

Preparing young people for a lifetime of learning

# News

December 2022 | Issue 14



## Welcome!



As we approach the end of a very busy half term can I thank everyone for all the support we receive. This year we have had the highest attendance at parents evening since I joined the academy and the parents who completed the Ofsted parent View form were overwhelmingly positive with 100% of those asked saying they would recommend the academy.

**We are committed to giving our children as many extra curricular opportunities as possible and this term we have had a number of exciting trips, visits and visitors including:**

- Every child has had the chance to see a pantomime
- EYFS have had the owls to visit
- Year 4 have visited Chester to investigate the Romans
- Year 3 visited Chester Zoo
- Year 2 visited a local farm.

We have many more arranged for next term.

Our Community Hub has gone from strength to strength this term with an increasingly wide range of activities. Please ask at Reception if you are interested in being involved.

No matter whether you do or don't celebrate Christmas please have a wonderful restful break.

**Merry Christmas**

Mr Fowler



## Attendance results

Group	% Attend
Nursery	90.19%
Reception	86.27%
Year 1	90.84%
Year 2	93.52%
Year 3	92.83%
Year 4	94.18%
Year 5	93.42%
Year 6	94.36%

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**DARE TO KNOW, DARE TO BE WISE**

# Nursery

## **What another busy half term the nursery children have had!**

The children have enjoyed learning about the autumn time – the signs of autumn and animals typically seen in the autumn time. The children went on a local area walk to notice and feel the signs of autumn and enjoyed looking at and holding real owls when the Wise Owls company came to visit. In literacy, the children enjoyed listening to the Were Going on a Leaf Hunt text to support this learning.

The children have learnt about different festivals and celebrations including Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, birthdays and Christmas. The children have explored when, how and why each festival is traditionally celebrated and have enjoyed listening to lots of stories linked to each celebration. In literacy, the children enjoyed using the Kippers Birthday and Dear Santa

texts as a vehicle for their learning. We held a birthday party for Kipper the Dog and the children celebrated Christmas in school by receiving a visit and present from Santa, participating in a Christmas party, watching a pantomime, enjoying a Christmas dinner together and performing the Wiggly Nativity show for our parents.

In maths the children have compared amounts by noticing more, less and equal; they have explored capacity, weighing and comparing different sized objects and have created repeating patterns. The children have learnt lots of new magical maths language and vocabulary during this learning.

The children have worked so hard, have really grown in confidence this half term and we are super proud of everything they have achieved.



# Reception



**This half term we have been discovering different celebrations from all around the world. We have fully emerged ourselves in different celebrations; we have looked at and tried on a variety of traditional clothes, tasted new foods, and found out why we all celebrate different things. In Literacy to match our theme of celebrations we have learnt all about the story of Diwali, Hannukah, Eid and Christmas.**

We have enjoyed re-telling, enacting, and creating the story of Stick Man.

In Maths we have been busy exploring, representing, and forming numbers 4 and 5 and have worked hard to start to learn our number bonds to 5.

Next half term in Topic we will be discovering how the world always been how it is today? We will look at different explorers and how the world has changed from the past.

In Literacy we will be looking at the text 'The storybook Knight' and 'Whatever Next' we will be working hard on using our sounds to write CVC words and moving on to forming simple sentences.

In maths we will focus on numbers 6,7,8 and 9 before moving on to explore doubling and halving.

We hope you will come and share some of our exciting learning with us next half term in our weekly Tuesday play and stay sessions.

**Next half term in Topic we will be discovering how the world always been how it is today?**



# Year 1

**In Year 1 this half term we have been learning to identify and name 2D and 3D shapes. We have been sorting shapes and describing their properties.**

We have also been developing our number sense, focussing on numbers to 20. We have learnt how to put them in order from smallest to greatest, partition them into tens and ones and compare numbers using mathematical symbols.

We have been reading a lovely book called "Paddington at the Palace". We have discussed the events in the story and also how certain parts of the story make Paddington feel excited and also quite frustrated. In our writing lessons, we have been sequencing the story and playing the role of Paddington. We have tried really hard to write a diary entry as Paddington to retell his visit to Buckingham Palace.

In History, we have been learning more about the Royal Family and looking in particular at creating family trees and timelines.

In Geography, we have been learning about our Local Area. We have looked at the different amenities in our area and how we could improve the roads to make them safer.

In Science we have done lots of exciting learning about our 5 senses. We have been on a sensory journey exploring our sense of hearing, sight, touch, smell and also tasting!

