



Friday 28th May 2021

Dear All,

Well, we have finally made it to half-term. In some ways it feels like a very long time since the Easter holidays and in others the time has flown by! I realised this week that this is the longest time the children have been in school since Christmas. All of the children have coped fantastically with the return to school and are making good progress in all of their learning.

Hopefully we will be able to continue to relax restrictions as we move towards the summer. We are already planning to restart socially distanced whole school assemblies after half-term which will help us to rebuild that sense of wider school community. We also have provisional dates for some of the traditional events such as sports' day but we will update you as more government guidance arrives.

I hope that the worst of the wet weather is now behind us and we can enjoy some sunshine over the half-term break. Have a lovely, relaxing holiday!

Mrs L Watts, Executive Headteacher

This week in class...

Little Brown Hare: We certainly have felt real contact with the elements this week, the daily change and the surprise giving the children a range of perspectives and sensations. We have been following the children's interests in constructing a winch, experimenting with what works and what doesn't, talking about weight and length. We have also been listening to the story 'Jack and the beanstalk' and acting it out, building our very own beanstalk out of tyres.

Blackbirds: In our second week of the Jack and the Beanstalk project, Blackbirds have worked incredibly hard to write their own little books of the story. All the children have been able to tell their own version and everyone has done their best and most independent writing of the year so far. They have also enjoyed composing music inspired by the story and reading different fairy tales. This week we have also planted out the beans and some of the other vegetables into the garden.

Wagtails: We have been working really hard on improving our learnt version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. We have been looking through the different sections and picking out where we could add additional information/events. The class have really enjoyed filling in some of those missing events/unexplained sections such as Jack and Mum being poor. The ideas for this have ranged from a family tragedy involving Dad to a series of mishaps involving their farm yard animals and a hunger for bank notes! We are really looking forward to writing our own stories using what we have learnt at the end of the week.

Skylarks: Skylarks story writing is building up to a crescendo this week with the final polishing touches being added. I have never seen so many variations of Jack & the Beanstalk -ogres, space aliens, enchanted witches and weird and wonderful characters. If you want to see your child's story they can show you on their Google drive account. The class were also treated to a little science experiment introduced by 'Dr. Kayden' where we learned about the properties of 'oobleck' (yes...I'd not heard of it either!) This was really fun and messy, but lots of ideas came from this about properties of materials and how they behave. Skylarks also entered a poetry writing competition called Peculiar Pets and the judges were so impressed they have all been selected to be entered in a published book for which each family need to give their consent. More details have been sent out in individual letters. Well done Skylarks!!



NEWSLETTER



Thank you!

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Huguette and her granddaughter Lewkay who have donated a wide selection of wonderful wooden toys to our school. These have been shared between Little Brown Hare and Blackbirds and are being thoroughly enjoyed! Thank you for your generosity!



Contract tracing

Over the half-term holiday we are still responsible for track and trace for children in our school. If you do need to isolate or have a positive case within your household, please could you email Mrs Watts. head@bsf.norfolk.sch.uk

Forest School's Furry Friend

Here is a photo of an incredibly friendly mouse we engaged with in the woods last Wednesday. It's a wood mouse with no fear, so did make us think of the Gruffalo!

We all gathered round for quite some time observing it and it wasn't phased in the slightest. We then made a decision to move it to a safe place as it was hanging round base camp where we move about a lot, and we were worried about injuring it. Once removed to a safer place, it reappeared back at base camp within half hour!

Later on in the day, children were playing over the other side of the woodland in a den they'd made and it appeared under a tarp. It hung about at that den for a bit, then hopped and leapt at quite some speed to another part of the woodland, all the time nibbling of food on the woodland floor (mainly beech leaf husks)

Staffing

We are very pleased to announce that we have appointed Gaby Richardson to replace Aggie as Forest School Assistant. She is a very experienced Forest School practitioner and teaching assistant and we are lucky to be able to welcome her back to our team.

Elsewhere, Mr Portas has decided that he would like to move to part-time teaching from September. We have interviewed this week and have recruited Mrs Barker to teach in Skylarks for 50% of the week. Mrs Barker has been working with us as a teaching assistant in Wagtails over the last 18 months and is a much valued member of the team. Mrs Barker is very excited to be returning to teaching and is looking forward to working with Skylarks after the summer.

Dates for your diary

Skylarks Swimming - Fridays - 11th June, 25th June, 9th July

Year 6 Surf School – Tuesdays - 15th June, 22nd June, 29th June, 5th July

Aylsham High School Year 6 Transition Days – 30th June and 1st & 2nd of July

Half Term 31st May to 4th June.

Last Day of Term Wednesday 21st July.



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