

Spring Newsletter



Dear Parents,



‘Seek and you shall find’ (*Matthew Chapter 7, Verse 7*).

Looking for Easter eggs and finding them hidden in different places around the garden is not exactly what this Bible verse is referring to but it is something that I will be doing with my children this Easter holiday, even if one of them has just started University! For some, knowing the Easter message can be even more exciting than finding a chocolate surprise...

Christians believe that God created a perfect world yet we kept messing it up. This upset God but rather than punish us, he sent his Son to Earth: Jesus gave up his life for us, so that we could be forgiven for the things we have done wrong. Fast forward a couple of days and you arrive at the greatest time in the church’s year, a day to be celebrated; the day that Jesus rose from the dead. Showing us that whoever believes in him can have eternal life in heaven.



Seek and you will find! Whether you’ll be enjoying an Easter egg hunt or taking time to reflect on the Easter story and its powerful message (or both), I hope you have a lovely, peaceful holiday.

Andrew Denham



World Book Day

We were excited about trying something different for world book day this year. Instead of dressing up, all children were invited to create their own 'story bag' from a book that they have read and loved. Here are some of the wonderful creations...



Key Stage 2 Greek Day

The children in Dahl, Morpurgo and Shakespeare class had a great day learning about Greek myths, creating wonderful art, trying some Greek food and having a go at some mini-Olympic events.



Year 1 & 2 Girls Football

Donaldson class girls had a great time at the Eynsham Partnership Academy Football Festival, led by the Year 8 girls of Bartholomew school who wanted to inspire the younger children.



Young Voices

The children and staff had an amazing time at Young Voices 2024. They sang and danced the night away!





Mixed Netball Team

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our mixed netball team who took part in the Eynsham Partnership Academy netball tournament. They played 6, won 6 scored 24 goals and did not concede a single goal. WOW!



Indoor Athletics Team

Well done to our Standlake Indoor Athletics Team who competed in the West Oxfordshire Finals. It was an awesome achievement to get as far as these finals which proved a challenge against some of the biggest schools in the county. The children proved that Standlake may be a small school but we have a large amount of courage!



Oxfordshire Dance Festival

A HUGE well done to the children who took part in the Oxfordshire Dance Festival. They danced to a medley of songs from the film Barbie, in front of over 1000 people at the New Theatre, Oxford. So brave! So good! Also, a MASSIVE thank you to Amanda Isard who made the magic happen with her choreography and coaching.



Special Breakfast Treat for Staff

On behalf of all the staff, I'd like to say a huge THANK YOU for the special breakfast treat that FOSS and the parent community gave us this morning. It was a wonderful way to start the day. Also, your lovely comments on the JustGiving site have blown us away! We are deeply grateful for your generosity and kindness.





Nursery Class, Mrs List writes: This term our topic has been 'Once Upon a Time' and we have had a great time looking at lots of different traditional tales and talking about the structure of the stories.

We started the term reading 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears' and we talked a lot about the number 3 and the different ways to make 3. The children enjoyed making beds of different sizes in the garden with crates and planks and we introduced the language of big, medium and small.

In week 3 we read the story of 'Jack and The Beanstalk' and talked a lot about how things grow. The children learnt about the life cycle of a seed and were able to say what a seed needed to grow. We then read the story 'Sam Plants a Sunflower' and went on to plant our own sunflowers and beans. The children were fascinated and very excited to see their beans and sunflowers growing. One morning when we came in, we found a giant had left some giant footprints on the carpet, we used them to measure things around the classroom using the language of longer and shorter. For World book day the children brought in and shared their favourite books. It was lovely to see them talk so confidently and excitedly about their favourite stories.

Our final traditional tale was 'The 3 Little Pigs' and we looked at the 3 little pig's homes and talked about which were the best materials to build a house with. The children had a go at building their own homes with the junk modelling equipment.

All of our traditional tales have supported our phonics work where we have continued to learn about and spot rhyming words. We have also started to think about initial sounds and have enjoyed playing lots of games hunting for words that start with the same sound.

