



Weekly Newsletter

Week ending 13/01/2023

‘Top Doodlers of the Week!’

A special mention for our highest scoring ‘Doodle Maths’ superstars in each class:

Reception – Nikara

Year 1 – Luca

Year 2 – Faolan

Year 3 – Freed

Year 4 – Cillian

Year 5 – Neave and Owen

Year 6 – Lucas

Doodle Class of the week: YEAR 5!

Please bring any donations for the preloved sale on 21st January to the school office. Thank you !

A message from the Headteacher;

Despite the wet and blustery weather we have managed another super week here in school !

With the new term firmly on-track it has been lovely to see the variety of learning going on throughout school, with everything from steam engines to tackling homophobia in football appearing on the agenda this week.

Yesterday we were pleased to welcome teachers from across the region into school, for a day of Maths development and training. We pride ourselves on our ‘greater depth’ maths curriculum here at Cliffe and it was nice to see colleagues from a variety of schools watching Mrs Wilson’s lesson and discussing our approach with our Maths lead, Miss Rose. We believe our pupil’s progress in maths is testament to the success of our approach here and it was great to share this with others.

Another area of study we feel is particularly successful for our pupils is our ‘Learning for Life Curriculum’. ‘Learning for Life’ is the name given to our combined Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. Combining these areas as a single curriculum helps our pupils to understand that the skills and strategies acquired in these sessions are essential for aspects of their ‘Life’, either now or in the future. While Relationships and Health Education is compulsory for all primary school pupils, here at Cliffe we also see it as an essential way to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils in our care.

In order to better enable you to continue some of these discussions and themes at home you will find attached an overview of the topics to be covered this term. You will see a one-page overview for each of our classes, the top left box on each page telling you which year groups it is for. We hope this gives you a flavour of what is to come in this exciting topic area.

Aligned with our Learning for Life curriculum we also endeavour to welcome regular ‘faith’ visitors into school, so far including representatives from the Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and Sikh communities. Our visitor this term will be speaking about the ‘Humanist’ approach to life, a belief system based around human nature rather than belief in a God. We all look forward to learning a little bit more about this growing movement.

Finally, this coming Tuesday we will be holding a PTA Meeting here in school to discuss events to come this year. If you would like to join us please pop along at 7.30pm.

Have a super weekend !

Reception/Year 1 Class News;

Reception and Year 1 have been finding out about the seasons this week, with a focus on winter! We explored the main features of winter and the children talked about their experiences of ice and snow- we even had a 'how to make a snow angel' demonstration from one of our children! The weather has been wet and windy, but we are keeping our fingers crossed for some real snow before spring appears! We read some poems with winter themes: 'A Winter's Wish' and 'Soup's On!' and explored rhyming words. The Year 1 children all contributed to a group winter poem and then worked in pairs to word process a final draft on the laptop, to decorate! Reception chose vegetables to draw and label to create their perfect vegetable soup to keep warm in wintry weather!

In phonics, Reception have been working on their blending to read and write. We have been practising hearing the sounds in words with 3/ 4 different sounds, like fish, skin, think etc, and finding the letters to write them! Year 1 have learnt the new sounds: /aw/ yawn at dawn and /are/ care and share. The children have explored different words that they know with these sounds in and completed activities to practise using them!

In Maths, Reception have been exploring composition of numbers the concept of 'parts' and 'wholes'. By investigating their own bodies and familiar toys they have been finding out that whole things are often made up of smaller parts and that a whole is, therefore, bigger than its parts. Year 1 have been investigation the composition of 6, as part of their 'Mastering Number' work, looking at common representations of 6 and creating their own arrangements of 6, describing them using spatial language. They have also been practising reading and writing numbers to 20 as words.

We have also been enjoying our outdoor area, singing familiar songs, enjoying winter-themed stories, playing group games in PE and creating a giant winter picture, amongst other fun!

Next week, we are going to be finding out all about Chinese New Year! As part of this, we will be tasting and talking about different Chinese delicacies!

Home learning this week:

-Read your school reading books at least three times and record in your home/school journal. Please jot down any reading at home, as we add dojo points on for home reading- just a quick note with the date is fine! Usually, we aim to change reading books on a Monday. The children choose their own book from the school library every Friday.

-Stay in the yellow, but reach for the green on DoodleMaths. Just a short doodle a day supports your child's maths learning in class!

-Next week, we are going to introduce our Year 1 children to DoodleSpell, which we are going to start using from this term. With DoodleMaths we encourage a short daily use, however DoodleSpell will consist of one short activity a week linked to our phonics learning in class.

Have a lovely weekend! Mrs Wilson

Year 2/3 Class News;

Monday morning saw the return of Mr Taylor for our gymnastics PE this half term! The children really enjoy these specialist lessons and we're lucky to be able to split the class across the morning, enabling both PE and Maths to be taught in smaller groups.

Our core curriculum learning this week has been on 'Statistics' in Maths, which is all about organising and interpreting data using tally charts, pictograms and bar charts. In English, we have continued with the beautiful Winter's Child story, learning more about the characters and studying the illustrations before writing our own captions. As well as this creative writing, we continue with essential daily phonics, spelling and handwriting practise. Our new Science topic, Plants and Living Things, began by exploring the parts of a flowering plant and learning about their various functions.

Our Geography topic on the UK is gaining pace and the children used a map to locate the four countries, then focused on London, the capital of England. Please do take a chance to look at an atlas together or explore Google Earth online; there was so much wonderful interest in so many places, but we just don't have time at school to explore the whole world in one afternoon! We also began a new Learning for Life (PSHE) topic, 'Being part of a community' and learned about the rights and different responsibilities we may have as children.

