut offered breathtaking panoramic views over the Nidderdale valley, showcasing the stunning natural beauty of our local area. At High Crag Ridge, pupils honed their map skills, using ordnance survey maps to navigate the terrain. They also discovered how animals like sheep and grouse impact plants in moorland environments, understanding the delicate balance of these ecosystems. To add a bit of fun, they even enjoyed games of tig and hide-and-seek among the unique hilltop rock formations.

Understanding Our Water Supply at Fewston Reservoir
We've also taken several trips to Fewston Reservoir, a vital part of North Yorkshire's water infrastructure. During these visits, pupils gained a deeper understanding of the crucial purpose of reservoirs: to store vast quantities of water collected from rainfall and rivers for human use. They learned about the processes involved in managing this essential resource, from collection to treatment.
A significant part of these trips involved discussing the concept of a drought. Using current news articles and local information, we explored what a drought truly means – a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall leading to water shortages. The children engaged in discussions about how the current dry conditions are affecting North Yorkshire's water supply, examining the challenges faced by our region and the importance of water conservation. It was a valuable lesson in environmental awareness and responsible resource management.

Outdoor Ed - KS3

MR HOLE

Forest Navigation and Woodland Exploration
Hazel Class put their route-finding abilities to the test at Stainburn Forest. Each student took a turn to lead the group through the dense trees, developing their leadership and problem-solving skills. Blackthorn Class embarked on an adventure to Crocodile Rock, a fascinating natural rock formation resembling a crocodile's head. They spent time exploring the unique rock structures, even sitting in the "crocodile's mouth," and searching for various insects and small creatures in the surrounding woodland, learning about local biodiversity.

Outdoor Ed - KS3

MR HOLE

Conservation in Action at Fishpond Woods
Finally, Chestnut Class dedicated a series of lessons to valuable conservation work at Fishpond Woods. They actively participated in environmental management by using tools to clear away areas of invasive Rhododendron bushes, which can outcompete native plant species and reduce biodiversity. After their hard work, they enjoyed the well-deserved reward of cooking food on a log fire grill, fostering teamwork and a deeper appreciation for their efforts in protecting our local environment.

Outdoor Ed - KS4

MR HOLE

Following the recent changes to our KS4 options programme, Cherry and Rowan classes have been enjoying a diverse range of outdoor education lessons this half term. It's been fantastic to see our students engage with the natural environment and develop their understanding of local geography and ecology.

Cherry Class Expeditions
Cherry class has embarked on several exciting trips, with some pupils experiencing their first outdoor education lesson of the year at Thruscross Reservoir. We've also revisited the familiar Grassington Stepping Stones, this time focusing on how the River Wharfe catchment area influences the speed at which river levels change, providing a practical example of hydrological processes.

Our adventures took us up to High Crag Ridge, where we took in the expansive views of Nidderdale. Here, students observed and discussed how grazing animals impact the distribution of trees in moorland environments, learning about the delicate balance within these ecosystems. We also explored the woodlands around Fewston Reservoir and had a memorable trip to Hebden, enjoying the thrill of using the suspension bridge and navigating the stepping stones.

Outdoor Ed - KS4

MR HOLE

Rowan Class Explorations
Rowan class has been equally busy, heading down to Grassington to investigate the fascinating aquatic life in the River Wharfe. Like Cherry class, they also enjoyed the suspension bridge and stepping stones at Hebden, engaging in discussions about how the River Wharfe's water levels fluctuate due to weather patterns.

We ventured up to Coldstones Cut, where students enjoyed panoramic views over the Nidderdale valley. This location provided an excellent opportunity to discuss concepts of distance, estimating how far away various landmarks appeared by line of sight, and observing the operations of a working quarry.

A significant part of Rowan's outdoor education involved a trip to Fewston Reservoir. Here, we delved into the crucial purpose of reservoirs in storing water for human consumption. Using recent news articles about current Yorkshire droughts, we discussed the impacts of these dry periods on our water supply and explored the steps that might need to be taken to conserve this vital resource. After our discussions, we enjoyed exploring the diverse woodlands surrounding the reservoir on our walk back to the car park.

Food Tech

MISS JAUNCEY

What a fantastic term it's been in the Food Technology kitchen! We've seen an incredible amount of hard work, creativity, and delicious results from all our students. They've truly been putting their skills to the test, and the progress has been amazing.

Culinary Creations Galore!

Our chefs have been mastering some truly impressive dishes. Take a look at what's been cooking:

- Chicken Pasta Bake: This comforting classic was a hit! Students learned to safely handle and cook chicken, prepare a delicious sauce from scratch, and perfectly bake it all together for a hearty meal.
- Homemade Spinach and Ricotta Ravioli: This was a real challenge, but they rose to the occasion! From making fresh pasta dough to creating a tasty filling and perfectly shaping each ravioli, this dish truly showcased their developing skills.
- Stromboli: A fantastic way to explore bread making and flavour combinations. Students experimented with fillings and learned the techniques for rolling and baking this savoury delight.
- Belgian Buns: Sweet treats are always a favourite! This recipe allowed students to delve into the world of enriched doughs, learning about proving, shaping, and adding those delicious finishing touches.

Pound Cake: A baking essential! They mastered the 'creaming method,' understanding the importance of accurate measurements to achieve that perfect, dense, and moist texture.

Food Tech

MISS JAUNCEY

Beyond the Recipe: Skills for Life

It's not just about the final dish; it's about the journey and the valuable skills they're developing along the way. We've been particularly impressed with their focus on:

- Independent Working Skills: From gathering their ingredients to managing their time effectively in the kitchen, they've shown fantastic initiative and self-reliance. It's great to see them taking ownership of their cooking!
- Creativity: While following a recipe is important, they've also been encouraged to think creatively. Whether it's adding their own twist to a filling or presenting their dish beautifully, their individual flair has shone through.
- English Skills: Reading and interpreting recipes accurately is crucial. The students have been honing their comprehension skills by understanding instructions, identifying key terms, and sequencing steps correctly.
- Maths Skills: Food Technology is packed with practical maths! The students have been constantly applying their measurement and weighing skills, ensuring accuracy with ingredients – a vital step for successful cooking and baking.

