

Fleckney School Newsletter

July 2023



Dear Parents, Governors and Friends,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the school year. It is amazing how quickly the year flies by once we get to Christmas.

This summer we say goodbye to some members of our staff team. We wish Miss Hamilton every success in her new role in Nottingham. Miss Hamilton will be greatly missed by our pupils and staff having been a class teacher in years 1, 3 and 4 over many years, and subject lead for music.

We also say a fond farewell to Mr Marshall who is returning to university. He has been a fantastic sports apprentice over the last 2 years and has recently qualified as a sports coach with a distinction. He has taught children across all years and has led many after school extra-curricular activities.

We also wish Mrs. James, Miss Buchannan, Miss Marriott and Mrs. Flude all the best for their futures. They have been excellent additions to our staff team, supporting pupils in year 6, year 3 and in year 2.

I would like to wish all of our leavers in year 6 every success for the future in their new schools. They finished the year with a wonderful leavers performance. It is amazing to see them grow and develop over the years and see them leave here as young people, ready for the next stage of their journeys.

Best wishes
Mr. Leah

School Times Next Year

Please note school opening and closing times are similar to last year, with some small tweaks.

We ensure that year groups provide a 6.5 hour day to meet government guidance. We have a slight stagger for Years 3 and 4 children to allow parents to drop off and pick up from a different playground.

The school day for children in FS, Year 1 and 2, Years 5 and 6 begins at 8.40am when the doors open to the classrooms. It finishes at 3.10pm when children depart. Collection and drop off is always from the larger playgrounds with the alley way gate and larger double gates.

The school day for Years 3 and 4 begins at 8.45am when the doors to the classrooms open, and ends at 3.15pm. Collection and drop off is via the carpark and KS2 gates.

Mr. Leah

Awards

We are very pleased to have been able to hold our Year 6 Leaver Service at St Nicholas Church on Wednesday 12th July. It was fantastic to be able to invite all the Year 6 parents to celebrate the time the children have spent at Fleckney Primary.

During the service Father Philip presented our Year 6 children with a special guide to moving to secondary school called 'It's your move'.

We were very pleased to be able to present the following awards in the last week of term:

Richard Darke Award

Kibworth and Fleckney Rotary Club established the Richard Darke Young Achiever Award in Fleckney and Kibworth schools, following the death of Richard Darke, who contributed in many different ways to both communities.

The recipient of this year's Richard Darke award is Bethan Jones. Bethan is hardworking, resilient and enthusiastic about her school work. Outside of the classroom, her behaviour is exemplary. She is mature, conscientious and sets a great example for others to follow. Bethan is always the first to volunteer to take on any kind of responsibility. As a result, she is popular with her peers and a joy to teach – a great ambassador for our school. We are very proud of Bethan's achievements throughout her time at Fleckney and we know that she will continue to excel at secondary school.

David Harvey Award

The David Harvey award is given in recognition of someone who has stood out this year in terms of their attitude to learning and effort in school. The winner of the David Harvey award for 2023 is Bethany Sanders.

Bethany has stood out this year in terms of her attitude to learning and effort in school. She is incredibly consistent, working hard in all lessons and pushing herself to be the best that she can be. As a result, she has made fantastic progress, not just through her time in Year 6 but throughout her time at Fleckney Primary School. Bethany is a fantastic example of how, when you put your mind to it, you can achieve brilliant things. We are very proud of her and the way that she has represented our school in her time with us.

Sports Awards

Sports trophies were awarded to Megan Boot and Lennon Devlin for their outstanding contribution to sport during their time at Fleckney School. The children have demonstrated their sportsmanship, positive attitude, a commitment to taking part and being part of a team.

Our school has a thriving young community of sporting talent and the children's commitment, effort and enthusiasm to different sporting activities is reflected in the fact that so many children were presented with medals, during our sports assembly, for their sporting achievements when representing the school.

Canon Glover Cup

On Monday 7th July, Year 2 welcomed parents and carers into school for our KS1 Leavers Assembly. All of the children received a certificate and together shared the story of their time in Key Stage One. They spoke clearly and sang beautifully. We also awarded the Canon Glover Cup to George Harding. This is always a very hard choice to make as we are hugely proud of all of our children. George was chosen as he embodies the character traits of Canon Glover who was kind, compassionate and thoughtful to everyone. Thank you to everyone for coming and well done to all of our amazing children.