May I please remind everyone that backpacks are not ideal for our cloakroom (which is located within the classroom). They're bulky and take up peg space, meaning coats are strewn on the floor or difficult to access. The children only need a drawstring PE bag with a change of clothes to be kept at school, a blue thin book bag to go in their tray and a drinks bottle. Packed lunches go straight on the trolley as they enter the class. I would really appreciate your support in helping to keep our classroom tidy and safe!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,
Mrs Pears and Miss Waddington

Homework

Reading: x3 but strive for 5! Please record in the home journal.

Doodle Maths: stay in the yellow, aim for green! *

Doodle Spell: please log in as you do for Maths and complete the 'assignment'. There's no expectation for children to be in the yellow although they are welcome to try.

*From this half term Y3 will be expected to do any missed homework on a Friday afternoon instead of Play or 'Marvellous Me' time. This is in line with the rest of KS2 children. Just 5 minutes regular practise can improve fluency and confidence so please do ensure your child accesses Doodle little and often!

Year 4/5 Class News

In English this week we have been reading "The Jabberwocky" By Lewis Carroll. On Monday we used our contextual cues to decide on the meaning of the nonsense words within the poem and write our own definitions. We have also described the Jabberwocky's appearance using ambitious vocabulary and apostrophes for possession. Later in the week we explored the story structure and started to generate vocabulary for describing the setting.

In Maths we have been using different efficient methods to complete multiplication calculations. We have all worked through the formal written method for 3 and 4 digit numbers x by 1 digit with some of the class moving onto 2 digit x by 2digit numbers. Later in the week year 4 explored reasoning and problem solving challenges while Year 5 learned to multiply 3 and 4 digits by 2 digits.

This week we started our "Railway Revolution" topic and began to investigate how transport changed during the industrial revolution. Children worked in pairs to match answers to questions on this topic. In art we looked at a painting by JMW Turner called "Rain, Steam and Speed" (1844). We looked at what we could see in the painting and what this could represent about the industrial revolution then drew our own steam trains using pencil and charcoal.

The class have also started their science unit 'Animals including Humans' which focuses on teeth and digestion. They had a great time creating models of the types of teeth we have in our mouths!

Homework

Remember to try and use Doodle Tables to improve rapid recall of times tables. Next week we will be working on our 6 times tables in class.

Doodle Maths – stay in the yellow, reach for the green!

Doodle Spell Extra – complete the assignment by next Friday

From tomorrow we will be going back to the traditional 'Home-School Journal' book for recording reading. Every week, we would like the children to record their own reading at the back of the journal at least three times. They will need to record the name of the book, pages they've read and a short description of what they've read. Please could you ensure that you have listened to your child read at least once and signed at least one of these entries. This is **instead of** the Seesaw activity set previously. Home-school journals will be checked on Fridays.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Townend

Year 6 Class News

In maths we have been multiplying and dividing numbers by 10,100 and 1000. For example, $87.95 \times 10 = 879.5$. In English we have been planning and drafting a recount about Young Voices!!!!!! For example, in the first paragraph we might write about arriving in Sheffield and in the second paragraph we might write about the rehearsal etc. York City have told us to design a training shirt for them for Football vs Homophobia month so we have been designing the t-shirts. One t-shirt will be picked out and the York City players will wear the t-shirt when they warm up for their game and the winner gets ticket to the game!!! See you next week. 4 WEEKS UNTIL HALF TERM. Millie, Chloe and Fay ☺

Y6 Homework:

Doodle Maths – stay in the yellow, reach for the green by next Friday

Doodle English – stay in the yellow, reach for the green by next Friday

Doodle Spell – Complete your assignment activity by next Friday

Reading – Read 3 x weekly and record this in your Home School Journal (checked every Friday)

Dates for the Diary -

Fri 03/2/23 – Year 6 Open Assembly – Y6 families welcome !

Mon 06/02/2023 to Sun 12/02/2023 Children's Mental Health Week – Theme week in school.

Mon 13/02/23 to Fri 17/02/2023 Half Term

Mon 27/02/23 to Fri 03/03/2023 - World Book Day – Theme week in school.

Thur 02/03/2023 - World Book Day– Dress up day.

Fri 24/03/23 – Year 4/5 Open Assembly – Y4/5 families welcome !

Tue 28/03/23 – Home/School Consultation Evening 3

Wed 29/03/23 – Home/School Consultation Evening 4

Mon 03/04/2023 to Fri 14/04/2023 Easter Holiday
17/04/2023 Training Day - Holiday for pupils

May 2023 Key stage 1 test period

Mon 8/5/23 – Bank Holiday – School Closed

Tue 9/5/23 / Fri 12/5/23 – Year 6 SATS week

Fri 19/5/22 – Year 2/3 Open Assembly – Y2/3 families welcome !

Mon 29/05/2023 to Fri 02/06/2023 Half Term

Mon 12/06/2023 to Fri 16/06/2023 – Year 1 Phonics screening check week

Fri 23/6/23 – Rec / Y1 Open Assembly – Rec/Y1 families welcome !

Thur 6/7/23 – Sports Day

Wed 19/7/23 – Y6 Leavers celebration evening in school – all Y6 pupils invited.

Fri 21/7/23 – PM - Y6 Leavers Assembly- Y6 families welcome !

Mon 24/07/2023 to Tue 25/07/2023 Staff Training Day
Wed 26/07/2023 to Sun 03/09/2023 Summer Holiday

****FURTHER DATES FOR TRIPS ETC TO FOLLOW !****