



Key Dates 2018

15th November
Year two trip to
Weald Park

15th November
PTA AGM—Three
Horse Pub 7pm

16th November
Year three trip to
Colchester Zoo

16th November
Children in Need
day—come to
school in your
PJ's

27th November
Flu immunisa-
tions

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Jerounds Journal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the final half of our autumn term - the term that plays host to so many wonderful celebratory opportunities for all of our children. Whilst the children will continue to be on a full curriculum focus until the 17th December, we have added a superb variety of enrichment programmes for the next six weeks that will inspire and excite the children in equal measure...

Onto more educational matters... During a recent conversation with a work colleague, he and I began thinking about the key qualities that have been crucial to turning our schools into forward thinking communities. Moreover, we considered the battle with semantics that often takes place in educational forums. Words like pedagogy, metacognition, differentiation, oracy – to name but a few – enabling those within the educational 'club' to have conversations those on the outside (possibly parents) may find hard to understand.

For the most part, this jargon is limited to specialist literature. When we talk to the world outside of education we tend to opt for simpler terminology to help parents decipher what makes our schools special. Phrases such as 'single-sex', 'co-educational', 'senior school', 'primary school', and 'sixth form' are all pretty straightforward. 'State' and 'independent', too, are generally understood. But what about 'selective', 'non-selective', or 'mixed ability', are they equally clear?

Our school, Jerounds Primary Academy, is a co-educational primary school for children from EYFS (Reception) to Year 6; so far so good. We are non-academically selective, with a penchant and thus deliberating moving towards 'mixed ability' teaching.

Unfortunately, as I recently discovered, labelling our school as 'mixed ability' says very little about the many fabulous initiatives that we deliver daily for our children. After all, a school that didn't have a mix of abilities would be pretty bizarre. Can you imagine an England football team comprised of players with exactly the same ability as Harry Kane? Or an England rugby team full of Owen Farrell? No matter how academically selective any school is, there is only ever going to be one person who is top of the class - despite the wants and aspirations of all parents! Every school is 'mixed ability' – **it is the range of abilities within a school that varies.**

Then we have to consider where a pupil's abilities lie. An eight-year-old child who may be amazing at maths and English can also be brilliant at the piano, have a passion for history and progress to the top of the class over the next 10 years. Conversely, a pupil who has made wonderful progress in primary school may find the challenges of senior school very difficult and may need to develop confidence in other areas to succeed beyond the school gates.

In over 10 years of teaching, the least rewarding class I have ever taught was one where all pupils were taught to the test, in the expectation that they would get the highest grades but at the cost of nurturing intellectual curiosity and developing a life-long love of the subject. Pupils' individual learning needs were less of a priority than the school's league table status. That school would have been described as 'academically selective'.

Jerounds is not like that – it is 'mixed ability'; we have a broader range of academic abilities. Moreover, we purposefully identify those with strengths in the arts, in music, sport and in drama and provide them with wonderful opportunities to pursue these interests, to celebrate them and through them to build confidence and resilience.

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Those who are academically strong are pushed to achieve great things in maths and also challenged to cook a great meal or cover their Brownie/Scout sash with many worthwhile badges. Free from concerns about league tables, we are able to identify the right knowledge-based curriculum for each child; we build their confidence in areas in which they are strong and support them when they need more time to make progress.

The 'ability mix' that we celebrate is both within subjects and between subjects. It is celebrated in our many extra-curricular activities. It is celebrated when our Head Boy and Head Girl, and Pupil Advocates proudly give tours of the school; when they learn to talk with confidence in front of an audience and when they make a positive contribution to the community (weekly in assemblies).

It may be true that every school has mixed ability pupils, but it is not true to say that every school celebrates this diversity. As a mixed ability school, I believe we have a responsibility to do precisely that – to sing and shout about how wonderful this makes mixed ability teaching. Our education system is so obsessed with categorising and labelling that it's easy to forget that a good school can cater equally for the pupil who wants to go off to Oxbridge and the pupil who wants to become a chef or car mechanic. A good mixed ability school can do that. And parents have a right to know that is exactly what a mixed ability education provides.

Mrs Laura Ciftci BA (Hons) MEd
Head of School
Jerounds Primary Academy



Dates for your Diary

4th December—KS2 Rapunzel trip

5th December—KS1 A Christmas Carol (in school)

7th December—Christmas Fayre—5pm to 7pm

11th December—KS1 Christmas concert 2.30pm—3.30pm

12th December—KS1 Christmas concert 2.30pm—3.30pm

12th December—EYFS and KS1 disco—4.30pm—6pm

12th December—Years 3 and 4 disco—4.30pm—6pm

12 December—Years 5 and 6 disco—6.15pm—7.45pm

14th December—Christmas jumper day

14th December—Christmas dinner day

17th December—KS2 Christmas concert—Eagles, Falcons, Owls and Puffins 9.15am—10.30am

17th December KS2 Christmas concert—Swans, Ravens, Nightingales and Merlins—2.30pm—3.30pm

18th December—Children finish school for Christmas

Scarecrow Competition



Our budding gardeners entered into a Scarecrow competition run by Pets Corner in Harlow. Look at their fabulous work! We are currently on tenterhooks awaiting the result. Watch this space.....