Mr Alan Baum

We are saying a fond farewell to one of our Governors this year. Mr Baum has given many years of dedicated service to our governing body, being a wonderful support to the school and leading the Finance and Staffing committee for a number of years.

Mr Baum is also well known to all of our children as he regularly plays the piano at school events in church and in the school hall. He is also an accomplished football referee, and has made many a controversial decision in our regular staff v year 6 Christmas fixture!

Mr. Leah

Year 3 Update

Japan Day

Just before breaking up for half term, Year 3 celebrated their half term of learning their subsidiary language, Japanese. This involved the children taking part in a variety of activities throughout the day: Origami; Taiko Drumming; introduction into traditional clothing (kimono and Yukatta); Japanese Soroban (abacus); and Kanji practice (writing).

Special Assembly / Collective Worship

The children have enjoyed learning about refugees and taking part in refugee week. All the children worked extremely hard in delivering the important message of

compassion (which is the theme for this year's refugee week). We have been so

impressed with the children's ability to learn lines, lyrics and speak with such clarity and maturity. As part of the assembly, the children explored some key stories which involve refugee children; they

presented the wonderful story of Lubna and Pebble.

All the children also took the opportunity to write their own message on a pebble, sharing their personal views and thoughts about what is important in our world. We have a cohort of little stars!

Global Arts Day

We explored Australian aboriginal art during the day. Firstly, we looked at the geography of Australia – its location in the world (including hemisphere), population, area, key cities and the animals native to this part of the world. We then continued to learn about the aboriginal culture – including dreamtime – and practised aboriginal styled art on boomerangs. Wonderful!

May we also take this opportunity to thank the children for a wonderful year. It has been thoroughly enjoyable teaching them all. Have a lovely summer!

Mrs. Galpin



Attendance

Well done to all of you who have worked hard to improve your child's attendance this year.

This year we are giving out attendance certificates to those children who have achieved 100% or 99% attendance this year. 27 pupils have 100% attendance and 46 children have 99% attendance, which is a fantastic achievement across the whole school year. The response to requests for holiday absences during term time will change next year. We have never been allowed to authorise these as they are not considered to be exceptional circumstances. However, from the start of next term, the local authority will start to fine parents for holidays that are taken for 5 school days or more. This means we will now be referring cases to the local authority where holidays are taken for 5 days or more. To give you an idea of possible costs, the fines that follow are currently around £60 per child and £60 per parent.

Mr. Leah

Year 5 Update

This half term has been as busy as usual in Year 5. We have learned all about Pentecost in our RE lessons and the children led a wonderful Collective Worship for the whole school and parents at the end of May. They sang beautifully, learned lines by heart and their acting skills were second to none. In English we have been writing mythical stories and the children's brilliant imaginations have come to the fore. It is wonderful to see how their writing skills have progressed during the year and it's such a joy to read and share their work.



In Art we have been studying how artists create illusions and have created our own 3D names and drawings of internal scenes using vanishing points and guidance lines to create perspective.



On Global Art day, we had a lot of fun learning about Morocco. We found out about the landscape of this North African country; we cooked and enjoyed eating Moroccan couscous and created Islamic geometric patterns.

Mrs. Fremmer and the Year 5 Team

Year 2 Beaudesert Residential Trip

On Thursday 22nd June Year 2 headed to Beaudesert in Staffordshire for a full-filled and action packed two days of outdoor activities. As well as having many opportunities for the children to explore and play in the gorgeous grounds they all took part in 5 different activities during their stay. These activities were led by instructors from Beaudesert and included archery, crate stacking, grass sledging, a zip wire down the quarry and a campfire.

All of the children demonstrated many of the character traits we champion at Fleckney School including team work, resilience, confidence and determination. We were particularly impressed with how they all supported and encouraged each other during the activities, especially when children were nervous or struggling and how well they tried new foods and experiences.

We wish to thank all of the staff who came to support us: Miss Pearson, Mrs Styles, Mr Ager, Miss Battersby and Mrs Griffin as well as Mrs Holman for all of her hard work behind the scenes before we went.

Miss Baum and Mrs Webb



Year 1 Update

We have been busy in Year 1! We have been baking blueberry muffins with Mrs Martin – which everyone really enjoyed. We even managed to convert some children to be blueberry lovers.

We have been continuing to read regularly and wanted to take a moment to say that we are completely in awe of the progress children have made this year- well done to everyone and thank you grown-ups for your support with this at home.

