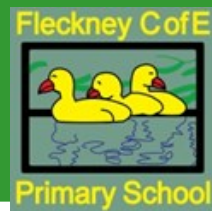


Fleckney School Newsletter

October 2023



Dear Parents, Governors and Friends,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. You'll see from the fun packed pages below, it doesn't take long for the children to settle back into school life. Our first day back was on the 29th August, which now seems ages ago.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our first parent evenings last week. These informal meet ups in the first term are a great way for you to meet our teaching staff and find out how your children have settled into their new year groups.

As I write this we have 438 children on role. We are currently running with 16 classes, each year group has two classes but years 4 and 5 are slightly bigger and run as three classes. Nearly every year group with two classes, is full or nearly full. The difficulty for ourselves is predicting which school year's numbers will bulge next. When new families move to the village or surrounding area we have no way of forecasting which year their children will be joining. Eventually, when the housing is complete and occupied the situation will work its way out. The school will become 3 form entry with 3 classes in every year. However, the journey to this point will be slower than first forecast by the LA. The slowdown in the housing market and the cost of living crisis has therefore meant a slightly slower growth in pupil numbers.

I wish you and your children a very restful and enjoyable half term break.

Best wishes

Mr. Leah

Kindness Cup

At the end of last academic year, our wonderful Chair of Governors, Linda Marshall retired. To mark her dedicated service to our school, she kindly donated a beautiful oak cup. The cup is titled 'The Kindness Cup' and is awarded to a child who embodies kindness.

The winner of the award for this half term was Maisie in 5MP. In a special assembly, Linda Marshall presented the cup to Maisie, a very worthy winner.



After taking our Year 5's away on residential, Mr Pullen was thrilled at the positive feedback he received about all of our children. In particular, members of staff had noticed Maisie's kind nature. Maisie, in her very natural manner, showed kindness to everyone. She noticed when children were on their own and helped them to join in. Maisie made everyone feel included. In school, She calmly and quietly looks out for others; offering her friendship, always with a warm smile.

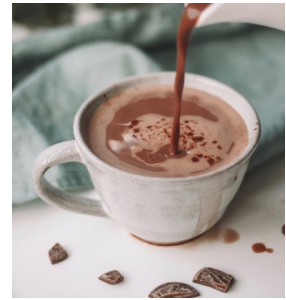
We are so proud of you Maisie - the award is very well deserved.

Mrs. Allen

School Reward System

Our new school reward system is based around our three golden rules of Be Ready, Be Kind and Be Safe. All of our children have been working hard to follow these rules and have been rewarded with individual Dojo points. There's been an incredible amount of Dojo points collected from our smallest pupils in Foundation Stage all the way up to our eldest pupils in Year 6. Across the school, all classes have been praised for their excellent contributions. Our school feels like a happy, safe and productive place to be. I am proud of all our children, they are making so much effort - especially in regards to using their manners and showing politeness. In addition to this, there's an eagerness to listen well and try hard in their lessons too.

The children, who have gained the highest number of Dojo points, have been awarded a golden ticket in a special assembly. The golden ticket is an invite to share hot chocolate with Mr Leah. The children, who have been awarded this ticket, are excited about this treat and looking forward to it. We are very proud of them for being our winners for this half term - they are shining examples of Fleckney pupils. The class Dojo points have now been reset, this gives every child the opportunity to start collecting again. A new half term brings another chance to be the class winners at Christmas.



Mrs. Allen

Year 4 Update

The children have made a wonderful start to Year 4 and it is a joy to be part of their year 4 journey!

Sustainability has been an important area of learning this half term. Children have been learning about the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and have identified what else we could be doing at school, at home and in the local area in order to take better care of our precious environment. English has linked well to this unit of study also. Children have been looking at UNICEF's Rights of a child, producing some wonderful poetry with powerful messages. We have also explored Nicola Davies' book 'The Promise' and the children have all written their own versions of this wonderful story. We are pleased to announce that Nicola Davies will be running a workshop with the children in November; children will get a chance to share their writing with her also. We very much look forward to this.

In Art this term, the children have been exploring line, tone and texture in order to recreate still life drawings.



In Science, they have been looking at living things and their habitats and certainly enjoyed their mini beast hunt on the school grounds!

After half term, we look forward to starting our new History topic – The Romans.