Next half term we will be reading "Lost and Found" and writing our own innovated version of the story with an alternative ending. We will be making lots of links in our learning. In History we will be looking at some of the first ever Polar explorers. In Geography we will be learning about the Polar Regions and in science we will be learning about Antarctic animals and their habitats.





# Year 2

## Mathematics

In mathematics this half term, Year 2 have been learning all about addition and subtraction. We have worked hard to embed our mental calculations and can now add and subtract two-digit numbers in our heads! We've also learned the column method to help us add and subtract larger numbers. We have continued to build on our reasoning and fluency skills whilst solving problems and are becoming more and more confident.

## English

In writing, we have been emersed in the wonderful book 'Malala's Magic Pencil' by Malala Yousafzai. We wanted to write a set of instructions about how to make our own magic pencils, so we began by creating a magic potion to dip our pencils into! We went on to write about what we would draw to make the world a better place, imitating Malala's message from the book. We loved the book so much that we also wrote a list poem, imagining what we could do to change the world!

## Wider curriculum

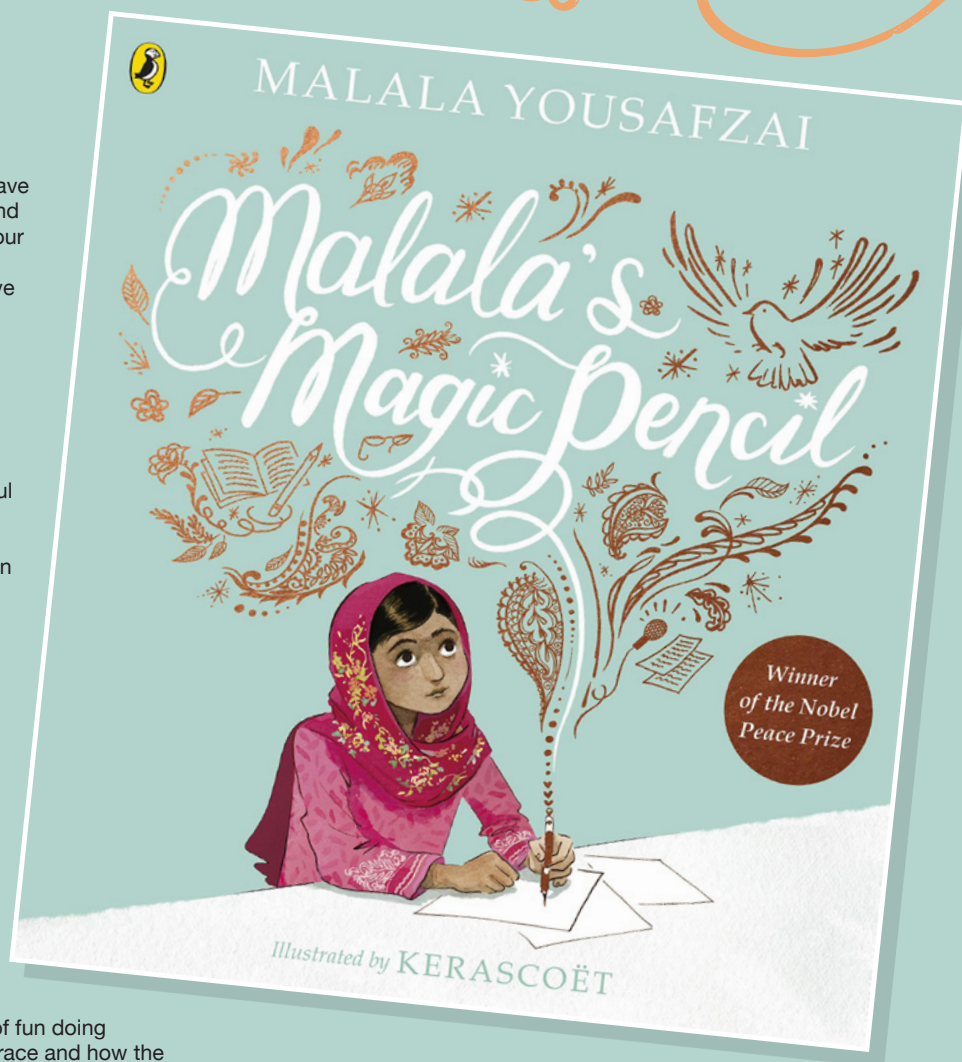
In History, we continued to travel back in time to learn lots about 'The Swinging Sixties'. We have noticed the differences between homes in 1960s and now. Did you know that most homes had vibrant patterned wallpaper? We even wrote a set of instructions to help people transport their homes back in time and had lots of fun doing so. We have also been learning about the space race and how the USA beat Russia to the moon!

