

Dear Parents and Carers,

First, welcome back to school for our final term of the year. I hope you all enjoyed a lovely and relaxing spring break.

Thank you all for turning out in such great numbers to support the children at our Sports Day on the last day of term. It was wonderful to see so many families cheering the children on and helping to create such a positive atmosphere. Congratulations to Fire House for winning this year's Sports Cup! However, every child should feel incredibly proud of themselves. As always, the children demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship, determination and encouragement for one another throughout the day.

Congratulations also to Heron Class for completing their SATs week. The children conducted themselves brilliantly during the tests and worked incredibly hard in preparation and throughout the week itself. We are all very proud of the maturity and resilience they showed. A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Hall and Mrs Rose for providing such delicious breakfasts each morning to ensure the children were well-fuelled and ready for the day ahead.

It was also a pleasure to spend time with Year 5 on their residential trip to Leeson House. This is always such a fascinating, activity-filled experience and the children represented themselves, the school and their families exceptionally well. Thank you once again to all of the staff who volunteered their time to make the trip possible, and to families for your continued support.

As you will see throughout this newsletter, there is always lots happening at school — from visits by classical musicians to our Curious City afternoons. These opportunities enrich the children's experiences enormously and help bring learning to life.

Finally, thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support of the school, and in particular to Friends of Wyke for all of their fundraising efforts.

I understand a fun-filled evening was enjoyed by all who attended the recent quiz night!

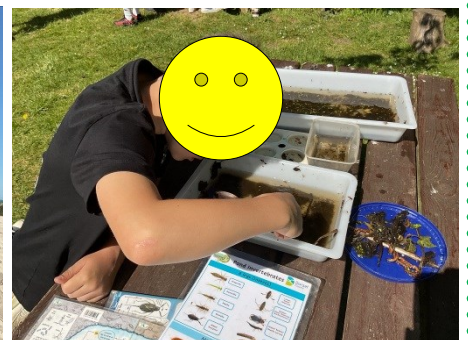
We now look forward to our final term of the year, which promises to be full of exciting and enriching learning and experiences.

Kind regards,
Ed Birckett



YEAR 5 VISIT LEESON HOUSE

In May our Year 5 children from Falcon and Woodpecker Classes went on a three-day residential trip to Leeson House, near Swanage. We had a very busy three days starting with a long walk to Dancing Ledge, which included stories of smugglers and local events during World War Two and ended with an exploration of a cove. We enjoyed a campfire and more stories about the local area. On the second day, the sun was shining and we went for a glorious morning at Studland Beach. We looked at the formation of the headland and Old Harry Rocks which we recreated with sand. We explored the sand dunes and had lots of fun playing and burying one another! We enjoyed pond dipping back at Leeson House in the afternoon and found all sorts of creatures including newts! A games evening and trip to the Leeson House shop completed our day. On the final day we completed team challenges and learnt how to light a fire using a flint and steel. It was a fantastic three days with lots of wonderful memories made, and the children were a pleasure to take away.





HERON CLASS NEWS

The first half of the summer term was a super busy one in Heron Class with lots of exciting learning opportunities, Enquiry questions and of course SATs.

We are incredibly proud of all our Herons for their amazing attitude throughout SATs week. They showed determination, resilience and maturity and everyone gave 100% towards the tests. SATs breakfast was a firm favourite and enjoyed every day of the week which gave the class a chance to relax with friends before sitting their tests. I think most of the class were disappointed when the Friday came and there was no SATs breakfast as SATs had finished!

Our Enquiry entitled "Why are shadows important?" saw us being both scientists and artists. We have learnt about how we see things and how light travels and used our artistic skills to sketch objects with shadows behind them. We also carried out a scientific experiment to find out what happens to the size of a shadow when the distance between the light source and the

object increases. We had to think about fair testing, what equipment we would need and how we would record our results which we then transferred into a graph. Being scientists, we then tried to explain the science behind our results.

We have started to design our batik cushions which we will continue to make over the coming weeks, using skills such as painting, waxing, sewing and ironing. These will special reminders of our time at Wyke as we move onto secondary school.

Finally, some of the Herons have given up their Wednesday afternoon to run a summer sports club for KS1. It has been wonderful to see the maturity they have shown from leading the warm up, organising and running the different activities and clearing away afterwards. Thank you to all those who have been a part of this.

We hope you enjoyed a well earned break Heron Class, ready for more fun and exciting activities this term.



Mrs



Rose



WOODPECKER CLASS NEWS

The children in Woodpecker Class had a wonderful term, embracing new challenges and showing great enthusiasm in their learning.

Our most recent enquiry question was “Who is trading with whom?”. We began as Geographers, learning all about trade and exploring what imports and exports are. The children investigated trade routes, discovered where the United Kingdom imports food from, and learned about the different stages of trade and the sectors involved in getting goods from one place to another.