Gymnastics Star



After many hours of rigorous training, this flexible young lady has passed her Essex County Grade for Gymnastics.

She competed on all four pieces of apparatus and passed with distinction!

Fantastic work, we are very proud of you.



A visit to the Houses of Parliament



It was an amazing experience. After going through intense security searches, we were met by a Junior Political clerk who personally escorted us around the Westminster Palace, St Stephen Church, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We learnt some amazing facts that the original Westminster Palace was indeed over 1000 years old and has the biggest oak roof in Europe. There were many steps to climb and we saw beautiful portraits of Royalty, dating back to the 1st King of England. King William. It was amass with sculptures of politician leaders, including Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill. The House of Commons was indeed much smaller than depicted on T.V. We were also told that it was in fact illegal to sit on any on green and red leather benches around Parliament as you must be a Member of Parliament and /or a Lord/Baroness. We were shown the door that Black Rod bangs on, when Parliament is opened by the Queen. We also found out that before a commons debate they have 3 minutes of prayer. There is a box which they lean on, this sits on the table, this box contains a prayer book and an oath they swear when they become an MP and when they lean on the box, this advocates they are telling the truth. We were then taken to Robert Halfon's office, whereby he asked what school we went to, and he spoke of the future plans for Harlow.

We feel very privileged and humble to see how history is made.



Remembrance Service



Jerounds held a poignant Remembrance Service today. With children listening to two thought provoking poems, watching the laying of a Wreath in school, sitting brilliantly during our two minutes silence and finishing off with Year six singing 'Remember' beautifully. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Wiltshire, our amazing singing teacher and Mr Thompson-Clarke who stood in on the day.



EYFS News



We welcome you back after our lovely half-term break!

We have had a successful week exploring Autumn activities. We looked at Autumn leaves, Pumpkins and conkers. The children used their senses to see, feel and smell them.

In Maths, the children used playdough to make hedgehogs and used sticks to put the correct number of spikes.

Our children also enjoyed making fireworks and bonfire collages.

We observed two minutes silence today and made poppies to mark

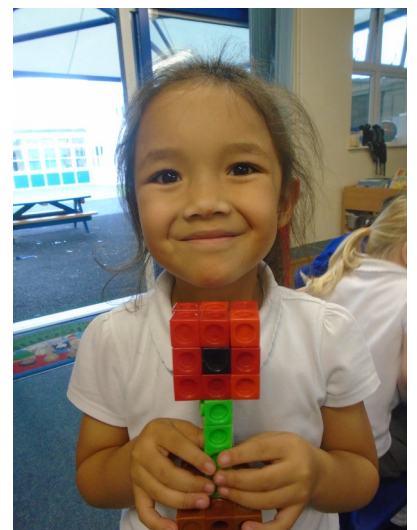


Year One News

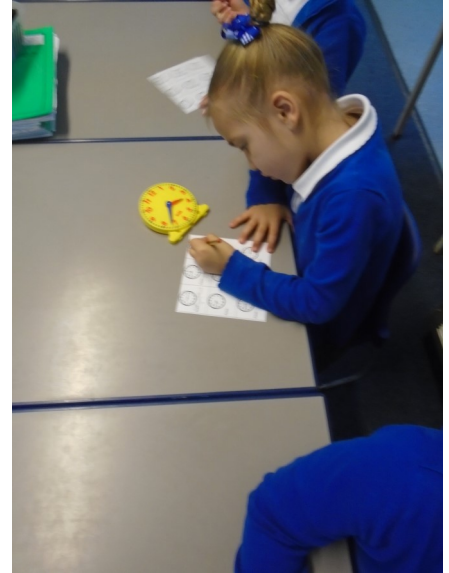


This week Kingfishers have been learning the story about Rama and Sita in RE and why Diwali is celebrated at this time of year. The children have designed rangoli patterns and also made Diwali cards for their friends and family -and some even for their teddies!

In Sparrows we learned about Remembrance Day and what a poppy represents. The children used printing and collage techniques to make their picture.



