



Newtown Linford Primary School

Half-termly newsletter: 31st March 2023

Dear parents,

We cannot believe it is the Easter Holidays! We are looking forward to the lighter evenings of summer, sports day, a Key Stage 2 performance and maybe even the odd ice cream in a staff meeting!

This morning in briefing we were able to celebrate so many successes, whether that was individual children, staff or teams. It has been a long term but it is wonderful to finish with so many positives. The biggest one being the progress our children are making in reading. This was an area of focus this year and we can clearly see the fruits of all of our labour. Have a great break!

Mrs Proudman and Mrs Kennedy

School Values

Individuality

Excellence

Adventures

This term's focus is –

Individuality



Upcoming dates

21st April - Forest School - Linford Class and then each Friday afternoon until half term

28th April - Year 6 dental survey—please return your consent form to the office if you haven't already

1st May - Bank holiday (school closed)

8th May - Bank holiday for the King's Coronation (school closed)

9th-12th May - Year 6 SATs

23rd May - Class photos (and individual photos if your child missed these in November)

Month of May - Year 2 SATs



Safeguarding

We still regularly have children tell staff they are playing games and watching shows that are rated much older than their age. The National Online Safety website provides parent guides on online content and different games available e.g. Fortnite. It is clear and written by experts.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Bake Off

I am still recovering from eating so much cake!

Our winners River and Lainey attended Brookvale Groby

this week to take part in a baking session. The children loved it and we are hoping to run more competitions like this in the future.



SATs Boosters

SATs are coming up soon after the Easter break. We have been so pleased with all the effort the children have put in this term. So that the children can go into these as confident as possible we will be sending home revision packs for over the break. It is amazing how much you can forget in two weeks without checking in.

We are also asking all children to attend revision sessions with us and/or Mr Brierley. These will be offered from 8.00am Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the three weeks following Easter. Children can bring a breakfast snack. For those children who have siblings, these children can bring a book and join in the classroom. Please do contact us if there are any issues.



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Red Nose Day

Newtown Linford raised £117 for Red Nose Day this year. Thank you!

House Winners

This term's winners are Fallow Deer with a whopping 978 dojos, congratulations! We hope you enjoy your non-uniform day.

Linford Class

Well where did this half term go! As always the children have been working extremely hard and as a result continue to make fantastic progress. This term the focus in theme has been travel and how it has changed. The children have really enjoyed finding out about trains, steam trains in particular, and discovering how cars in 'the olden days' didn't even have a roof! Our focus story has been Mrs Armitage Queen of the Road and the children have produced some amazing work around the character and her car. In maths they have been doing



lots of weighing, measuring and capacity. In science the children continued to look closely at materials and carried out experiments to find out which materials would keep a teddy dry and which materials were opaque. They have also been a focus on Belonging and they have been finding out what happens during Mothering Sunday, Shabbat, Aqiqah and Easter. Of course one of the highlights of this half term was the snow and they enjoyed making snowmen. Have a great Easter from all of us in



Bradgate Class

This half-term has flown by! We began the half-term at The Curve Theatre watching the fantastic performance of Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson. In class, we have enjoyed learning about maps; locating and comparing physical and human features on a map of Newtown Linford and



Leicester. In science we have been learning about plants; identifying the names and functions of the parts of plants. Our art also linked to this, as we learnt some sketching skills, creating an observational drawing of a plant. In maths we have been learning about



weight, mass and volume and how we measure these. In English we have really enjoyed reading The Pirate's Next Door. We have also written our own adventure story... the sequel to The Snail and The Whale by Julia Donaldson and shared these with Linford Class. Have a lovely Easter break (don't forget there are lots of tasks to complete on MyMaths, and keep up with your reading !)





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Tyburn Class

Tyburn have had a fantastic half term filled with lots of wonderful experiences. Earlier this term we visited Thinktank Museum and the children had a fun filled, educational day and took part in lots of scientific experiments and closely observed the science around them. This led us to the topic focus this term, Blue Planet. We have examined the impact of climate change and how can we make a difference. Through DT and Art children have created wonderful sculptures from recycled materials and wrote a persuasive letter to put together all of our great writing features.



Year 3 and 4 have worked really hard in maths, converting fractions or measures and it has been amazing to see every single one of us trying to get onto the going deeper. We have challenged ourselves and worked really hard. We are pleased with how well all the children are progressing. Best of luck for summer term!

Mrs Ismail and Mrs Botterill.

A note from Mrs Ismail- I wish Tyburn a wonderful break and a great next term. I will be looking out for lots of great achievements and amazing smiles all the way. I will back to see how your wonderful journey is going.

Old John Class

In Old John, we've had a great end to our second Spring term!

We've written a persuasive letter about deforestation to the United Nations, an instructional text with our own Bear Grylls style rainforest survival guide, and our own narrative based off the short film 'Ride of Passage'. We've developed our understanding of all sorts of persuasive devices, complex sentences, adverbials and the features of a letter and instructional text, such as bullet-points, sub-headings and formality.

In our Maths, we've been developing our understanding of

percentages, algebra and angles, which has really been testing our noggins! Luckily, the class has all been really applying themselves in Maths, especially when it comes to our explanations and reasoning.

