Fritwell School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 Friday 13th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after the half-term break, and we hope you all enjoyed a restful week with your families. As we move into the colder months, please ensure that all children come to school with a warm coat each day. If children are bringing hats, gloves or scarves, we would be grateful if these could be clearly named to help us return any misplaced items.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the Fireworks Event last Saturday. It was fantastic to see so many families there enjoying the evening together. A special thank you must go to our amazing FoFS team, whose hard work, organisation and dedication made the event such a success.

Yesterday, our Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school brilliantly at a rugby tournament held at The Bicester School, winning all of their matches and not conceding a single try. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship.

This week, we were delighted to welcome the Family of Hope charity into school. They delivered presentations to every class, helping children learn about the similarities and differences between life for children here and in Uganda. The children were highly engaged, listened thoughtfully and asked some excellent questions. We are looking forward to a follow-up visit after Christmas, when the children will have the opportunity to send questions and pictures from our school to the children in Uganda, who will then share their responses in a video message.

We are also pleased to introduce our Safeguarding Squad, a group of pupils who take on an important leadership role in helping to ensure that children are safe, happy and supported both in and around school. The Safeguarding Squad meet regularly to discuss ways of promoting safety and wellbeing within our school community and to raise awareness of issues that matter to children today. They will be contributing a feature in each newsletter, sharing useful information, advice and reminders to help keep our children and families informed about important safeguarding topics.

The Safeguarding Squad has been hard at work making our school a happier, safer and more inclusive place for everyone, as well as trying to improve it even more for the future. We have collaborated together to make a new zone to spend break times. Located outside the classrooms, this is what the new area offers:

A wide variety of board games and puzzles

Low-stress environment: a space dedicated to people who want a quiet break or just need to take a breather

If you have any card games that you are willing to donate to school to help improve our new quiet area, it will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you from the Safeguarding Squad

Finally, we are all looking forward to the school disco this evening and hope the children have a wonderful time. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping to make our school such a warm and vibrant community.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Ejiogu & Mrs Bayliss

Safeguarding



Tiddlers.

This week, the children have enjoyed exploring fairy tales, talking about their favourite characters and bringing our story 'The Three Little Pigs' to life. The children have been finding out about some seasonal celebrations through a variety of creative and sensory experiences. They have created colourful fireworks, Diwali-inspired lanterns and Remembrance poppies, while also celebrating Nursery Rhyme Week.

We have officially started our phonological awareness. We have started by doing some activities based on sounds, specifically musical instruments, environmental sounds, and body percussion as these areas are an important first step. Some activities we have done are '(teachers name) has a box' to help recognise everyday sounds. We have also looked at 'grandmother's footsteps' to see which sounds are loud (stomping) or quiet (tiptoe).

It has been a wonderful week filled with creativity, curiosity, and exploration, with plenty of opportunities to practise our coordination , stability, self-expression while exploring early maths such as counting, sorting, and recognising numbers.

Warmly,

Mrs Wright & Miss Henderson





Minnows.

It has been a great start to Term 2 and the children have been responding well to being ‘Ready’ ‘Respectful’ and ‘Responsible’ in the classroom environment. The children have been working hard with their reading in school. Our Topic this term is ‘Fairy Tales’. We will be looking at all the different traditional tales, starting off with ‘The Three Little Pigs’. The children made a story map of this story, and we looked at the beginning, middle and end to the story. The children could tell who the characters in the story are and that the sneaky wolf did not make good choices! On Wednesday 11th at 11 o’clock the children showed great respect when doing a two-minute silence with the school. The children wore the poppies they made with pride. We were very proud of them all.





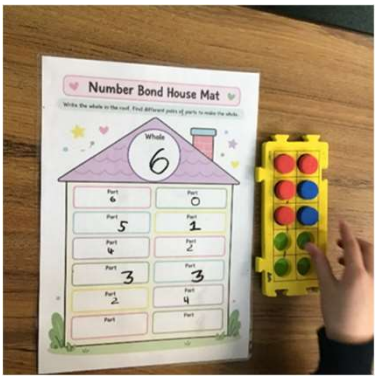
Sticklebacks.

