



# Half Termly Update

**Autumn 1**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

## **A note from the Headteacher**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to write my first half term newsletter as the new headteacher of this wonderful school. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and families over the past few weeks, and I am very impressed with the positive and supportive community that we have here.

### **Harvest Assembly**

We had a wonderful harvest assembly this half term, with some amazing singing from the children. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the food that we have and to think about those who are less fortunate. We hoped you enjoyed watching some of the videos on the school Facebook page—if you are not already following it, please do to find out more about what is happening in school.

### **Weekly Attendance Celebration**

As part of our Friday celebration assembly, we celebrate weekly attendance in school. This is an exciting initiative, and it is clear that the children are enjoying it— They love to see their name on the wheel for a chance to win a prize. Let's work together to beat this half term's attendance next half term!

### **PTA Halloween Disco**

The PTA Halloween disco was a great success. It was lovely to see so many children having fun dancing together. Thank you to the PTA for organising such a fantastic event. Please do let the PTA know if you would like to offer support at any future events.

### **Looking Ahead**

When we return from half term Year 2 and Year 4 will be in their new classrooms. We are so excited about this and both classes will benefit from their new environments. We also have a lot of exciting things planned for the next half term, including a Christmas concert, a Christingle service at the church and a school Christmas fair. We will make sure to get information about these events to you as soon as possible.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank all of the staff, parents, and children for their support during my first half term as headteacher. I am very excited to be part of this school community, and I look forward to working with you all to make the next half term even better.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break.

**Mrs Samantha Ruck**

**Headteacher**

## Dates for Your Diary 2023-2024

- ❖ **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>-Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Autumn Half Term Holiday**
- ❖ **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October - INSET**
- ❖ Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Children return to school
- ❖ Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Halloween Themed Lunch - Details to follow
- ❖ Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Night Owls Workshop
- ❖ Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Parents Consultations - 3.30pm-6.30pm
- ❖ Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Parents Consultations - 3.30pm-6.30pm
- ❖ Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November - Bonfire Themed Lunch - Details to follow
- ❖ W/C 13<sup>th</sup> November - Nursery Rhyme Week for Nursery & Reception
- ❖ Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Diwali Themed Lunch - Details to follow
- ❖ Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November - PTA Pop Up Stall - after school
- ❖ **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need - Details to follow**
- ❖ **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November - Occasional Day (School Closed)**
- ❖ Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - PTA Christmas Fair - after school
- ❖ Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner / Christmas Jumper Day
- ❖ Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle Service - St Paul's Church
- ❖ Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - Flu Vaccine catchup
- ❖ Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Whole School Panto - in School
- ❖ Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of Autumn 2 Half Term
- ❖ **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023-Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 - Christmas Holidays**
- ❖ **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January - INSET**
- ❖ **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January - INSET**
- ❖ Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January - Children return to school

## Celebration Assembly Awards

<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Class Champion</b>	<b>Pride and presentation</b>	<b>Manners and Helpfulness</b>	<b>Commitment to Reading</b>	<b>Outstanding Achievement</b>
Reception - Apple	Ollie	Izzy	Chris	Laila	Jayden
Year 1 - Blossom	Maverick	Hella	Tavghun	Bertie	William
Year 2 - Coconut	Musawir	Nathan	Matei	Bradley	Esmee
Year 3 - Chestnut	Justina	Akshara	Maja	Ryleigh	Anthony
Year 4 - Lilac	Oliver	Shay	Chloe	Johannah	Amelia
Year 5 - Peach	Brett	Kate	Hannah	Sophia	Joshua
Year 6 - Cedar	Amelia	Ivy	Jessie	Imogen	Charley

## What have we been learning this Half Term?

### Saplings



The children in Nursery have made a great start to their school journey. They have had many learning journeys such as listening to each other, waiting for their turn to talk and share the resources. They have loved learning outside, in particular the water play, mud kitchen and other forms of sensory experiences. While they have been outside, the children have been gaining gross motor skills, communicating their needs appropriately and working together building friendships.

