

PTA, HT Update, April 2016

Science Week, organised by our Science Leader Mrs Kennedy

The children in school love science and enjoy experiments and finding out. This week we are growing setting, setting up experiments, watching what happens to caterpillars and planting. We are also working with Gatton Park, who are running workshops with the children in our wild area. Here is what they are doing with each year group:

Reception – ‘Sensory’ theme – interpreting nature using our senses.

- The underworld – explore the unusual world from an ant’s eye viewpoint
- Natural orchestra – use natural objects to make sounds
- Secrets boxes – use sense of touch to find natural objects to match to different textures
- Colour card – use sense of sight to produce a palette of different natural colours
- Smell?
- Build a garden (depending on time & what available in wild area) – in trays of sand each group builds their own sensory/butterfly garden using ‘natural found’ materials

Year 1 – ‘Plants/trees’

Story – ‘Mouse finds a seed’

- Squirrel seed hide – a game pretending to be squirrels hiding nuts & seeds for later
- Seed Tig (*playground) – a run around game to find out what seedlings need to grow into healthy plants
- Parts of a plant – in groups find the labels and captions for parts of a flowering plant. Find out how each part helps the plant live and grow
- Parts of a tree – game to find out what goes on in the different parts of a tree
- Leaves hanging around Wild area and in groups have to identify tree to which leaves belong



Year 2 – Minibeasts

- What is a minibeast? Which insects do you know? Where do they live?
- Unature trail - spotting objects that should not be in a wild area - to discuss camouflage.
- Dig around soil in Wild Area to find out what is living there.
- Turn over logs & stones in Wild Area to find out which insects live there
- Use sweep nets on bushes to find out which insects live there
- Build a bug using natural materials (depending on what available)
- Food chains - discussion of simple food chains including the animals we find.



Thank you to the PTA for this amazing opportunity.

Indian Bollywood Dancing for Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed their Indian Dance workshop as a celebration at the end of their topic on India. Hannah taught them all about 2 styles of dance. They loved learning some of the hand signs used in Classical dance storytelling, and the lively music of Bollywood dance! All of the children worked really hard in their workshop, and used their learning in the literacy work that followed – writing information pages about Indian Dance.



African Drumming Session for Year 1

As a part of their study of Kenya, Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic workshop using African drums - we learnt that they are called "djembe". They chanted songs as they beat the drums and the children learnt and played all sorts of games. It was great to have a drum each to hold!



New Storage in Grasshoppers and Dragonflies

The new storage that has been bought for school looks absolutely fantastic. It has improved the appearance of Grasshoppers and Dragonflies classrooms enormously. The children have found it much easier to access the resources in the classroom as a result of the neat and clearly labelled drawers, which are easy to pull out and push back in. Thank you!

RE Day for the whole school

The theme for this year's RE Day was love, which we linked to the RE learning on Easter. We discussed how much love Jesus had for us when he died and rose again at Easter. Every year group had a Barnabus workshop about the story of Easter which the children thoroughly enjoyed because it gave them a chance to immerse themselves in the Easter story and hear it in a new way with drama.

Two things to come

Music, by Robyn Wright the school's Music Leader

This term we are planning some very exciting things regarding music in the school. Firstly we are entering the Reigate and Redhill Music festival on May 3rd where we hope to retain our title as Infant Choir Champions for the second year running!

We also have planned a Baroque themed musical workshop/performance funded very kindly by the PTA . The performance goes back to the 1600's and they perform using Lutes and guitars and explain a little about the baroque era. After this they form a Reigate Parish Church School samba band and get some of the children up to perform with them. It promises to be an unforgettable music experience. It is going to be at some point during the last two weeks of term.

Coach for Year 2 to attend the Year 2 Leaver's Service at St Peter's in Tandridge

Every year all the Year 2 children from the Southwark Diocese infant schools have a special day together to celebrate their three years in their infant school and to look forward to going into Year 3. Often the theme is about friendship. Each year a different infant school (there are four in total: St Peter's in Tandridge, St Peter and St Paul in Chaldon, Limpsfield Infant and Reigate Parish) hosts the event. Last year we hosted it at St Mary's and Sarah K and Jo A planned the day with Sparkfish. Everyone really enjoyed it.

It is a great help to the parents to have the coach paid for by the PTA because it means there is no cost to parents for their child to go to this event.

This year, even though we are expanding to a Primary School, all our year 2 children will attend this event because they are all moving on from being in the infants to going up into the juniors.