Next, we became Historians, exploring the world of the Romans.

The children learned about when the Roman Empire began, examined evidence showing that the Romans settled in Britain, and investigated how we know the Romans traded in Britain by exploring where goods were imported from.

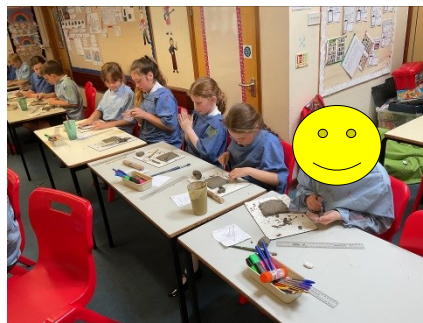
Finally, we became Artists and developed our clay skills. The children learned how to use slip to join clay pieces together while creating their own 3D clay tiles, showing great creativity and perseverance throughout the process.

As Authors, we have been writing information books all about the Romans, including learning about the Roman Empire, emperors and the Roman army. The children worked incredibly hard on their writing, carefully researching and presenting their ideas. They have produced some fantastic books to be very proud of!

In PE, the children have been developing their cricket skills, including throwing, batting and teamwork. They have also been practising a range of athletics events, developing their running, jumping and throwing techniques while showing determination and excellent sportsmanship.

A huge well done to all of the children for their enthusiasm, hard work and positive attitude. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and hope they enjoyed a well-earned break!

Miss Cheetham



KINGFISHER CLASS NEWS

It has been another very busy and exciting half term for Kingfisher Class! We thoroughly enjoyed our enquiry entitled 'How do plants die?' We started by sorting a variety of plants in to three categories: Dead, Alive or Can Be Revived. This sparked a lot of interesting discussion, especially the Rose of Jericho plant which can be revived time after time by giving it some water! We have loved being predominantly Scientists for this enquiry, and learnt all about the different parts of plants and their key functions.

We looked closely at a range of plants and carried out observational drawings of each part. One of our highlights was carrying out a number of fair test experiments. Our first experiment was all based around taking away one of the conditions that a plant needs to grow and thrive, and see what difference it makes. We thought about where we could put each plant to deprive it of one condition, but keep all the other conditions the same. We have been observing and measuring plants each week to see what changes have occurred, before completing our conclusion. Our second experiment was based about water transportation. We used different colours of food colouring in the water glasses and then placed white roses and celery stems in each one to show how the water travels up the stem like a straw, and all the way up to the flower to change its colour!

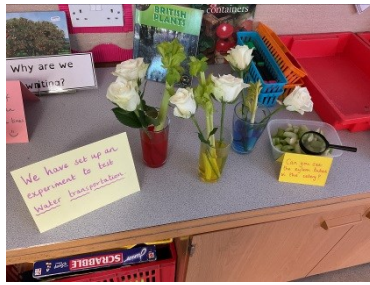
The final challenge for our enquiry has been a fun one, which we have incorporated in to our English lessons of being authors. We have planned and written a manual entitled 'Diary of a Wimpy Plant,' inspired by the style of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid.' We wrote this in the first person, from the point of view of the plant and tried to include everything we have learnt about what a plant needs to stop it from dying.

In Maths we have been learning all about fractions and money. We have been making different totals using combinations of coins, as well as converting pounds and pence and finding change. In the past week we have moved on to learning Roman numerals and reading the time to 5-minute intervals.

Computing has been lots of fun – we have been learning desktop publishing, which has involved using the app 'pic collage' to edit a template and change the font type, colour, alignment and text size.

Kingfisher Class worked their socks off this past half term and should feel really proud of everything they achieved. We hope they all had very well-deserved rest over the holidays and we are excited to welcoming them back today for our final half term together.

Mrs Abbott, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Marchlewicz and Miss Pollard





OWL CLASS NEWS

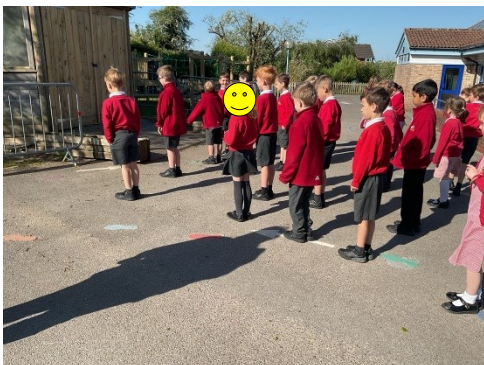
Welcome to our part of the newsletter – didn't last term go quickly? Firstly, a huge thank you for your continued support and especially your presence at our Curious City Plants showcase. It was wonderful to see so many of you there and for you to enjoy some activities with your children. Your feedback was very much appreciated and we will take account of it for next time.