Keep up the great work, Year 4!

Mrs. Galpin

Exploring the world in Geography!

Labelling and Lost Property

The lost property box is located in the Medical Room and children are encouraged to look there for any missing items. We regularly place all uncollected, unnamed items outside the front of the school for parents to look through.

Please ensure that all items of clothing and footwear are clearly named so they can be easily reunited with your child if they lose them.



Aylmerton Residential—Year 5

On Wednesday 27th September we departed for the Aylmerton Outdoor Education Centre in Norfolk. Our first session was team building. Activities included getting the whole team 'safely' through the spider's web, solving the agility course and 'crossing the river' using blocks and planks. Following this was den building in the woods, which proved to be a lot of fun for everyone.

At mealtimes the children took it in turns to be a 'table monitor', collecting the plates of food from the hatch and taking them to each person on their table. It was lovely to hear, 'please' and 'thank you' being used so frequently, without prompting.

Our evening activity was the Twilight Safari. We were lucky enough to see deer by the lake, barn owls hunting, and lots of frogs near the church. We stopped to study the architecture of Felbrigg Hall in the moonlight and to hear a local 'true love story'. The day ended with hot chocolate and biscuits and lots of sleepy children.

On Thursday, we followed the river Glaven from its source to the sea. At various points along its course the children measured its depth, width and rate of flow. It was great to see them get so involved in collecting the data and it gave them a much better understanding of a river system.

In the evening, the story teller left us all spellbound with his musical tales and he encouraged us to use our imaginations to take us to wonderful places. The children again settled very quickly and had a good night's sleep.

We had an early start on Friday as we had to pack up our belongings and depart the centre for West Runton. Here we had a lovely sunny walk along the beach, stopping to examine rock pools, discuss glaciation and study the erosion of the cliffs from a safe distance. We ate lunch on the beach in Cromer, then embarked our coach for home.

Throughout the trip, the children were all really enthusiastic and we saw so many examples of kindness. The children learned to work in new groups and discuss their ideas before putting them into action. The instructors praised them all for their good manners and super behaviour. They said that they always look forward to seeing Fleckney C of E Primary School on their timetable.



Mr. Pullen

SEND Coffee Mornings

As many of you know, we run a coffee morning every Tuesday from 8.45 - 9.30 for parents/carers of children with SEND.

I am currently working on a programme of events including: SEND Hub talk (Leicestershire's Parent/Carer Forum), cooking, food tasting, yoga, music therapy (some of these activities will include the opportunity to involve your children and will take place on a Monday afternoon).

The group is a chance to chat as well as to gain advice and support from other parents/carers and SENDCo. We would love to see you there.

Mrs. Goode

SEND Coffee Mornings

Tuesday mornings 8.45 – 9.30am



Tuesday mornings 8.45 – 9.30am

Parents/carers of all Years welcome

(Activities with your children take place on a Monday afternoon)

Foundation Stage Update

In Foundation Stage we have all settled into the routine of our school day. We are making new friends, having a daily class phonics lesson, painting our portraits, sorting and matching sets in maths and learning about Harvest.



We have read the story of the Little Red Hen. We are making bread and talking about what we need to use. We will be bringing our bread home soon!



Mrs. Teear

Harvest Services

We celebrated Harvest Festival in church on 6th October. Children from Years 4 and 6 helped to lead the service whilst some of our Foundation Stage children helped to bring in the harvest gifts.

All the children read beautifully including sharing the story of *The Rich Farmer (Luke Ch12)* and caused a few smiles with a humorous skit about having too many choices. Mr Robson, of Fleckney New Life Church, talked to the children about how we are all sowing seeds and how we have a choice about how we sow seeds into our own and others' lives.

Once again this year, the children behaved beautifully at the service. They brought very generous donations which have already been forwarded to The Open Hands Compassion Centre in Leicester and will be used to support a wide variety of people who have fallen on hard times. Thank you, to all parents and carers, for your generosity and support.

Mrs. Fremmer



Year 3 Update

We have had an incredibly busy, fun and productive first half term in Year 3. The children have settled down beautifully into KS2 and they are becoming more independent and organised. Fantastic!