In our Theme lessons, we've been learning about the history of the rainforest, why tigers are entering into cities

and leaving their habitats, and how a rainforest is structured. In our

Science, we've learnt materials – doing experiments to compare thermal conductivity, observing how solutions can be separated with Diet Coke and Mentos, and thought about reversible and irreversible changes with bicarbonate of soda and white vinegar.



Creatively, we've also been sketching parts of the school, using local

artwork to inspire and sketch, thinking about perspective and how we can represent objects proportionally to others.

Our **biggest** achievement is reading nearly 2,000,000 words as a class in total over 5 weeks! This is a phenomenal achievement and I'm so proud of everybody for quizzing and working so hard on their reading all term. Well done to **The Beasts** and commiserations for the **Ratatouilles**!

See you next term!

- Mr Brierley and Miss Hammond

Year 6 SATS Presentation

Here is the link to last years papers. Please do **not** do these with your child, it is for information purposes only.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials>

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Attendance

Children having good attendance is so important to us at Newtown Linford Primary School. We see the huge difference it makes to children when they are here for complete units of learning, in terms of their attainment but also their confidence. We do understand there will be times children are unwell but please do check with us if you are unsure. We will always send children home if they are not well enough when in school.

Attendance percentages for each class, since Christmas, are as follows...

Linford—96.8%
Bradgate— 95.1%
Tyburn— 95.3%
Old John— 95.5%

An Eggcellent Competition

Thank you to the PTA for organising and all the children who participated. Miss Botterill and I (Mrs Kennedy) were the judges and it was an eggxtremely difficult job!

Congratulations to the winners in each class which I have listed. There were also three runners up in each class, well done.

Linford— Genevieve
Bradgate— Beau
Tyburn— Elijah D
Old John— Tyler

Massed Choir

On Wednesday evening, after many weeks of rehearsing as a choir, a group of our children performed at DeMontfort Hall in a massed choir event.

Not only was the performance absolutely spectacular but Mrs Proudman tells me that our children were the best behaved school of the whole event.



Leicester Riders

Key Stage 2 will have the opportunity to partake in basketball training with coaches from the Leicester Riders next term. This will be on **Thursdays** and **Old John** and **Tyburn** will need to come in PE Kit.



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Reading Fluency

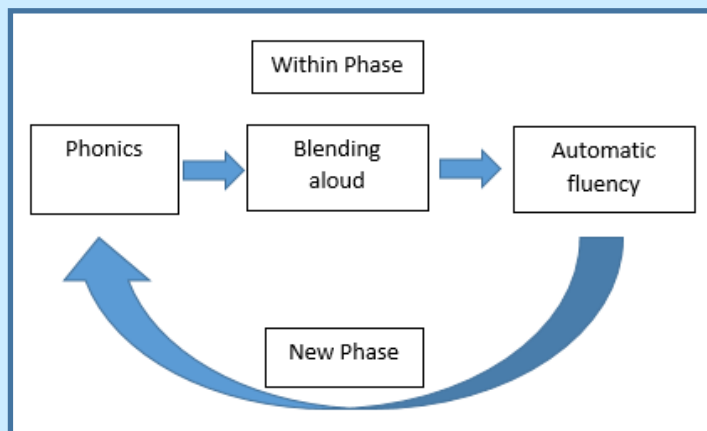
This year we have been learning about the process of learning to read. There has been much new research, particularly on phonics, on how we all read.

It is now evident that we use our phonics much more than we realise. When we are fluent readers what we are doing is decoding and blending extremely quickly, so fast we do not notice. This is named 'automatic blending'.

In order to reach this level of competency we must first become familiar with all the phonic sounds. Then how to decode and blend these.

Eventually, by practicing this thousands of times we are able to do this fluently, 'automatic blending'. This will take different lengths of time for different children. This is also why we ask your children to read the same book lots of times. They are learning to decode fluently through doing this.

Eventually, they will become fluent in the phase they are in and the process begins again with the new phase.



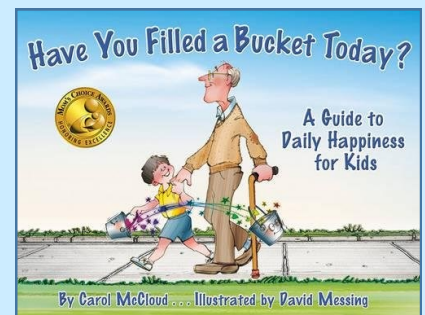
Bucket Book

Some of you may remember 'the bucket book' we focused on a couple of years ago. Officially named, 'Have you filled a bucket today?'

It is a book that discusses kindness and happiness. This term we have had a few instances of unkindness and where we do recognise children make mistakes we always want to promote a culture of kindness.

The concept is that everyone has an invisible bucket. We can fill other people's buckets by saying kind words, giving compliments or helping them out. We can fill our own bucket by doing activities we enjoy.

Please listen out for the positivity next term.



World Book Day

Here are some of the photos of the fantastic world book day we celebrated this term.

Teachers swapped classes to read to a different group of children. Children also paired with a reading buddy to share a book together.

Finally, children were able to choose a book from the swap shop. They really enjoyed this and thank you so much for all the books that were donated.