## Geography

We have been learning all about geological features. We have compared different gemstones and will soon be making our own crystals and writing a set of instructions. Next, we will be exploring caves and using our imagination skills to write a description including our new vocabulary such as stalagmite and stalactite.

## Science

Our focus has been classifying and identifying the properties of different materials. We have looked closely (through a microscope) at the different structures of materials and have thought about whether this is caused by their properties. We have carried out experiments using ice and are becoming confident in discussing the properties that make materials different.



## Music

We have been perfecting our ukulele skills and learning lots of new songs, both to sing and play!

## Next half term

We will be focussing on multiplication and money in mathematics. In English, we will be reading 'The Day the Crayon's Quit' and writing a letter in the role of one of the exhausted crayons! Then, we will be going on to 'Hermelin the Detective Mouse' to write a character description. In History, we will continue to learn about life in the 1960s in more depth, as our children are enjoying it so much. In Geography, we will be learning about how to use road maps to find the way from different places. In Science we will be learning all about invertebrates and even going on a trip to Sea Life!

# Year

# 3

**The children have been very busy this half term and have enjoyed an amazing trip to Chester Zoo!**

In English, we have written diary entries using year 3 grammar to enhance our writing skills. We have also written a story opening using different lenses to really focus on small details such as feelings, noticing and action. The children have also been using a thesaurus to build up on their vocabulary and improve their sentences.

In Science, we have been learning about the human body and healthy foods. We have discussed the importance of a balanced diet and sorted food items into food groups. We carried out an investigation to test the amount of sugar in different food items and some really surprised us! We looked at some bones and discussed the importance of them in our bodies.

In PSHE, we have been learning about different types of families. We have participated in role play to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each family member. We have also looked at families around the world and decorated some boxes with items we would send to them to represent our families.

In maths we have been consolidating our knowledge of column method to work out addition and subtraction calculations. The children have been learning how to add/subtract 3-digit numbers using exchange. We have now moved onto multiplication and division where children will be using arrays and grouping. We have also been learning the 3 times tables by chanting them every day and using TT rockstars.

In reading the children have read the book Greta and the giants, they have used their VIPERS skills to show their understanding. They have also demonstrated their understanding of the text through drama. The children have been using a dictionary to find the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary as well as a thesaurus to find synonyms which have helped us to improve our vocabulary.

In PE this term our focus has been on gymnastic and tennis. In gymnastics the children have created a sequence using their balance, travel and rolling skills. The children had the opportunity to work in small groups and perform their sequence to their peers. In tennis the children have learnt how to serve using the forehand and backhand control to help them participate in a tennis rally.

In Geography, we have been learning about the physical features of our local area. We have learnt more about hills, valleys, meadows, fields, and woods. We have also talked about how land could be used for different purposes.

## CHESTER ZOO

In History, we have been learning about the Iron Age and Celtic Tribes. We have looked at where they came from and how they lived, as well as their houses, clothing and food. This then gave us a good background knowledge to help us to write a diary entry of an Iron Age child.

We have really enjoyed Spanish lessons this half term, learning how to say hello and goodbye and introducing ourselves to each other. Buenos Dias!

Music lessons have been full of enthusiasm! We are enjoying learning to play the recorder and are also building on our singing skills and learning more musical vocabulary. We will be performing our learning so far on the last day of term to our parents.

Next half term, we are going to be learning about Egypt. In geography, we will learn about the country of Egypt and the importance of the river Nile. In history, we will be learning about what life was like during Ancient Egyptian and we will be making some artefacts. In science we will be learning about Light and shadow.

The children will also be reading 'Egyptian Cinderella' and this will also be used in our writing lessons so that the children can write a non-chronological report and their own narrative. In Maths, we will continue to develop our mental arithmetic skills as well as using the written column method to calculate multiplication and division sums.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

**Mrs Rania, Miss Munir and Mrs Stuckey**



# Year 4

In Year 4 we have been reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. The story is about a young girl called Lila, who wants to become a firework-maker, like her father Lalchand. Despite her talents, Lalchand believes this is an unsuitable job for girls. Lila disagrees, and journeys to get Royal Sulphur from Razvani the Fire-Fiend at Mount Merapi, as all aspirant firework-makers must do.