### Apple

What a fantastic start the children have had to the year!! They have all settled into the routine of the school day, in particular lunch time, where lots of children have been coming out of their comfort zone to try different types of meals. They are all loving learning, especially phonics; we have learnt many of the sounds and now we are focusing on blending and segmenting. During our theme sessions, we have been finding out about each other such as our families, what we live in and the town of Letchworth. We have also explored the season 'Autumn' and 'wowed!' the school when we sang our harvest song 'Big Red Combine Harvester'.



### Blossom

It has been an exciting first half term in Year 1 and the children have settled in brilliantly. In English we have been looking at the story of 'Astro Girl' and the children have been learning all about space exploration and have completed a fact file on the moon. In maths this half term we have been looking at place value building on their knowledge from reception. In science the children have been learning all about weather and seasons and they have made homemade rain gauges as well as wind socks, which they really enjoyed. They have also been looking at the life of the queen in history and in one of the lessons designed a new outfit for the queen! This last week they rode bikes and they were amazing.

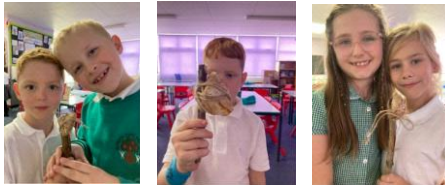
### Coconut

What a busy start to the year we've had in Year 2 with lots of fantastic learning taking place! In English we have been learning about nouns, adjectives, verbs and conjunctions and using these in lots of different ways linked to the book we have been using - Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Lauren Child. In Maths, we have been learning about the place value of 2-digit numbers. We have used different equipment to make and compare numbers and in the last couple of weeks we have started looking at addition and subtraction too. We've been learning about living things and their habitats in science, and Letchworth Garden City in History. The children really enjoyed looking at old pictures of the town and seeing buildings they recognise. And we even managed to squeeze in bikeability which the children thoroughly enjoyed. It was great to see their confidence when riding a bike grow across the session.

## What have we been learning this Half Term?

### Chestnut

Year 3 have had a great start to the year and are settling down into their learning. In English we have studied two books, the BFG and The Tear Thief. The children have worked hard on their writing and are gaining more stamina in preparation for the rest of the year. In Maths we have worked on place value and addition and subtraction. They are becoming more familiar with the 2, 5 and 10 x table. In History we have been researching all about the Stone Age and we made some real flint tools. In Science, the children have been learning about forces and magnets and in RE we reflected on what it means to make promises as a Sikh during the Amrit Ceremony. Well done Chestnut Class.



### Lilac

Year 4 have been reading the book Tar Beach this half term and have been turning it into a script. There has been lots of acting done and the scripts are nearly ready for us to perform to each other on Friday. I cannot wait! In Science, we have been learning about how things change state and we did an experiment with a mystery ice hand and observed it throughout the day. Our artwork has been based on William Morris and we have loved using paint and Styrofoam to make our prints.

### Peach

Year 5 have had a term packed full of learning. In writing, the children have been inspired by the book 'Robot Girl' by Malorie Blackman and they wrote their own Science Fiction stories. In October we have been reading the book Hidden Figures which has inspired us to write memoirs about the first black women who worked for NASA and helped put a man on the moon. In Maths, we have looked at Place Value and Addition and Subtraction as well as trying to fill any gaps in our times tables knowledge. We have learnt about the Battle of Bosworth and why it was the fashion to have rotten teeth on Elizabethan times. We have tested the properties for materials in Science and we are excited to write back to some French children who have sent us letters. A great start to the year!

### Cedar

This half term we have been learning about events during World War II and about the reasons why it happened as well as rationing, women at war and the Holocaust. In Science we have learnt about the heart and how the blood is transported around the body. Also, we have learnt that keeping healthy and eating a balanced diet is good for our heart and arteries. For English the children have worked through two books, 'The Arrival' which is about being a migrant and 'The Last Bear' which is themed on the global warming of the ice caps. We have covered many areas of grammar as well as adapting our writing based on different audiences.