We have been looking at some fabulous literature under our English "Magic and Wonder" theme, including: Leon and The Place Between, Stone Age Boy and The First Drawing. Writing outcomes have entailed: persuasive posters, setting descriptions, thought bubbles and dialogue and recounts. Also on a Stone Age theme, we have been studying Stone Age cave art and have produced our own compositions reflecting the hunting and gathering lifestyle of this era in a traditional colour palette. We have also used our cutting and sticking skills to make sunrise silhouettes of Stonehenge.

For the first time, we visited Conkers in Ashby De La Zouch for a Stone Age Day experience. We took part in three workshops, each ran by specialists. We built shelters in the forest and then tested them to see how waterproof they were; we lit fires, foraged for fruit and berries and went orienteering to find the answers to questions in a Stone Age quiz. We also painted using feathers and sticks and made up a Stone Age chant about our day out. It was a fantastic day and we were very proud of our children, who were true superstars.



In science, we have been studying light. We have looked at different light sources and have learnt about how we see. We also carried out an experiment where we tested different materials to see which reflected light and which didn't. Maths this half term has included lots of place value work, formal calculation methods in Arithmetic sessions, times table practise playing Times Table Rock Stars and hands on practical work using concrete equipment with the skills of addition, subtraction, partitioning numbers and representing numbers in different forms.



We have had some fantastic indoor and outdoor PE sessions this half term where we have been learning how to use the vault and the air track in gym. Outside, we have been practising our netball skills. Our R.E. lessons have included lots of super discussions about what Christians believe about creation and our own thoughts and ideas.

Our children have achieved so much this half term and The Year 3 Team look forward to embarking on our next half term with great gusto!

Mrs. Styles and Mrs. Fremmer

Year 6 Update

The Year 6 children have settled in well at the start of the new school year and we are pleased with their attitude to learning.

During our first unit of English work, the children loved writing spy stories and came up with some exciting and imaginative narratives. We were very impressed with their outfits for our Spy Day at the end of our unit of work too! In Maths, we have looked at place value and our key calculation strategies to help us to become more confident with our arithmetic skills. It is important that the children work hard on these and practise their times tables often on Rock Stars.

In the afternoons, we have been building electric circuits in our science topic, learning about Ancient Greece in history lessons and working on our drawing skills in Art.

On 2nd October, we went to Warning Zone in Leicester to learn all about how to stay safe as we move into adolescence. It was a really exciting day and the behaviour of our Year 6 children was excellent. Well done!

Mrs. Korias

Thank You Persimmon Homes

You may have seen in the Harborough Mail that Persimmon Homes generously donated £6,000 to our school via a community grant scheme. It is fantastic to see a company building in the village, giving back.



We have been able to spend this money on much needed specialist 'Little Wandle'* books, which will improve fluency of reading from Foundation Stage all the way up to Year 3. We were also able to buy some resources to support any children with sensory needs.

If you work for a company that has a grant award scheme or donations scheme that might be able to help the school, please let us know by contacting the school office!

Mrs. Romaine

*For more information on our phonics scheme, and how to help your children at home- please see the website [here](#).

Year 5 Update

In Year 5 we have been learning to sing under the guidance of a real expert. We have the privilege of working with Mr Ouvry-Johns (Mr O-J), who is choirmaster at Leicester Cathedral.

He really understands how to make singing fun whilst also covering the technical aspects. The improvement in the children's singing is noticeable.

In English we have studied poetry, and written our own verse to a Bob Dylan song. Next, we wrote non-chronological reports about tigers and pandas.

In maths we have finished our work on place value and had begun the next unit on addition and subtraction.

Our science topic is forces. The children have really enjoyed getting involved in lots of practical work, including measuring forces using a Newton metre and testing the friction on different surfaces.

Mr. Pullen



Year 2 Update

In Year 2 we have had a very exciting half term in Science investigating Animals including Humans.



The children have talked about the lifecycle of a human and considered the basic needs animals have in order to survive.

The children enjoyed predicting and carrying out a study to find out which activities raised their heart rates the most.

A particular highlight was our experiment to find out the most effective way to remove germs. This involved the children having fun with glitter and washing their hands with: paper towels, water and soap and water. We discovered that soap and water was

the best way to remove all of the germs (glitter).

Miss Baum and Mrs. Webb

Mrs Harrison—Goodbye and Thank You

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all my cards, gifts and the kind words. I have been overwhelmed by it all.