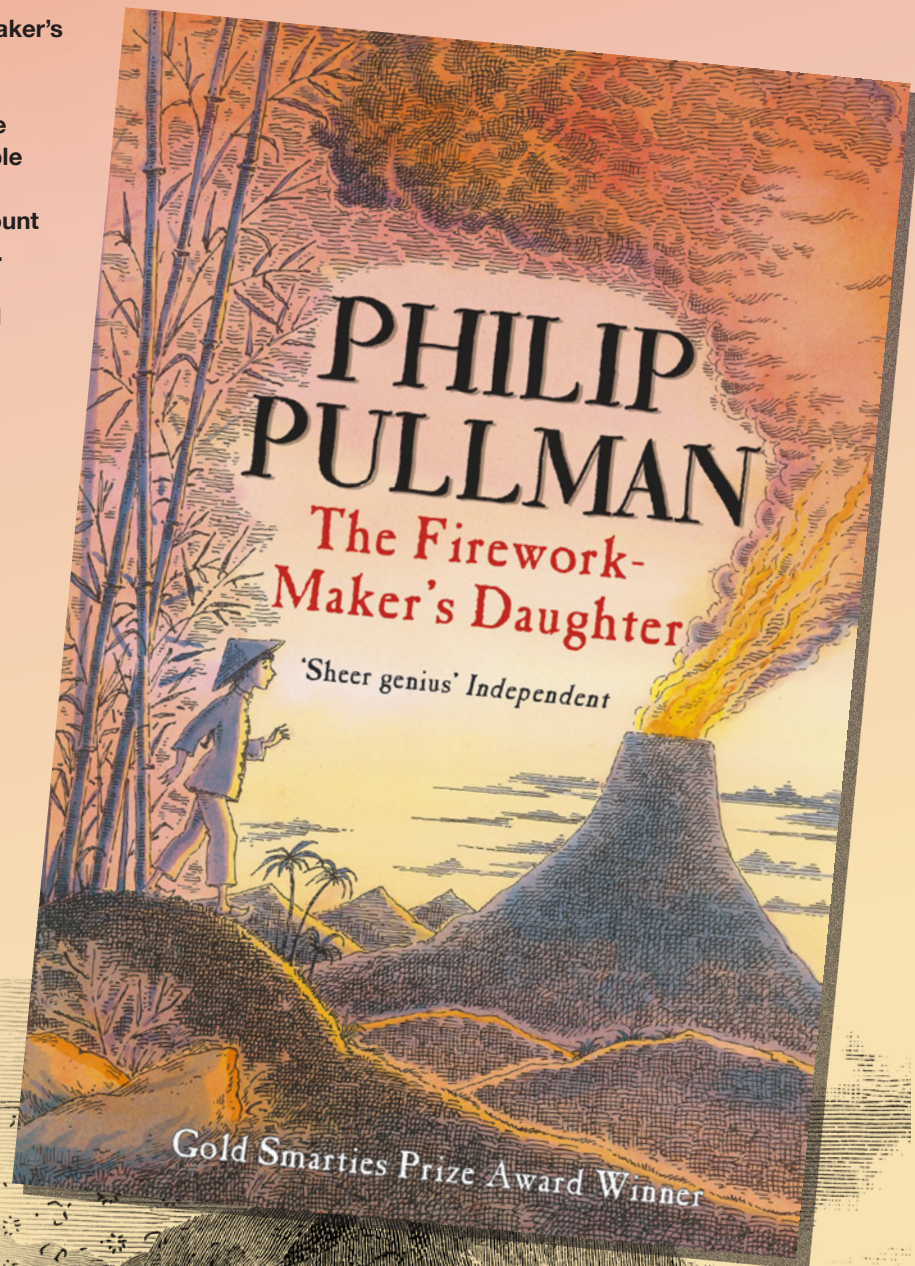
In English we have learnt to write non-chronological reports about animals that hibernate and written our own stories based on 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'.

The children have been working hard in maths learning different methods of addition and subtraction.

In History, we have continued learning about the Romans. This term we have focused more on the influence they left behind, including Roman roads and the Roman baths.

The children have also been very excited learning about Hong Kong in Geography. We learnt about Hong Kong's climate and its population.

Next term, we will be reading 'Chasing the Sun'. The book has several short stories from Africa. We will be learning about Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms in history. In Geography, we will focus on the world's climate, which the children are looking forward to!





# Year 5

**Happy holidays everyone, Year 5 have had a very busy half term learning lots of many great things.**

In English we have been writing persuasive letters based on our reading of the story, *The Explorers*, a tale of four children stranded in the Amazon Rainforest, after their plane crashed. As persuasive writers, we wrote letters from the point of view of one of the Children, left at the crash site in hopes someone would find it and come to their rescue.

