

Half Termly Update



Summer 1

Friday 26th May 2023

A note from the Headteachers

We've had a very busy half term at GCA and it's been wonderful meeting the children, parents and families over the last few weeks. Year 6 and Year 2 have showed resilience and determination in doing their best in their SATS and we are very proud of them all.

Gripping Tales Theatre Company came into school on Wednesday. The KS2 play was called Bluebirds and told the story of WW2 including some of the songs that were sung at the time. Also, Year 3 were lucky enough to enjoy an online question and answer session with Chrissie Sains the author of our class book this half term "An alien in the jam factory" she answered all sorts of questions including how she become an author and what her favourite jam flavour is.



Behaviour has been a real focus of the half term and working alongside the team in school and Governors, we are delighted with the improvements seen across the school. Our learning environment is calm and purposeful and children speak confidently about positive attitudes across the school. Mrs Schofield and the lunch time team have reorganised the lunch time so there are a range of organised activities available every day and our new team of playground leaders in Years 5/6 have been a real help.

It was a pleasure to welcome everyone into school for our Coronation event and hearing the children sing so brilliantly. Thank you to the many parents who attended, we were very lucky the rain held off!



We are looking forward to welcoming you into school next half term and are very excited about a live circus event on 8th July, organised by the PTA, here at GCA. Please do purchase tickets to come to the circus and support the school and PTA in the process! The PTA work very hard in organising events and we are grateful for their continued support.

Have a lovely half term break.

Mrs Jenny Redgrove and Mrs Rachael Stevenson

Headteachers

General Reminders

Attendance - Thank you for your support in ensuring children are in school by 8.45am. A Reminder, classroom doors open at 8.40 (8.30 for Years 5 and 6) and the gate closes at 8.50am. Regular attendance is vital to ensure your children learn and make progress. Please ensure that if your child is well, they come to school and be a hero. **HERO - Here Everyday Ready On time!**

Uniform - Children do need to be dressed in the correct uniform - Jeans and trainers are not permitted.

Lost Property - We have a very large amount of unnamed lost property. We can't return lost items if they are not clearly named, so please remember...**NAME everything!** Lost property will be outside classrooms so please have a look.

The Nest - After half term this room will be known as 'The Woodland Room' and the room within is called 'The Rainbow Room'. These are not the only changes for the rooms. Miss Fry and Mrs Firth will be in the rooms full-time, supporting the children with their work or understanding their emotions and how to deregulate. The changes to how the Woodland Room and Rainbow Room are run and their uses will be explained to the children when they return, during an assembly.

What have we been learning this Half Term?

Nursery



This half term, Nursery have been busy learning about the great outdoors. We have been busy planting seeds, digging the garden, cooking and tasting different fruits and vegetables.



We have been discovering what minibeasts live in the Nursery garden and talking about how we care for the world around us.



Reception

Apple Class children were visited by a special story teller this week. We learnt all about our feelings and how to sign them.

Thank you Ohoh and Simon for spending time with us.



Year 1



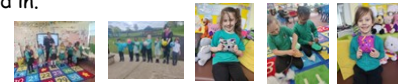
Year 1 have had a very productive half term! We have focussed on writing a range on non-fiction texts and discovered how to clearly explain multiplication and sharing in our Maths lessons.

In Art we explored clay to create our own design on a clay tile and presented our learning about 'The Wright Brothers' to our families. Everyone who came to watch our presentation was proud of us!



Year 2

WOW! What a half term. We have been learning about the artist Emma Bridgewater, experimenting with clay and making our own pots. In Science we have looked at materials, especially ones that are suitable for playground games. The children have been looking at playground equipment and investigating different types of balls, what they are made from and which ones bounce the highest or travel the furthest. In DT the children finished making their own mini pillows. They showed great sewing skills. In History we have been GCA historians looking at famous explorers such as Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. The children showed great teamwork and produced a model of a ship that Christopher Columbus may have sailed in.



Year 3



This half term Year 3 have really enjoyed their History topic on the Ancient Egyptians. Learning all about the pharaohs, pyramids and tombs, their favourite lesson being mummification - especially the process of removing the brain through the nose via a long hook!

In English we have produced newspaper articles all about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the impact that had on the town of Pompeii and in Science we have been learning all about light.



Year 4

Lilac Class have been learning about The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. They have written their own version of the first part of the story and the photos show some of the children performing an oral retelling of the story to help them remember it!



In science, we have been learning about states of matter and had great fun doing experiments turning water into ice as well as exploring what makes ice melt. In history, the children have been learning about the Vikings including village life, weapons and armour. In maths we have learnt about decimals and in P.E, the children have been doing amazingly with their swimming and also learning athletics skills.

Year 5

This half term we have been learning about our bodies and how they change as we get older - the children have taken a very mature approach to learning about puberty. In English we looked at a historical legend text called Beowulf - the children have been writing an obituary and have written their own legend story. We have also learnt about the Industrial revolution and how it changed the dynamics of the country and how populations grew as factories were built and machinery took over manual labour. Year 5 also enjoyed learning about the Tour de France in their French lessons this half term with Mrs McCusker.



Year 6

Cedar class have been working on stop-motion animation. First they planned their animation on paper, then made characters out of clay and a background scene.



They then took lots of photos while moving their characters tiny amounts, to make their characters come to life.

The results were fantastic!

Celebration Assembly Awards

Summer 1	Class Champion	Pride and presentation	Manners and Helpfulness	Commitment to Reading	Outstanding Achievement
Nursery	Zennon	Noah O	Isabella	Laila	Noah M
Reception	Joey	Iris	Riley	Lucus	Nico
Bluebell	Sinead	Bradley	Theo	Tommy	Bella
Blossom	David	Nathaniel	Stanley	Musawir	Tate
Coconut	Elsie-May	Jesse	Violet	Anthony	Maximus
Chestnut	Noah	Charlie-Jay	Amelia	Emily	Oscar
Lilac	Archie	Ethan	Aleenah	Blake	Freddie
Peach	Maddie	Kyra	Jessie	Jack	Saboor
Cedar	Reuben	Lucie	Lacey-Kay	Alesha	Sienna

Dates for Your Diary

- Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June - Summer Half Term
- Monday 5th June - Children return to school
- Wednesday 7th June - International Day
- Monday 12th - Friday 16th June - Phonics Screening Week - Year 1
- Friday 16th June - Book Trust Pyjamarama Day - Wear your PJ's to school (Details to follow)
- Friday 16th June - Fathers Day Breakfast 8.30am-9.30am (Details to follow)
- Wednesday 21st June - PTA Reading Event 2pm (Details to follow)
- Thursday 29th June - Garden House Hospice visit Year 6
- Tuesday 4th July - Sports Day - Nursery & Reception AM / Years 1-6 PM (Reserve day Monday 10th July)
- Thursday 6th July - Garden House Hospice visit Year 6
- Friday 7th July - North Herts Sports Partnership - School Games
- Saturday 8th July - PTA Circus Event (Details to follow)**
- Monday 17th July - Nursery Celebration and Teddy Bears Picnic
- Wednesday 19th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly and Pizza Party
- Thursday 20th July - Last day of Term
- Friday 21st July - Inset Day
- Friday 1st September - Inset Day
- Monday 4th September - Children return to school