In our last few weeks we have been looking at the Easter story and sharing how we like to celebrate Easter in our own homes. The children have all shared their own Easter traditions and have listened to each other beautifully allowing everybody to have a turn to talk (one of our class rules we created last term).

Nursery Sessions

We are in the process of organising our nursery sessions for the summer term, starting 16 April 2024, and ask that all parents complete the Google form for their preferred nursery sessions in the summer term. The nursery will be running 5 days a week, school term time only. As the nursery operates on a primary school site so we need to limit the drop-off and pick up times, to work around our school day. This means we will not be able to accommodate pick-up or drop offs outside of these times. Parents will be able to choose from the following session times (to build they hours they require):

8.00-8.45am 8.45-11.45am 11.45am-3.15pm 3.15-4.15pm 4.15-5.00pm

Murphy Class



Mrs Harrison writes: This term, we have been learning about growing. We began the topic by finding out about how people grow and change. We loved looking at pictures of ourselves as babies, and talking about the things we could do then and what we can do now. We then explored how plants grow, finding out about the life cycle of a sunflower and being able to name the different parts of a plant. We have all planted a sunflower seed and have been fascinated watching them germinate and begin to grow. The children have all brought a sunflower seedling home, so please let us know how they get on.

We have learnt about what plants need to grow and carried out our own investigation using cress seeds. We sowed 4 sets of cress seeds, watering three of them and leaving one dry. Out of the three watered trays we put one on the windowsill, one in a dark box and one in the fridge. The children made predictions about what they thought would happen, with comments like “the dry one won’t grow at all” and “it will be too cold in the fridge to grow well”. The children have been enthusiastically checking the seeds everyday concluding that “the plants on the windowsill grew the strongest because they had everything they needed”.

The children have also found out about the changing seasons and what happens in Spring. We went on a walk around the school grounds to spot signs of Spring. The children learnt about the life cycle of a frog and enjoyed lots of frog activities.

We have read lots of wonderful books about growing and plants, particular favourites were Tiny Seed, Oliver’s Vegetables and Growing Frogs.

In PSED we have been finding out about how to keep ourselves healthy. We have learnt about why it is important to brush our teeth and to eat a healthy diet.

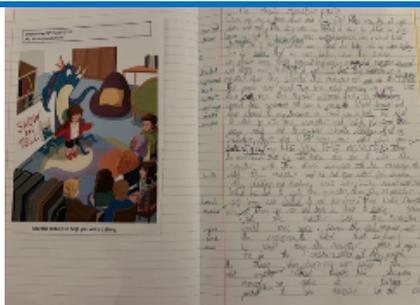
We have learnt about the Easter story and why the main symbols of Easter reminds us of new life.

In Phonics, the children have continued to consolidate their knowledge of letter sounds and how to use these to read and write words. We have been delighted with the progress the children are making and have celebrated many individual achievements with the children.

In Maths, the children have learnt how to partition numbers up to 10 using lots of different equipment such as Numicon, bead strings and cubes. We have explored the properties of common 3D shapes and found out about how 2D shapes can be joined together or cut in half to make new shapes.

<p>The MORE that you read, the MORE things you will know. The MORE that you LEARN, the MORE places you'll go.</p>	Reads since September	Children
	25	Remy & Asa,
	50	Kydan & Arthur
	75	Ted
	125	Spencer & Brooke
	150	Joey, Freya, Chloe, Finley & Eve,
	175	Harvey, Dottie, Evie & Isobel

Donaldson Class



Miss Morton writes: This term's topic has led to all sorts of thinking and curiosity. We have been learning about Scientists and Inventors. We started the term by thinking about the difference between scientists and inventors before we researched about key individuals such as Alexander Graham Bell, Marie Curie, and Mae Jemison. Some children even learnt about other scientists and inventors at home and shared their knowledge with us in class. We finished the term by discussing how inventions have shaped the world today and then thought about what we would invent to help current problems around the world. Although a lot of children decided that they would invent a modern, 'high tech' doghouse for my dog Callie!

