



Newsletter

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INFANTS SCHOOL

This has been a term filled with excitement and there has been a real buzz around the Infant School. Children have enjoyed World Book Day, Early Years Communication Week, Science Week and the Year 2 children became qualified travel agents in this last week! Given that the term has only been 5 weeks long it is fair to say that everyone has been very busy!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who have given up their time to come into school this term. Many parents joined us during Science Week to share what they do within their profession and the children really took a lot from these sessions. Parents also came in to join the children in stay and play sessions in Early Years – it really means a lot to the children when their special adults come in to spend time with them!

Wishing all of you a lovely Easter break filled with family time and lots of fun.

Miss Wright

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Clear signs of Spring are now on show and we welcome the (mostly) drier weather which has meant that the Junior School children have been able to enjoy playtimes and breaktimes on the field. Let's hope this improved weather continues to last throughout next term.

Highlights of the half term include the range of visits that we have had in the Junior School, such as the theatre group, author visit and athlete visit. These have provided valuable curriculum enrichment for all the children. It has been wonderful to welcome parents and carers in to participate in Year 3 science investigations and to see their Egyptians assembly. We are planning further opportunities next term for parents and carers to have hands-on involvement in their children's learning.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday and we look forward to a busy and enjoyable Summer term.

Mrs Hurst

Dear all,

I would like to say thank you to the groups of people that make up our school community. Firstly the children for being generally amazing, our governors and PTA, who give so much of their own time to support the school in different ways, our parents for being great and finally our staff who dedicate their lives to helping children get the best start in life.

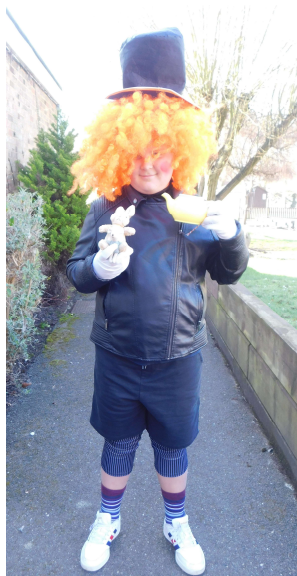
I hope you all have a lovely Easter, with family and friends.

Best Wishes,
David Masters

National Year of Reading

World Book Day

Wonderful costumes were seen in both schools on World Book Day. Here is just a small selection:



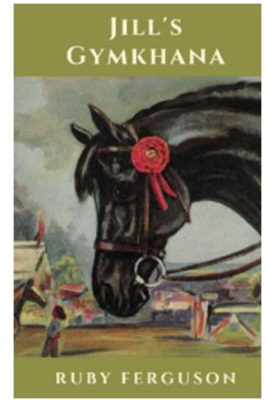
Author visit at FCJS

Earlier this month, we were lucky enough to have a visit from author Athena Kugblenu. She has written for lots of tv programmes, including *Horrible Histories*, but was here to tell us all about her new book, *History's Epic Fails*. After amazing us with lots of fascinating facts such as Blockbusters video (once the leading video retailer on the high street but now non-existent) refused a buy out from Netflix in 2000, we got to take her on in a fun game - Athena's House of Epic Fails. 'It was really exciting to meet Athena and I loved playing her fail game,' said Aleste (year 5). 'I'd love to play it with her every day!'



Mrs Thomas's favourite reads

As a child, I loved everything to do with horses and one of my favourite books was Jill's Gymkhana (by Ruby Ferguson), about a girl whose dream comes true when she is able to own a pony. A book that I have enjoyed sharing with my own children has been The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien. We all loved being transported to the magical, wizarding world and meeting Gollum for the first time was unforgettable as I don't think they had encountered such a devious villain before. I think my favourite author that we read in Year 4 is SF Said, I love how he is able to inspire the children's own writing with his wonderful characters and the adventures they have.



Junior Singing Assembly

Last week's singing assembly was happily filled with a showcase performance from year 6.

During their music lessons this term, they learned a series of songs with an underlying theme of the kindness and inner strength. They were keen to present this to the school and collaborated very well to make these songs into something they could present. The children wrote their own poems and scripts to link the songs together, made slide shows for the background and choreographed small dances to create a very original production.

The narrators and poets spoke with confidence, the dancers were a lovely added touch and singing was wonderful. In particular the final song, Labi Siffre's Something Inside So Strong. Year 6 should be very proud of themselves.

Athlete Visit

The Junior School enjoyed their visit from Tyler Panton, a Great British sprinter. He led an inspirational assembly and held fitness circuits with each class.



Ana in Year 4 said,

"It was amazing to have Tyler here. He was really encouraging in the assembly and I liked that he talked about how important physical and mental wellbeing were!"

Verra, also Year 4, said,

"The circuits were really fun and we got out lots of energy! We did spotty dogs, star jumps, push ups and leg drives. The push ups were the hardest!"

Many thanks to the children and parents / carers for their fundraising efforts for this. We hope to purchase Padel equipment to be used by children from across the school. Thank you also to Mrs Lindsay for organising the visit.

Theatre Performance – The Wizard of Oz

On Friday, the Junior School welcomed the M&M Theatre Company and enjoyed a wonderful performance of The Wizard of Oz. The children absolutely loved it and had loads of positive things to say. Imogen in Year 3 liked it when the witch popped up over the scenery and Matilda in Year 5 particularly enjoyed it when the lion came into the audience. Arjan in Year 6 commented that the Wizard looked super old.