What an exciting week we've had in sticklebacks! In year 1 maths we have delved deeper into looking at number bonds to 10. We have practised finding all the different ways to make ten using counters and tens frames. In year 2 maths we have been working hard to add and subtract 10s using number lines, part whole models and bar models to help us.
We have also had lots of fun in science. Our topic this term is seasonal change. We have been very lucky because we have got to go outside and investigate the field, forest school and the playground. We have found lots of signs of Autumn (and a few signs that tell us that winter is on the way!).
We also had an important visitor come and talk to us about a charity that helps children with their learning in Uganda. We got to see some pictures and some objects all the way from Uganda. We loved learning about how children in Uganda are very similar to us.

We are very proud of all the progress the children are making. We could not be more pleased with all the little ways they have improved since September.
Thanks for all your support,
Mrs Wheatley + The Sticklebacks Team







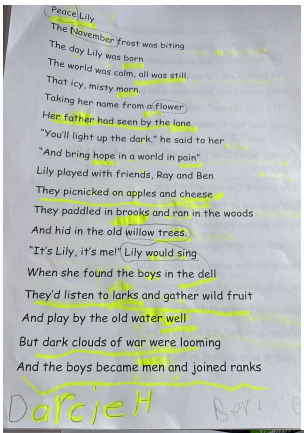
Seahorses.

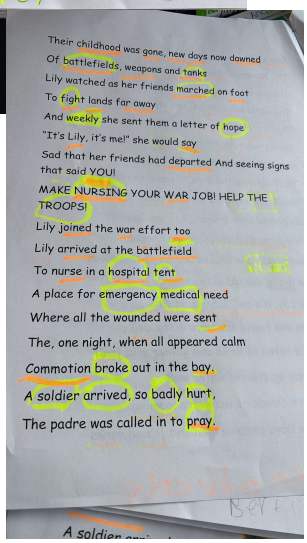
This week we have analysed the poem **"Peace Lily**" and looked at words and images related to the role of Nurses in WW1. We looked for Remembrance specific words and observed carefully the images that accompanied the text and the further detail this offered as a reader. Our wonderful poppy display has made the tinker table look incredibly moving.

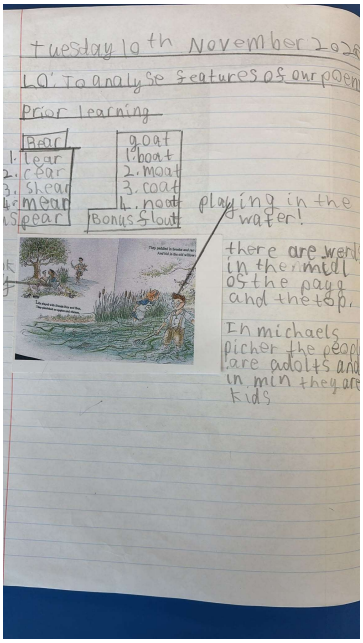
In **RE**, Seahorses are learning about gifts and that Jesus is seen as a gift by some Christians. We thought of gifts we would give to someone who had the job of saving the world and ensuring special care is taken in how we treat the environment.

During **PE** we danced our way to the sweet shop. Using Wonka music as a stimuli the class got to pretend the sweet that they were and mimic how we would move to go and buy the sweet. We had a great time guessing each performer and the sweet they bought!




Peace Lily
The November frost was biting
The day Lily was born
The world was calm, all was still
That icy, misty morn.
Taking her name from a flower
Her father had seen by the lane
"You'll light up the dark," he said to her
"And bring hope in a world in pain"
Lily played with friends, Ray and Ben
They picnicked on apples and cheese
They paddled in brooks and ran in the woods
And hid in the old willow trees.
"It's Lily, it's me!" Lily would sing
When she found the boys in the dell
They'd listen to larks and gather wild fruit
And play by the old water well
But dark clouds of war were looming
And the boys became men and joined ranks
Darcie H


Their childhood was gone, new days now dawned
Of battlefields, weapons and tanks
Lily watched as her friends marched on foot
To fight lands far away
And weekly she sent them a letter of hope
"It's Lily, it's me!" she would say
Sad that her friends had departed And seeing signs that said YOU!
MAKE NURSING YOUR WAR JOB! HELP THE TROOPS!
Lily joined the war effort too
Lily arrived at the battlefield
To nurse in a hospital tent
A place for emergency medical need
Where all the wounded were sent
The, one night, when all appeared calm
Commotion broke out in the bay.
A soldier arrived, so badly hurt,
The padre was called in to pray.