With Mrs Kinchin, we have learnt to sequence the Easter story and discuss how we would welcome Jesus. During our PSHE lessons, we talked about being healthy and the importance of cleanliness. Mrs Kinchin demonstrated to the children how to brush teeth and discussed what may happen if we don't brush our teeth. As always, we continued to talk about friendship and the importance of showing kindness to each other. With welcoming new children to Donaldson class this term, it is clear a lot of children are remembering the ways we show kindness both inside and outside the classroom.

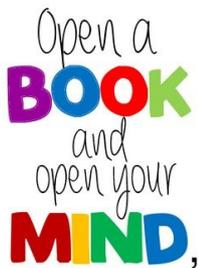
In DT this term, we became inventors ourselves and designed, made, and evaluated our own musical instruments. As a class, we agreed to make mini banjos using recycled materials.

Our phonics and spellings continue to progress with most children reading multisyllabic words speedily. The children in Year 1 are always keen to impress with how speedy they can recall their sounds. Some children have been learning about the Mars Rover and the scientists that work for NASA. They have used their research to write a non-fiction information text. During our creative writing lessons, we have working hard to sequence stories and use ambitious vocabulary in our story writing. I have been very impressed with the amount of writing the children have been doing. Well done everyone!

There is no doubt that the children in Donaldson class love to read! On World Book Day it was lovely to see so many children bringing in their creations. During the day, we opened the Donaldson Museum so the children could spend time admiring what we had all created and talk about their favourite stories.

In Maths, we have been challenging ourselves with the concept of multiplication and division. We have used lots of equipment to help us represent sharing into equal groups as well as showing 'lots of' a number. Some children have enjoyed using Numbots and TT Rockstars this term. It is lovely to see children engage in mathematical activities outside of the classroom.

In Science, we put our investigation hats on and took part in the Big Science Events. In teams, we planned, conducted and evaluated a science investigation. From testing if fruits float in water or fizz to investigating whether you can identify foods without smelling them, we had a lot of thinking during our lessons. The winning group presented their final poster during assembly. Well done!

	Reads since September	Children
	25	Evelyn & Evie Mae
50	Max, Edith, Ezra, Rupert & Gracie	
75	Axel	
150	Thomas, Felix, Ori, Molly, Sophie, Lottie & Patrick	
175	Seren & William	
200	Aidan, Ergi, Beatrice	

Dahl Class



Mrs Conroy and Mrs Fleet write: We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic of 'Ancient Greece' this term. We have learned that Ancient Greece was made up of city-states, life during this time was very different for men and women, how the Olympics started and we have compared life in Ancient Greece with our life today. Our KS2 Greek Day on Monday gave us the opportunity to take part in activities to develop our understanding of other aspects of life in Ancient Greece.

We were intrigued to guess the purpose of a range of sticks with different items dangling from them, including a carrot and some feathers, during the first week of this term. Our class text, 'Leo and the Gorgon's Curse,' revealed that Leo enticed mythical creatures from Athens in creative ways, while causing them no harm. Using a range of interesting sentence structures and ambitious vocabulary, we wrote our own version of part of the narrative about Leo's quests. We have also created a non-chronological report about a mythical creature.

Science this term has been very exciting as we have worked in groups to plan and carry out our own Science investigations. From finding out which material would keep Muffin dry to which condiment would create the most fizz, Dahl classroom has been buzzing with questions, ideas and great group work to carry out our experiments.

Our RE theme for this term was Christianity - Salvation. We started by exploring the story of Holy Week from Mary's perspective. We then learned about the events of the Last Supper, why Holy Week is important to Christians and how Christians celebrate today.

During our art lessons, we have created a range of pieces linked with our topic of Ancient Greece. We are particularly proud of our Greek pots made from clay.

BOOKS
aren't just made of
WORDS...
they're also filled with
PLACES
to visit and
PEOPLE
to meet.