Many thanks to the Friends PTA for funding this opportunity for the children to watch a live performance.



Eco Council at the Junior School

It's been a busy half term for the Eco Council at the Juniors. We've taken part in both The Big Plastic Count and The Great British Spring Clean, with regular litter walks around the school and local area. One afternoon, two children from each class took part in a community litter pick (the park and the Orchard), too. Some other children have been inspired to carry on the good work in their local area, Natasha (pictured) in Year 3 said she wanted to help keep our planet safe. The Eco Council were also lucky enough to go back to visit the Infant School to help tidy by the pond and were amazed to see hundreds of tadpoles hiding in and around the lily pads. Work is now underway in the garden with the children planting some sunflower seeds to take home and grow over the holidays.



Early Years Communication Week



We had a fantastic week in Nursery and Reception celebrating Communication Week! The children thoroughly enjoyed two live author events with David Litchfield and Guilherme Karsten. They listened beautifully to the stories and produced some fantastic drawings, including Billy Whiskers the lion and their own imaginative monsters.

Throughout the week, it was wonderful to see so many parents attend our Stay and Play sessions. The children absolutely loved sharing these special moments with you, and it was lovely to see everyone getting involved in activities that support communication and language development.



Communication Week also coincided with World Book Day, which was a huge success. The children looked amazing in their costumes and confidently shared who they had dressed up as during carpet time. They also enjoyed taking part in book-themed scavenger hunts and drawing their favourite characters.



Science Week at the Infants

We had an incredible week here at the Infants during Science Week. The children were inspired and the teachers absolutely loved teaching. We feel as a school we have gained so much from the experience. Thank you so much to the parents who came in and ran some valuable sessions for the children! A special shout out to Mrs Austin (Science Co-ordinator) for her time and effort organising the week! The Infants raised a whopping £1855 towards solar panels in their 'Star Jump for Solar' sponsored event. This is a very exciting start to our fundraising target. Thank you so much for all of your sponsors!



Ending the week with a visit from many exciting creatures was a lovely way to round up Science Week. The children asked lots of questions and all really enjoyed being hands on and up close to the animals.



Year 2 this term:

Wildlife Garden

In Science, the Year 2 children have been busy using their designs for the designated 'Wildlife Garden' opposite the classrooms. So far in the project the children have supported local wildlife by installing bird feeders, a bird bath, a willow tunnel, a hedgerow, and sowing some wildflower patches. We're all excited to see everything grow in the summer term!



Travel Agent Event

Year 2 children qualified from their Geography 'Travel Agent Training Camp' this week and opened their 'Travel Agents' on Tuesday 25th March at the Infants. Parents were invited to come and find out about seaside holiday destinations and 'book' their next holiday. The children put in so much effort to create their Travel Posters detailing how to get there, weather and climate and geographical human/physical features. There was a fantastic turn out of customers who came away with some great holiday deals!

Thanks to parents and grandparents for supporting!



Design and Technology

This half term the children have been working in English and across the curriculum from the story 'The Storm Whale'. Some of the activities have included creating a game for the main character Noi as he is lonely on the island where he lives, as well as designing a bag for Noi so he can collect things from the beach to play the class's games. In DT, the children have learnt how to sew a running stitch and design and make a bag. Parents came in to lend a hand on our massive sewing afternoon. Many thanks!

Year 4 Design and Technology

This week, Year 4 have been busy making Easter biscuits as part of their work in design and technology. They worked in small groups to make and bake their biscuits, selecting Easter and Spring themed cutters to shape them. The children then used icing and sprinkles to decorate them. They also had to design, construct and decorate their basket packaging for their biscuits.



Teddy said that he enjoyed the designing as well as having to work together. Toby commented that he was proud of the detail on his basket design. He enjoyed decorating the biscuits and being part of a team when making them.



Junior School Lego Club

Member of the club took part in their final Lego session this week. The pupils, from year 3 to year 6, have collaborated well together on joint builds as well as creating individual models. Island survival shelters and magnificent vehicles have been created. Some children enjoyed seeing just how many minifigures and accessories they could include in their models.



Year 3 Assembly

On the 23rd of March, Year 3 proudly performed their Ancient Egyptian assembly for the school, followed by a fantastic performance for parents on the 24th of March.

The children were absolutely brilliant and performed magnificently, confidently showcasing everything they have been learning this term. From explaining the importance of the River Nile to demonstrating how papyrus was made, they brought their topic to life with enthusiasm and clarity.

One of the highlights was their detailed explanation of mummification, which certainly captured everyone's attention, along with their retelling of the story of Nut's children. The assembly ended with a fun and interactive quiz, where the audience had the chance to test their Ancient Egyptian knowledge.

And of course, we cannot forget the now legendary performance of *Rolling Down the Nile* which has been stuck in our heads ever since (we suspect it may now be stuck in yours too!).

We are incredibly proud of all the children for their hard work, confidence and teamwork. Well done, Year 3!

Year 5 Geography

Year 5 have been very busy this term learning about rivers in their Geography topic. They were lucky enough to get a guided tour of Burnham Beeches waterways with the rangers to see the real human impact on the environment in our local area. Despite the time of year, we managed to avoid the rain and any of the children falling into water in the reserve! The children thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity for outdoor learning and exploring all the different habitats of the Beeches with the expert rangers. Thank you to the wonderful rangers and parent helpers for their time and we look forward to establishing stronger ties between the school and this fantastic local resource.