The children have absolutely loved investigating plants and how they grow. They enjoyed finding out about what a plant needs to grow and all loved their turns at watering. Again, it was lovely to see all of their home learning especially the updates of what they are growing at home. We explored the artist Lizzie Harper and spent some time in the school grounds looking closely at the unnoticed details of plants, petals and leaves. The children then sketched their observations and

used watercolours to add colour to their artwork. This learning linked well to the 100th birthday celebrations for David Attenborough and the children could understand the importance and significance of natural history. Maths has been a flurry of measurement and telling the time. Both of which are excellent life skills and concepts that you can reinforce at home. We have told the time to five minutes e.g. 20 past 8 or 10 minutes to 12 and then we have been measuring in cms and metres. In English we have been working hard to improve our sentence structure and using adjectives, conjunctions and punctuation consistently. We have seen a huge improvement in what the children are producing and we are now working hard on our handwriting. You may have heard them talking about the jam and the sponge part of the handwriting!

We hope you all had a restful half term and as ever, please do come and see us if you need anything.

Mrs Scammell and Miss Long



FALCON CLASS NEWS

We have been very busy Historians in Falcons this past term, learning all about 'Who is Trading with Whom?' We started off finding out what trade is and why other nations trade with each other. We discovered different trade routes and learnt the words 'import' and 'export'. Our main focus has been the Romans and how they changed life in Britain. We found out about lots of fantastic inventions that the Romans brought to Britain including sturdy roads, heated floors and baths and well-furnished houses made from stone. We then went on to learn about how the Romans brought international trade to Britain and looked at all of the different items from around the world that we still use today because of them.



In English, the children have worked incredibly hard to create their own Roman non-fiction books. They carefully researched information and thought closely about how to present their writing clearly and attractively for the reader. We have been particularly impressed with the children's creativity, presentation skills and enthusiasm throughout the project. Well done to everyone for producing such thoughtful and informative work! It was so lovely to have a finished product that we could really be proud of.

Part of this enquiry was also to learn about sculptors and their creations. We started off looking at the work of Henry Moore before creating our own fabulous clay tiles. We learnt the skill of making a relief, which is a three dimensional part of the tile as well as learning to make a 'slip' to join the components. Resilience was needed when working with the clay as it can be very temperamental! The finished result was a whole set of beautiful tiles depicting life in Roman times, we had three-dimensional spears, shields, villas and even an amphitheatre!

The Year 5s enjoyed beautiful weather at Leeson House and were a credit to Falcon Class. The Year 4s stayed behind and explored lots of fun Science skills as well as a heavy focus on times tables practice as it's not long now until the multiplication check! Their progress has been phenomenal thanks to their dedication to practising at home and in school.

We hope you all had a lovely half term, let's hope for some more sunny weather for the busy times of Summer 2.

Mrs Turner and Mrs Beales





WREN/ROBIN CLASS NEWS

The Wrens and Robins had a wonderful term and thoroughly enjoyed our enquiry, 'What Grows (and Lives) Near Us?'

We have had lots of fun exploring the school grounds and discovering just how much nature is all around us. We've been watching new leaves appear, blossom appearing on trees and bushes, tulips and daffodils blooming, and plenty of dandelions and daisies too! The children enjoyed planting seeds of their own - we had all kinds of seeds so each pot will be growing wonderful surprises! You'll have to let us know how the growing continues once they bring home their pots - who knows what may appear - a few are hoping for a magic beanstalk or even a jelly-beanstalk like we discovered in a story!

There is also great excitement around our rhubarb patch at the moment! The children have been patiently watching it grow and waiting for it to become "as tall as them!" They are very excited to harvest it after half term and turn it into something delicious to eat!

The children have also shown great interest in foods that grow NOT near us after we read a story called 'The World Came To My Place Today'. We had fun discovering unusual fruits every day over a week - guessing what the fruits were called, what they looked like inside, what they tasted like and finding out where they came from! Lots of the children then enjoyed looking at the foods they had at home and discovering how far they'd travelled to be eaten here, in Gillingham!

We've also been busy watching our class caterpillars - they arrived in the post, so tiny we could hardly see them. They grew and grew and grew and then turned into chrysalises a couple of weeks ago - we are really hoping our butterflies emerge soon! It is all so carefully timed... but such is nature!

We had a wonderful afternoon when we were all excited to welcome members of our families into class for an afternoon of learning. What a lovely time everyone had - being artists, scientists, authors and engineers! Thank you so much for coming along!

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the wonderful group of mums who have kindly given up some of their time to help us begin the process of refreshing our outdoor area. There is still more to do, but they have given us such a fantastic head start and we are incredibly grateful for their hard work and all their painting!

It was such a lovely term full of growth, new life, learning and discovery. Our Wrens and Robins continue to amaze us every day and are growing into wonderful authors, fabulous mathematicians and curious learners.

We hope you all had a wonderful half term break and we are excited to welcome you back today for summer adventures!

Mrs de Villiers, Mrs Turvey and Mrs Jones