Stingrays.

What a fantastic start to the new half term it has been in Stingrays! The children enjoyed their first Forest School session of the year, where they had lots of fun exploring, building dens, climbing and even making their very own poppy necklaces in preparation for Remembrance Day. Back in the classroom, our lessons have been jam-packed with fantastic learning, thinking and creating!

In DT, learners have been busy designing their very own lighthouses, ready to bring their creations to life using recycled materials over the coming weeks. In Geography, we have been discovering the fascinating plants and animals that survive in the desert and exploring how they have adapted to thrive in such hot and dry conditions. Meanwhile, in Science, we have been putting our investigative skills to the test through a range of exciting experiments involving light, shadows and mirrors.

In Maths, we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills using four-digit numbers, while in English, learners have been exploring descriptive writing techniques in preparation for creating their very own vivid descriptions of space!

What a busy and brilliant start to the half term! We can't wait to see what the coming weeks have in store for Stingrays!







Sharks.

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

In English, we have continued our poetry work, with a particular focus on Remembrance. After exploring and analysing a range of poems, including *Poppies*, *Forget Us Not* and *In Flanders Fields*, the children created their own blackout poems before going on to write their very own Remembrance poems. Watching the children approach such a sensitive topic with care and maturity, and seeing them work so hard to convey powerful themes, meaningful messages and emotion through their writing, has been truly incredible. I have been so impressed by the thought and creativity they have put into their work.

I am also incredibly proud of Sharks for their fantastic efforts during our Children in Need RunPudsey event. I still cannot quite believe that, as a class, we raised almost £900! What an amazing achievement! Throughout the event, the children worked brilliantly together, showing our school values of Respect and Compassion, Love and Agape, and Community, Citizenship and Service. There was so much laughter and enthusiasm as they tackled our different relay stations before finishing by decorating their very own Children in Need cupcakes. It was a wonderful event, and the children should feel so proud to have played their part in something so special and made such a huge difference.

Yesterday, some Sharks also took part in the T1 Rugby Tournament against other schools from across the Bicester Sports Partnership. They went into the tournament with such positive attitudes, focusing on taking part, enjoying themselves and working together as a team. However, what an achievement they went on to have, winning every single game against every team! Their rugby was absolutely incredible throughout, and I was so impressed by their teamwork and sportsmanship. Despite their fantastic run of wins, the children remained gracious throughout, making sure to shake hands with their opponents and form a tunnel to show appreciation for every team. It was a wonderful example of our school values in action, and I could not have been prouder of Sharks!

Warmest wishes,

Miss Winstone & The Sharks Team

Sharks.











FoFS



Coming Soon….

Friday 4th December – Christmas Fete, 3.30pm-5.30pm

Other Opportunities.





Best wishes,

Cropredy SLT

Other Opportunities.

ARCh
Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire

Want to work part-time for a local charity, term-time only?

ARCh is an award winning charity which recruits, trains and supports volunteer reading helpers to work with primary school children throughout Oxfordshire to encourage a love of books and reading.



We have the following position available for someone living in the Bicester area.

Field Worker (Bicester and Thame area) home based

A confident 'people person', with a passion for books and education, you will provide support to ARCh Reading Helpers. The role involves visiting primary schools in the Bicester/Thame and surrounding areas, liaising with school staff and ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Enthusiasm and good communication skills are vital!

12 hours per week (to be worked across the week) **term-time only**.
Starting pay £12.71 per hour
Use of computer and own car essential (travel expenses paid).

Contact info@archoxfordshire.org.uk for an application form.

ARCh, Suite E, Gobles Court, 7, Market Square, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6AA
www.archoxfordshire.org.uk

Charity number 1146276

Littlest Yak

About the Event

Please note, this show takes place in Bicester at our pop-up theatre space in Bicester Leisure Centre (Queens Avenue, OX26 2NR).

This musical adaptation of the award winning children's book by Lu Fraser and Kate Hindley will delight audiences young and old with beautiful puppets, catchy tunes and an uplifting tale of self acceptance for all the family.

Gertie is great at being THE LITTLEST YAK, with the CURLIEST, WHIRLIEST wool and the GRIPPIEST of hooves for clip clopping up cliffs. Only, Gertie doesn't want to be the littlest. She's in a rush to grow up and be just like THE BIG YAKS. But what if there are some things that only a GERTIE can do?

