# The Bythams School Newslette

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## Friday, 26th January 2024

What a busy week we have had at school with many exciting reading, writing, and creative activities going on to inspire our learning. Imagine our surprise to find Mrs Jack dressed as a lemon on Thursday morning! Also, a big thank you to Mrs Morris for creating some fabulous reading corners in our classrooms for children to absorb themselves in a book, and to year 6 helpers in categorising and organising the books.

Lunchtime clubs continue to be popular. Please ensure that if they are attending football club, your child brings suitable footwear and clothing to change into as the field is muddy at this time of year.

Art club have been concentrating hard to produce some fantastic drawings of a frog and a tiger so far. Over the weeks, we are creating animals to build a jungle display. It is wonderful to see how all ages across the school, from reception to year 6, interact and champion each other in their skills and creations during Thursday lunchtime art club.

Have a super weekend, Mrs Ives.

## **Key Dates**

Tuesday lunchtime: KS1 Football Club Wednesday lunchtime: KS2 football, group 1 KS2 chess & games club

Thursday lunchtime: KS2 football, group 2 Art and craft club (all year groups)

7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day Children can dress up as their favourite book or story character.

#### PE Days

Tuesday: Foxes swimming

Tuesday: Badgers at Witham Hall

Wood School

Wednesday: Squirrels

Thursday: Badgers

Friday: Foxes

#### Attendance

Well done to Badgers class with 96% attendance this week. Our whole school attendance this week was 88%.

## This week's award winners are:

### **Squirrels Class**

The achievement award for Reception goes to Lettie for determination when tying knots for the bird feeder.

The achievement award for Year 1 goes to Isabella for focused work in phonics.

The achievement award for Year 2 goes to Chasel for showing good maths skills.

#### **Foxes Class**

The achievement award for Year 3 goes to Maya for her courage in swimming, by being resilient to keep on trying.

The achievement award for Year 4 goes to Aaron for being resilient in maths, to keep trying, and for his recall of facts in RE.

A further Year 4 award goes to Jade, for her carefully considered answers in guided reading and her beautiful reading style.

### **Badgers Class**

The achievement award for year 5 goes to Thalia for her hard work in Maths.

The achievement award for year 6 goes to Ernest for his confidence and hard work in maths.

## The Bythams Reading Road

At the Bythams, we are promoting the love of reading and lifelong interest in a wide range of books and texts. This is why we are developing the 'Bytham's Reading Road' where we will be talking about the reading journey children are making through the school and the exciting stops they will have on the way!

We have recently relocated our library bookcases along the corridor to form our reading road. Alongside their reading books, children will soon choose from these shelves and bring home a book which interests them. This will be in addition to their reading book. Depending on their age, they will need help reading and enjoying this book. We look forward to including you on our journey and sharing with you through this new 'reading' page of

#### **Our Class Books**

Squirrels

The Magic Faraway Tree by Jaqueline Wilson

**Foxes** 

The Secret Diary of John Drawbridge: Medieval Knight in Training by Philip Ardagh

**Badgers** 

Who let the Gods out!

Mrs Jack's Recommendation
The Pirate Mums by Jodie Lancet-Grant.

Billy's two mums like sea shanties, dancing jigs and anything to do with the sea. Billy wishes they could be like normal families. One day however, on a school boat trip, his mums save the day and Billy couldn't be prouder of his pirate mums.



### **Book Awards**



When your child reads 3 times at home (5 times in Reception) they receive a sticker. Once the bookmark has been filled, they receive a new book from Mrs Ives and 10 house points.

This week **Thalia** in Badgers was awarded a new book for filling her bookmark.

Well done for your fantastic reading at home!







## The Big Book Swap

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February Bythams are holding our first 'Big Book Swap', along with cakes to buy, and pre-loved uniform on sale. Before this day, your child can bring in a book that they no longer wish to keep and would like to swap. This can be any type of text including fiction, nonfiction, comics or graphic novels.

Children will receive a ticket for each book they bring in, to use at the Big Book Swap! We will be holding this event from 2.30 - 3.15 so that children who travel home on the bus will have an opportunity to swap a book also. We very much look forward to parents/carers joining us for this event!

### Squirrels Class – EYFS, Year 1 & 2

It's been all about the birds for us in early years this week. We had great fun making bird feeders from oranges (and drinking the fresh orange juice!). We've coloured, and tested our scissor skills, creating collages of British birds.

Squirrels in Y1/2 have been busy designing Tudor houses, ready for building next week. We were fascinated to learn that animal dung was used as a building material – very different to the materials we have been exploring in Science.

In Maths, year 1 are continuing using numbers up to 20, now building on our place value knowledge with addition, using number bonds to 20. Year 2 have just begun to explore multiplication and equal groups.



### Foxes Class – Year 3 & 4

In English this week we used rich and varied vocabulary and sentence structures to write a diary entry of a serf in 1071. We learnt how hard life was for servants and used the language of those times in our writing.

In Science we looked at how our muscles move by contracting and flexing. We made models to understand this. We explored which animals have skeletons, classifying those that are invertebrates and vertebrates.



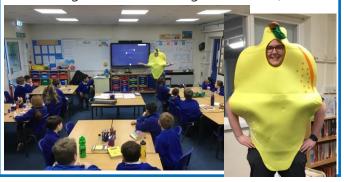


In art we have been investigating pattern. We created sensory pictures by pricking tiny holes in the paper to feel textures within patterns. We also formed tessellating patterns with repeating shapes and colours.



### Badgers Class – Year 5 & 6

We are finishing this week with writing a narrative story about "The day my teacher turned into a lemon!" Astonishingly, Mrs Jack tuned into a lemon during our English lesson! This gave us a great laught but also an inspiring story hook. We looked at how to structure our writing before having time with calming music to write. The stories could go in any direction the author wanted: we had lemon potions being drunk; friends turning in to lemons; Mrs Jack being inside the lemon and going to a fantastic world made of fruit! The children were inspired to have fun and write for enjoyement (while the learning was woven through the lesson!)



# Wood School – Badgers Class

M. Philade

This week we continued our tool use and made finger gym activities for the EYFS children. These are to strengthen fingers as they weave mini elastic bands around the nails. Badger class visited the EYFS children and showed them what they made. They had a lovely time showing them. We also made bird food to feed the birds during the winter months.