Children have enjoyed a global art day, where we sketched animals you would find on a Kenyan safari trip and listened to some African drum music clips.

We have also been testing our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills by building bridges out of paper and seeing how many cars we could 'drive' along them. As the year draws to a close we would like to thank you all for your support, and helping your children to succeed this year. We wish the children all the very best as they move up to Year 2 next year.

Mrs. Pullen, Mrs. Romaine, Miss Williams and all



the Year 1 support staff

ELSA

This year has been a very busy one within the ELSA room as it has seen lots of projects started. I decided to take on the school garden area and must say that the children have really got stuck in with tidying it up, planting seeds & taking care of them. We are proud to say that we have several produces now growing, carrots, beetroot, tomatoes, pumpkin, sweetcorn, potatoes (planted by yr 1) and sunflowers. At lunchtime, the children often come help with the weeding & watering. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the garden as this has been a real help & greatly appreciated.

Cooking on a Tuesday afternoon has been a great success & I would like to thank Mrs Martin for helping with this.

Craft session on a Wednesday has seen the children making several items for the garden so that we now have wind chimes, sun catchers, bug hotel, bird boxes and decorative pots, butterflies and toadstools. At the moment we are also in the process of making 4 animal mosaics for the garden area. The children have really enjoyed doing these & seeing them in the garden. Thank you to Mrs Watt for her ideas & help.

A massive thank you to everyone who has come to the KS2 tuck shop at break time as by doing this it has helped to raise over £300 for HAB, the Harborough anti bullying and mental health charity.

Thank you

Mrs. Harrison

Year 4 Update

Konnichiwa! This half term the Year 4 children have been having fantastic Japanese lessons with Kaori Sensei. We have been learning lots of different greetings. The children are able to say 'hello' to each other and ask each other how they are. As well as learning greetings, we have learnt how to count to 100. The lessons are so much fun and we are all really enjoying them. Arigatou gozaimasu!

Year 4 has also been busy putting our knowledge of circuits to the test by designing and making a working lighthouse! This tied in with our Electricity topic in Science and our written work based on the short film, The Lighthouse. The children had to ensure that their circuits were neatly tucked away and that their lights could be turned on and off using a switch. They also designed the lighthouse building themselves and created a backdrop. Here is one shining example, made by pupils in Miss Battersby's class.



Miss Hamilton

Year 6 Update

Year 6 have been working very hard rehearsing their leavers musical production of Hoodwinked by Margaret Carpenter. We were excited to perform this show to parents and the school over the last few weeks of term. There were brilliant solo singers this year, a number of fantastic acting performances and exciting dance choreography. We hope that everyone enjoyed the show.

Obviously, we are also preparing to say goodbye to our year 6 children. The majority of them have visited their secondary schools as part of transition.



Away from rehearsals, we have completed our work on relationships education. The staff were very impressed with the maturity that the children demonstrated when discussing some very grown-up issues.

We also finished our science work on evolution and inheritance, studying the work and life of Charles Darwin. In Maths, we completed a project to design and cost the running of a theme park. The children worked really hard on this and came up with some excellent ideas.

Over the last week, we have looked at the short film 'Alma' during our English lessons and produced some imaginative writing based on the original film. Some of the children even started thinking about a sequel or a prequel to the original film.

During our art sessions we have been designing and creating t-shirts about environmental issues and we put on a fashion show for the rest of the school. We thoroughly enjoyed performing and the school had a great time watching.

Mr. O'Connell

Year 2 Update

On Wednesday 21st June, the Year 2 children worked with our very own celebrity chef Mrs Martin to learn some knife skills. The children worked with sharp knives, learning how to use the claw, bridge and fork secure methods to cut and prepare fruit before enjoying tasting all of the fruit. Many of the children tried some fruits for the first time.



The children worked incredibly carefully, safely using the equipment and thoroughly enjoying learning key life skills. Thanks to Mrs Martin for her fantastic help and work as always.



Miss Baum and Mrs. Webb

Fleckney School Association

The FSA would like to say a **huge thank you** to everyone who has got involved in helping this term which made our events so successful.

The fair in mid June raised £962 and the subsequent samosa and uniform sales raised £170 meaning we'll be able to carry on providing school with much needed extra funding for expenses like coaches for school trips, more wet play activities for the expanding year groups and a variety of enrichment activities such as the recent author visit.