A gorgeous story celebrating YOU being perfect...just the way you are!

LAS theatre brings The Littlest Yak to the stage in spectacular fashion. Join them for a dazzling adventure, into the heart of the Himalayas.

Nominated for a YAKTASTIC 4 Off WestEnd Awards!

Group discount: Tickets only £15 when booking 4 or more!

This would be amazing to share on any Newsletters you have going out in November.

Thank you so much!

https://www.themillartscentre.co.uk/event/the-littlest-yak/

Music lessons in school



We have spaces available for music lessons starting in September.

Music Lessons at School with Musical Minds (Independent Tutor)

Musical Minds is offering *in-school music lessons* for a range of instruments, including **woodwind** (recorder, clarinet, flute and saxophone), **piano**, and **trumpet/cornet**. Lessons are suitable for beginners through to more advanced students and are tailored to support musical enjoyment, confidence, and progress.

For more information or to enquire about availability, please contact:

magic_flute@yahoo.com

Please contact Ms Fulopp-Herman directly magic_flute@yahoo.com

Dates for your diary

Please see changes to calendar highlighted in red.

Monday 16th November:	Anti-Bullying week - Odd Socks Day
Wednesday 25th November	Open Morning for prospective Parents (EYFS)
Friday 27th November	Minnows Trip.
Monday 30th November	Christmas Big Sing - Sharks
Tuesday 1st December	Christmas decorating day
Wednesday 2nd December:	Whole School trip to Pantomime
Friday 4th December	FoFs Christmas Fair
Monday 7th December	*Minnows Nativity to school: 1:45pm*
Tuesday 8th December:	*Minnows Nativity to parents: 1:*45pm
Wednesday 9th December	School Christmas lunch
Friday 11th December:	FoFs Secret Present Room
Monday 14th Dec:	*Sticklebacks Christmas Production to School 1:45pm*
Tuesday 15th Dec	*Sticklebacks Christmas performance to parents 9.30am*
Tuesday 15th December	*Irock End of term Concert pm*
Wednesday 16th December :	Community Christmas Tea Party at 1:30pm (Stingrays)
Friday 18th December:	End of Term (Finish at 1:15pm)
Monday 4th January:	**INSET Day 3**
Tuesday 5th January:	**Term 2 (First half begins)**
Monday 25th January-Friday 29th January:	**Year5/6 Residential to Yenworthy**
Monday 8th February:	Parents' Evening: 3:30-6:30pm
Tuesday 9th February:	Parents' Evening: 3:30-5:30pm
Tuesday 9th February:	Safer Internet Day
Friday 12th February:	Last day of half term
Monday 22nd February:	Term 2 (second half begins)
Thursday 4th March:	World Book Day
Monday 8th March-Thursday 11th March	Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 23rd March:	Seahorses & Stingrays production to whole school at 1:45pm
Tuesday 24th March:	Seahorses & Stingrays Production to Parents at 1:45pm
Wednesday 25th March:	Seahorses & Stingrays Production to Parents at 1:45pm
Thursday 25th March	End of Term (Finish at 1:15pm)
Monday 12th April:	Term 3 (First half begins)

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 14th April:	Swimming for Year 3 begins
Monday 10th May-	Year 6 SATs week
Thursday 13th May	
Thursday 27th May:	May Day Celebrations at 1:30pm
Thursday 27th May:	Term 3 (First half finishes)
Friday 28th May:	**INSET Day 4**
Monday 7th June:	**Term 3 (Second half begins)**
Monday 7th – Friday 18th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Monday 14th – Friday 18th June	Year 1 Phonics screening
Thursday 1st July:	Sports Day
Monday 12th July:	Sharks Production to whole school
Tuesday 13th July:	Sharks Production to whole School
Wednesday 14th July:	Sharks Production to whole school
Tuesday 20th July:	Year 6 Leavers' Service at 9:30am
Tuesday 20th July:	End of Term (Finish at 1:15pm)

Brass lessons – Year 5 Fridays at 10.45am

Forest School is on Monday afternoons: 1-3pm

Term 1 - Sharks
Term 2 - Stingrays
Term 3 - Seahorses
Term 4 - Sticklebacks
Term 5 - Minnows
Term 6 - TBC

These dates and times are subject to change but should give you an idea of our structure for the year.