Reads since September	Children
25	Archie
50	Hayden
75	Immi & Seb
100	Robyn, Mari, Kyle, Layla & Ava
125	George, Arthur L, Lena, Arthur P & Isaac
150	River, Lexi, Jenna & Nancy
175	Martha & Finley

Morpurgo Class



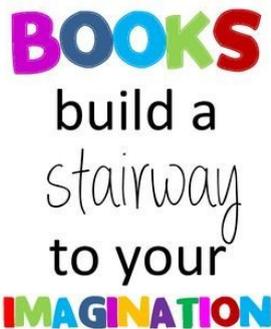
Miss Bridgeman writes: It has been another incredibly busy term in Morpurgo class and we have thoroughly enjoyed our learning all about ancient Greece. In Topic, we have learned all about when the ancient Greeks lived and what else was happening in the world at this time; who Alexander the Great was and why he was an important historical figure; and all about the ancient Greek myths and legends. The children were particularly enthusiastic when making their stop-motion animations retelling the story of Perseus and Medusa!

The children have produced two wonderful pieces of extended writing in English this term. First, we wrote a non-chronological report all about the Greek god Zeus. The children researched Zeus themselves and produced some fantastic pieces of writing. We then moved on to writing a narrative inspired by our class novel 'Who let the God's out?' by Max Evans. The children have come up with some brilliantly creative ideas and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading every one of their adventure stories!

In Maths this term the children have particularly enjoyed our work on angles. The children were very excited when we drew on all the tables with special pens and measured all the angles!

The Big Science event has been a big hit with Morpurgo this term and they have loved getting stuck in and investigating their questions. The children have taken such care of their posters and have asked some really interesting questions. One group investigated the effectiveness of different types of hand sanitizer and it was so amazing to look at their results under a real microscope!

Mrs Lee has continued to do a fantastic job leading our art lessons this term and the children have had a brilliant time creating their own Greek vases. First, they designed the shapes of their vase and the patterns that they would use to decorate it, before using balloons and mod rock to sculpt their final creations. I was so impressed I had to join in one of the art lessons and have a go myself!

	Reads since September	Children
	25	Reggie, Emilee, Rosie & Kaleb
	50	Tilly, Beth & Lily
	75	
	100	Arlowe, Fin & Eadie
	125	Henry, Sienna, Annie & Elleni
	200	Charlotte

Shakespeare Class



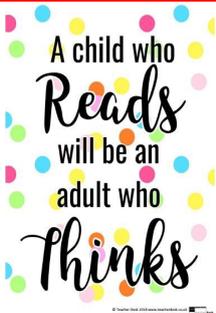
Mr. Brown writes: Ancient Greece has been the focus of our learning this term. Our learning has taken us on a journey through understanding the three key eras of Ancient Greece (Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic), to learning about the differences between Athens and Sparta and retelling the events of the Battle of Marathon – the inspiration for the modern-day marathon.

We have used our learning about this fascinating period of history to inspire this term’s writing. We started with character descriptions and, having read the myth of Perseus and Medusa, used wonderful vocabulary to describe the gorgon at the heart of this tale. Then we wrote balanced arguments, extolling the benefits (and difficulties) of two of the key city-states of Ancient Greece: Athens and Sparta.

In maths this term we have covered a range of topics including measurement (metric and imperial), ratio, fractions and an introduction to algebra. Mr. Brown has been really impressed with the number of Year 6 children coming into school early twice a week (with the bribery of a croissant!) to begin their SATS revision.

As always in Term 4, science has been led by the children through the Big Science Event. Each group chose an experiment that interested them, which included: Is branded chocolate worth the cost? Which material is the best at muffling sound? What colour skittles lose their flavour the most quickly? Throughout this process we learnt more about how to work well together and ensuring that we are only changing one variable in our scientific experiments.

In other areas of the curriculum, we have considered, “Why did Jesus die?” in RE; created clay pots under Mrs Lee’s expert eye in art; enjoyed some rather muddy football sessions with Mr. Weaving; and learnt vocabulary related to ‘Family and Friends’ in French with Mrs Fleet.