Year Two News



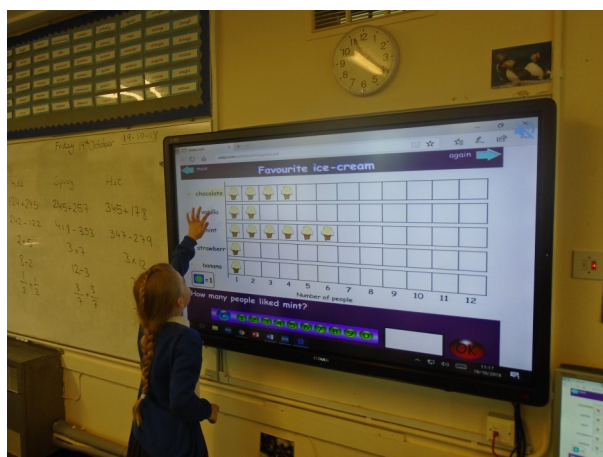
This week in year two the children have been very busy with all things time related. We all realised just how important this skill is in real life (also reducing the amount of times we ask what the time is!) At the start of the week we looked at all the different units of time including minutes, hours, days, weeks and months. Our focus then turned to reading an analogue time, identifying where the minute and hour hand is. This is a skill we will need to keep working on at home to get super confident and we're sure it won't take us too much *time*



Year Three News

This week in Year three, we have explored the world of statistics. Our pupils have had the opportunity to interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables.

What a wonderful mathematical week we have had!



Year Four News



In Year 4 we have been looking at addition and subtraction in maths using written and mental calculation methods. We have also started a very exciting book called Olafs Saga in English, through this year 4 are writing in role as the main character. On Monday we had a very noisy afternoon, investigating sound and how it is made using musical instruments. All of year 4 thoroughly enjoyed this!

There has also been a focus on poppy day and learning why we wear poppies and the significance of the end of world war one.

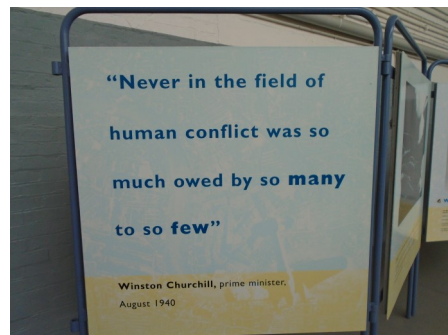
It's been a great week, we have loved having the children back but please remember to send them in with a coat and if they haven't already bring their P.E kit in. Thank you!



Year Five News



Year 5 took a trip back in time to visit Duxford air museum to take a look at amazing Spitfires, Concorde and Lancaster bombers. Year 5 actually walked through the first Concorde, which can travel 22 miles a minute at a speed of over 1000mph!



Year Six News



This week we have begun studying Michael Morpurgo's classic "War Horse." The story recounts the experiences of Joey, a horse purchased by the Army for service in World War I France and the attempts of young Albert, his previous owner, to bring him safely home. It formed the basis of both an award winning play (2007) and an acclaimed film adaptation (2011) by Steven Spielberg. This complements our Topic focus of World Wars 1 and 2 where we will also be learning about Sir Winston Churchill, the MP for Epping. The highlight of this week though, was the poignant Remembrance Day Service held on Friday in which we paid our respects, in words and music and in the symbolic laying of a wreath, to those men and women who bravely gave up their lives for our freedom.



Another fantastic birthday book donations. Five Run Away Together!

Thank you very much!



POLITE REMINDERS

- Please could you make sure that your child/children does not wear jewellery to school as we have a 'No Jewellery Policy'.
- Please could all children come to school in the correct uniform.
- Could children please have a PE kit, sun cream and sun hat in the warmer weather. Please refer to the website for further details.
- Please can you not park in the school car park when dropping your child off to breakfast club.
- Please can you ensure that if your child has long hair, that it is tied back before the start of the day.

Parking: Polite reminder—Please consider road safety requirements and our neighbours when dropping off and collecting your children; especially within the proximity of the school gates.

**Have you moved recently?
Have you changed your telephone number?**

Please ensure you advise the school office if you have moved or changed your telephone number. This also applies to any emergency contacts you have for your child/children.

Admin email: office@jerounds.netacademies.net

Telephone: 01279 423485

Attendance Matters

ABSENCE: To report your child's absence, please call the school office on: **01279 423485**

Please leave your child's name, class and reason for absence. Failure to report your child's absence will result in an unauthorised absence being recorded and further action may be taken.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL: Please note that when taking your child/children out of school, this may result in a penalty notice being issued. This will be £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to **EACH** parent for **EACH** child taken out of school.

POLITE REMINDER: Our school hours are:

KS1—8.45am—3.45pm (3.30pm for EYFS)

KS2—8.45am—3.45pm

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



Want easy access to Parentmail?
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Parentmail messages instantly.