It has been great getting to know everyone who has offered help this term - many hands make light work though, so please do get in touch at fsateam@outlook.com if you're able to help. It doesn't have to be giving up time to run stalls at fairs, maybe you could help us by baking (we always need more cake)? We'd love to hear from you!



Kate Williams, Chair, Fleckney School Association

Foundation Stage Update

This half term we have been busy finding out about Seasides and Under the Sea. We have had a rock pool to explore, a sandy beach and a beach café, where we have been ordering ice-creams, latte's and milkshakes.

The children have been exploring under the sea books, such as Tiddler, Fidgety Fish and

Commotion in the Ocean. We have been writing about these stories, using the language from the story and writing facts about sea creatures.

We have been on our annual school trip to Father Philip's garden for our Teddy Bears Picnic. We had fun exploring the garden, climbing trees, going on the swing and playing bat and ball.



Mrs. Teear

Sports Days

Due to our growing school, we held separate sports days for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. We were lucky with the weather for all three sessions, held on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th June.

Key Stage 2 children took part in a longer distance run, setting a very rapid pace each time. They then ran sprint races and each year group took part in a different 'equipment race'. The day ended with the House relay, which was won by Malala (Yellow) in the girls' race and Rashford (Red) for the boys. All of the children showed great determination and a friendly competitive spirit.

We also had successful sports days for FS and KS1. The children all took part in 8 different activities and races including sprint, egg and spoon, beanbag target and sack. The children had a chance to try individual races as well as teamwork races. It was fantastic to see all our children so active. They thoroughly enjoyed their day.



It was lovely to see so many parents, relatives and friends supporting the children and cheering them on. A great time was had by all.

Mr. Pullen and Mrs. Thurman

Sports Update

KS2 Area Sports

On Monday 12th June, 36 children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 travelled to Corby Athletics track to take part in the Area Sports competition. Fourteen schools, from across South-Leicestershire, took part. The first events were the sprints, long jump and throwing. Whilst these events were taking place, a thunderstorm broke near the track. The event was paused to allow everyone to shelter in the stands.

Unfortunately, as it went on for some time, the relay races had to be cancelled. This meant that a number of children were unable to take part. One positive was that the heavy humid air was replaced by much cooler conditions which was beneficial to the long distance runners.

Many of the children were a little nervous before their event but it was great to hear them encourage each other and cheer Fleckney along. Everyone pushed themselves to be the best that they could be and they were very determined competitors. We had two first places, both in the throwing, for Lila and Marley. In the final scores, Fleckney came eighth out of fourteen schools.

Thank you to all of the parents who supported and transported the children, the school office who managed all of the invitations, the staff members who helped to select the team and gave up their time on the day, and most of all, the children who came along on the day and really supported each other.

Mini Olympics

Equipped with Japanese flags, songs and banners, a group of Year 3 children travelled to Robert Smyth Academy to take part in the Mini-Olympics. Each school represented a different country, ours being Japan. The children took part in many activities, such as long jump (into a proper sand pit), running, throwing, football rounders, tag rugby, hockey, orienteering, parachute games and tennis.



The children were really enthusiastic, demonstrating super manners throughout the day. They all had a great time and more than one said, "It was the best day ever!"

Mr. Pullen

Diary Dates

July

Thurs 13th Last day of term—school closes at 1.30pm

August

Tues 29th First day of term for children in Years 1-6

Tues 29th - FS parent & child meetings with teachers

Thurs 31st FS start school part time

September

Weds 6th First Yr4 swim session —group 1

Mon 11th FS start school full time

Weds 27th - Yr5 Aylmerton residential
Fri 29th

October

Weds 4th Individual school photos

Thurs 5th Flu vaccinations FS-Yr6

Mon 9th Sibling school photos

School Terms and Holidays 2022–2023

Dates 2022-2023

Summer Term 2023

Mid Term Break

Mon 29th May—Fri 2nd June

School Closes

Thurs 13th July **1.30pm**

Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

School Opens

Tues 29th August

Mid Term Break

Mon 16th—Fri 20th October

School Closes

Fri 22nd December **1.30pm**

Spring Term 2024

School Opens

Mon 8th January

Mid Term Break

Mon 19th—Fri 23rd February

School Closes

Fri 22nd March

Summer Term 2024

School opens

Mon 8th April

May Day Bank Holiday

Mon 6th May

Mid Term Break

Mon 27th — Fri 31st May

School Closes

Tues 9th July **1.30pm**