I have loved my time at Fleckney, over the years I have had the privilege of working with so many amazing children and seeing them blossom in to such special individuals.

Mrs. Harrison

Applications for Foundation Stage Admission 2024

Parents need to apply to County Hall for a school place for their child, even if they live in our catchment area. If your child is 4 years old before 1st September 2024 and therefore starting school for the first time, the closing date for applications is 15th January 2024.

Parents are encouraged to apply online at www.leics.gov.uk/admissions where you will find an online application form and guidance notes. This is quick and easy and an emailed receipt is sent so you can be sure the application has gone through. For more information, contact School Admissions on 0116 3056684 or email: admissions@leics.gov.uk

Applications received after the closing date will be dealt with after those received on time; if the closing date is not met it may not be possible to offer a child a place at their local school if all available places have been filled.

We are looking forward to welcoming new parents and children into our Foundation Stage at our Open Afternoon on Thursday 9th November. They will have the opportunity of seeing the Foundation Stage classrooms and meeting the staff. They will also have a tour of the whole school, to look at our excellent teaching facilities and view some of the children's work on display.

Mrs. Jones

Year 6 Cooking Club

Year 6 Cooking Club started at the beginning of September. We have 4 groups of up to 8 children signed up for different sessions during the school year.

Our first group of 8 children from Year 6 have been making fresh fruit salad, pizza and a very tasty chicken biryani. We are so delighted to be able to share our knowledge, skills and love of cooking with the children again and hope that they use these life skills to impress their parents/ carers when they bring their dishes home to share.

We look forward to welcoming the next 3 groups over the coming months.



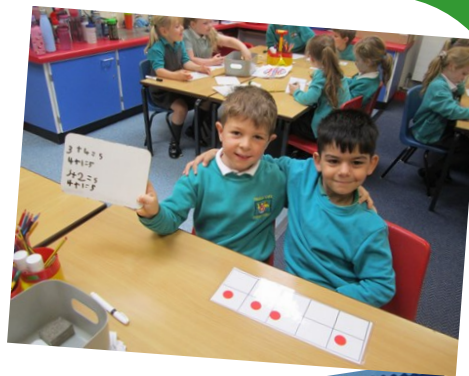
Mrs. Martin & Mrs. Burgoine

Year 1 Update

We are so impressed with how well the Year 1 children have settled in to their new classrooms and routines. The children have such enthusiasm for learning and have been exploring all the new activities and experiences we have planned for them. They are enjoying learning through both formal lessons and activities in the classrooms. The children have already shown us how much they enjoy reading and sharing stories and really had fun exploring fruit and vegetables through the books by Vivian French 'Oliver's Fruit Salad' and 'Oliver's Vegetables'.

Through the books the children have learnt about nouns and adjectives and also had fun tasting fruit and designing their own fruit salad. In maths, the children have shown us how well they can work together, sharing their ideas and developing their number knowledge.

Mrs. Pullen



The Well Food Bank Donations

Thank you for all the contributions of food for The Well Food Bank.

The Well is built on a Christian foundation, but is open to everybody of any faith or none. It is based in Kibworth, where you can find a small cafe & charity clothes shop. It is run by volunteers that want to help the local community of Kibworth, Fleckney, Great Glen & surrounding villages.

Our donation basket is emptied regularly by The Well team.

The Well are finding that the number of local families requiring assistance is increasing and so the contributions are much appreciated.

Any donations can be added to the basket located in the reception area in front of the school office.



Mrs. Jones

Diary Dates

October

Fri 13th	Sponsored walk
	Last day of half term
Mon 16th to Fri 20th	Half term
Mon 23rd to Fri 27th	Yr6 PGL residential
Mon 23rd	FS parents phonics workshop 5.00-5.30pm
	First KS1 science club
Tues 24th	Girls football tournament at Harborough Leisure Centre
Thurs 26th	First KS2 choir session
Tues 31st	Rice Bowl football match

November

Fri 3rd	Book fair 3.15-4.00pm
Mon 6th	Book fair 3.15-4.00pm
Tues 7th	Book fair 8.15-8.40am
	Football tournament at Harborough Leisure Centre
Weds 8th	First Yr4 swim session group 2
Thurs 9th	FS 2024 open afternoon 3.30pm, 4.00pm & 4.30pm
Fri 17th	Children in Need day

School Terms and Holidays 2023–2024

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**