In maths we have been continuing to grow our addition and subtraction knowledge, working on solving problems that include missing numbers, solving using inverse and numbers greater than 5-digits. We then applied these skills to statistics by learning to interpret and draw line graphs and make comparative statements, by finding the differences between different data points.

Science was very practical this half term, involving a lot of experiments to find out about the different qualities' materials possess, such as stretchiness, absorbency and waterproofing.

We continued our quest to be Tudor historians, looking deeper into Tudor life and the reign of the Monarchy; a particularly trying time as they faced off against the Spanish Armada.

Our geography learning this term as linked with themes for our book, taking us to the Amazon Rainforests of South America. We have learned all about the importance of the Amazon to the rest of the world's ecosystem and how we need to conserve it.

We have also been enjoying learning Rugby and Swimming in PE, how to code sprites in computing and we have been doing lots of singing practise to prepare for different performances, which we are really excited about. 5B have also really loved having Miss Kausar in the classroom, who has joined them for this half term.

**Thank you for all your support this half term,  
From Mr Unwin, Miss McDowell,  
Miss Kausar, and all of Year 5.**





# YEAR 6

**We have had a fantastic half term in Y6- the children have continued to work really hard across all areas of the curriculum.**

In Maths, the children have been focussing on multiplication and division. This has been a great challenge, as we have tried to become more confident in using formal methods of calculating. We have also been doing lots of arithmetic including percentages and order of operations.

In Writing, the children have learnt how to write a balanced argument. We have written several balanced arguments now about lots of different things including the use of palm oil, how mechanicals should be treated, whether Fair Trade is really fair and the Industrial Revolution. We have been incredibly busy! In our narrative writing, we have focused on setting descriptions and developing our descriptive writing skills.

In Reading, we have been reading Cogheart by Peter Bunzl. This is a fantastic book, set in Victorian England. It is based on Lily, a girl who has very little in her life and is desperate to find out what has happened to her father. There are many mysteries and strange things happening and we can't wait to find out how it ends. The children have been using the text to develop their reading skills, while continuing to practise these skills on unseen texts.

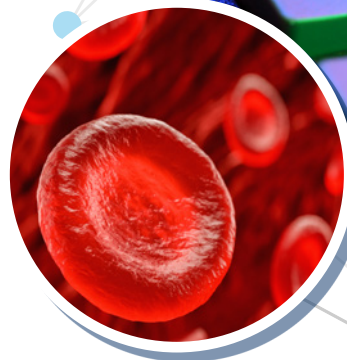
In Science, we have been learning about the circulatory system. We have looked at how blood is pumped around the body, including how the blood is oxygenated. We have also learnt about the lungs and how oxygen is passed from the lungs, into the blood stream.

In Geography, we have been learning all about trade. We have used lots of key technical vocabulary, including imports, exports, intensive farming and intensive fishing. The children have also been able to explore Fair Trade and how this company aims to do things differently.

In History, we have been learning all about the Victorians. This has been really interesting, as we have seen how Britain changed significantly from the start of Victoria's reign compared to the end. We have looked at the lifestyle of different people during this time, including the rich, the poor and children.

In PE, we have been developing our basketball skills. This has been a lot of fun, as we have learnt about different passes and different ways to dribble.

Next half term, we will be developing our understanding of fractions. We will be reading 'Journey to Jo'berg' in our reading lessons and writing a narrative based on this in our writing lesson. In History, we will continue chronologically by studying the Edwardians, including learning about the Suffragettes. In Geography, we will be learning about Kenya and the slave trade. In Science, we will be learning about Evolution and Inheritance. We are really looking forward to all the new challenges of next year!







# WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY HUB?

## Exercise

Our elderly gentlemen have been enjoying some exercise. There is a warm welcome and a hot drink for anyone who would like to join the group every Wednesday at 11:30am.



## Little Hub

Little Hub Time offers a warm and friendly space to play with your little ones and meet friends. We're open every Tuesday and Thursday.



## Tremendous TUESDAYS

Make sure you sign your child up for one of our amazing clubs. In Spring 1 we will have:

<b>Football</b>	<b>Coding</b>
<b>Athletics</b>	<b>STEM</b>
<b>Badminton</b>	<b>Times Tables</b>
<b>Netball</b>	<b>Cooking</b>
<b>Boxing</b>	<b>Ukulele</b>
<b>Art and Craft</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>Eco-Club</b>

Speak to your child's teacher to sign them up!

## Craft Club

Our Monday crafters showing yet again what a talented group they are! We will be back on January 23rd if you would like to join.