	Reads since September	Children
	25	Ruby, Leila, Charlie, Luis & Ben
	50	Ferris, Finn, Rhys, & Vienna
	75	Kyrah
	100	Ezra & Livi
	125	Will & Jess
	150	Aaron
	175	
	200	Mara-Jade

Staff Updates

We are pleased to announce that Claire Bowden will be joining our school team after the Easter Holidays. Clare will be working in the school office on a Monday.

Congratulations to Mrs Riley (Donaldson) who is expecting a baby in September. I am sure she will be comparing notes with Mrs Conroy!

SPRING 2024 Standlake Superstars: Playful and Purposeful Provision by Professionals

A one-stop-shop of children's clubs & wrap-around care for working parents, for children aged 4yrs+

Please contact Standlake school office for further details and/or to receive sign-up instructions:

office.3127@standlake.oxon.sch.uk

Sessions	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Session 7.45 to 8.45am	Wake & Shake <i>Fun games to start the week</i>	Dodgeball <i>Fun & fast team game</i>	Group Exercise <i>Kids circuit class with music</i>	Music Games <i>Movement team challenges</i>	Go Wild <i>Indoor climbing frame course</i>
Afternoon Session 1 3.15 to 4.15pm	Gymnastics <i>Agility, Balance & Coordination fun</i>	Nerf Gun Wars <i>Nerf Blaster games</i>	Football <i>Fun drills 4 skills and games</i>	Dodgeball <i>Fun & fast team game</i>	Fun & Games! <i>Team games and challenges</i>
	Tabletop Games <i>All the classics</i>	Forest Craft <i>Exploring & building dens</i>	Chill Zone <i>Lego, colouring, & role play</i>	Art and Craft <i>Cutting, sticking and making</i>	
Afternoon Session 2 4.15 to 5.15pm	Tea & Free Play <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	Tea & Free Play <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	Tea & Free Play <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	Tea & Free Play <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>	Tea & Free Play <i>Keep it Active or Chill</i>

2023-2024 Key Dates

Term 5

15th April: INSET Day
 16th April: Term Starts
 18th April: Year 6 Bartholomew Transition Day
 3rd May (9.00am-11.00am): EPA Dance Festival (Y1&2) @ Barth.
 6th May: Bank Holiday
 8th May (9.00am-11.00am): EPA Dance Festival (Y3&4) @ Bartholomew
 9th May (9.00am): Little Loaves Service (Whole School)
 w/b 13th May: Year 6 SATs Week
 w/b 13th May: Year 2 SATs Week
 17th May: Nursery Induction Morning, ready for Term 6 (NEW EVENT)
 20th May: Whole School Sports Day (Nursery to Year 6)
 21st May (3.45pm): EPA Cricket Tournament (Y5&6)
 23rd May: Year 1-5 Overnight camp on the school field
 24th May (am&pm): It's Tri Day & The Last Day (finish 3.15pm)
 27th-2nd June: Half Term

Term 6

3rd June: Term Starts
 3rd June: Year 6 Residential (£355)
 12th June (9.30-11.30): Year 3&4 EPA Sports Day (Quadkids)@ Bartholomew
 18th June (11.30-2.30): Year 5&6 EPA Sports Day (Quadkids)@ Tilsley Park
 26th June (9.00-12.00): Year 3&4 Rugby Festival @ Bartholomew
 27th June (All Day): Year 6 Bartholomew Transition Day
 1st July (All Day): Year 6 Houses of Parliament Trip (NEW EVENT)
 2nd July (9.00-11.00): Year 4&5 Multisports Festival @ Bartholomew
 w/c 8th July: SEND Pupil Reviews
 10th July (9.00-11.30): Year 1&2 Multisports Festival @ Bartholomew
 12th July: Nursery Induction Morning, ready for Term 6 (NEW EVENT)
 13th July (All Day): FOSS Summer Fete
 16th July (2.30pm): IRock Concert
 17th July: Move Up Day
 19th July: Year 6 Air Tattoo Trip
 School Reports go home
 22nd July (am/pm): Year 6 Leavers Play and Funday (6.00pm): Awards & Presentation Evening
 23rd July: Last Day (1.15pm)