We can't wait to see what delicious creations they will come up with next!

Art

MR WEBSTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been an exciting and creative time for our students as we delve into our current topic, which centres around modelling characters and dinosaurs. The enthusiasm displayed by the children while crafting their creations has been nothing short of inspiring. We are proud to report that they have not only enjoyed the process but have also developed their fine motor skills and sparked their imagination.

In addition to our modelling activities, our primary students have been hard at work designing display boards that adorn our corridors, showcasing their artwork and projects. These boards are a testament to the creativity and effort the pupils have put into their learning, and we are thrilled to invite you to visit the school and view their impressive work. Their efforts are a wonderful way to foster a sense of community pride and encourage a love of learning.

Furthermore, as part of our school-wide initiative, the students have been actively participating in creating hexagons. This project aims to promote collaborative learning and allow our pupils to engage with one another, developing both social and cognitive skills. It has been heartening to witness the teamwork displayed in these activities, reinforcing the values we strive to instil in our school community.

Art

MR WEBSTER

We believe that creativity is an essential component of a well-rounded education, and these projects will provide a fantastic opportunity for your children to express themselves in unique ways. We encourage you to engage with your children about their creations at home, as discussing their projects can ignite their passion for art and offer wonderful sharing experiences within the family.
This year comes to a close but we look ahead to an exciting year. We are thrilled to announce a series of new projects that will enrich our students' artistic experiences. This upcoming term, our creative journey will encompass designing shoes, crafting character clay models, and exploring playful creations featuring minions and monkeys. These engaging activities are designed not only to hone their artistic skills but also to encourage teamwork and foster a genuine love for creativity.

We hope you enjoy the summer holidays ,and look forward to seeing the young learners in September. As we embark on a new dynamic programme, we are looking forward to a thrilling year filled with artistic discovery, collaboration, and fun. Thank you for your ongoing support in nurturing our students' creative journeys.

Construction

MR CHARLES

Cherry Class & Construction Department Collaborate on Outdoor Furniture Project!

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of a fantastic collaborative project between the FMS Construction Department and the talented students of Cherry Class!

Together, they have designed and built beautiful and sturdy outdoor benches and tables using repurposed palette wood.

This initiative not only provided a wonderful learning experience for the Cherry Class students, allowing them to engage in practical construction skills, but it also demonstrates our commitment to sustainability and creative resourcefulness. The Construction Department provided invaluable guidance and expertise, ensuring the project was completed safely and to a high standard.

These new additions will enhance our outdoor spaces, providing comfortable seating and functional tables for students and staff to enjoy. A huge well done to everyone involved in bringing this project to life!

Safeguarding Update

MRS BULL AND MRS MILLER

As the school year draws to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our students, families, and staff for another incredible year. We've seen so much growth, learning, and laughter within our school community, and it's truly been a privilege to be a part of it.

We extend our gratitude to the external agencies with whom we collaborate closely, notably Leeds United, North Yorkshire Sport, our Police liaison officers, and our Early Help Consultant. We also appreciate the contributions of organisations like 'The Long Game' and St Giles Trust, who provide crucial support in educating our pupils on contextual safeguarding issues. Furthermore, we are grateful for the mental health and grief support offered to our pupils by agencies such as Compass Phoenix and JustB.

As we head into the summer holidays, we want to reiterate our unwavering commitment to safeguarding and the well-being of every child. While the school gates may close, our collective responsibility to keep children safe continues.

We understand that for some families, the summer can present different challenges. Please remember that support is still available. If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child during the holidays, please do not hesitate to act.

Key Contacts for Safeguarding Concerns:

Here are some important contacts should you need them over the summer break:

Where there are significant immediate concerns about the safety of a child, you should contact the police on 999

- Local Authority Children's Services: If you have immediate concerns about a child's safety, please contact your local Children's Services team on 0300 131 2 131.
- NSPCC: The NSPCC offers a free helpline for adults concerned about a child: 0808 800 5000.
- Childline: Children and young people can contact Childline for support and advice on 0800 1111.

We wish you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting year in September!

RIPON
MUSEUMS

This Summer at Ripon Museums

Ripon Museums are bursting with hands-on history and creative fun for all the family across our three sites from baking Victorian treats to crafting magistrate wigs.

There's something happening every day to spark imaginations with special storytelling sessions, craft challenges and the new ***Get To Work!*** family trail.

It's the perfect time to discover and explore Ripon's rich heritage in a fun interactive way

Follow the story of the poor and lawless through our three museums which are all within walking distance of each other in the heart of Ripon

Workhouse Museum & Garden | Prison & Police Museum | Courthouse Museum

For more info, check out www.riponmuseums.co.uk

Schools are closing for the summer holidays but FACE will be open for your parents

Ongoing online advice, information and support.
No waiting lists, no referrals, a friendly face!

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk
facefamilyadvice.co.uk

FACE

August Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each
or **FREE** with School Membership - 90 minutes long
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk Recordings available for 48 hours

Anxiety Explained	4th 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	4th 7pm
What is ACT?	5th 10am
Introduction to OCD	5th 7pm
Raising Self Esteem	11th 10am
Decreasing Depression	11th 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	12th 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	12th 7pm
Improving Family Communication	18th 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	18th 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	19th 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	19th 7pm
Understanding Anger	25th 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	25th 7pm
Facing Defiance	26th 10am