

Newsletter 26

Friday 23rd April 2021

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The mystery of the egg!

Last week we shared with you a mysterious egg that had appeared in Year 1, that captured the fascination of all the children. Year 1 children had to complete their research, to ask themselves questions, to analyse the egg and to make predictions about what may be inside! Indeed they had to become palaeontologists this week and to use all of their skills of deduction to draw conclusions about what could potentially emerge from inside the huge, delicate shell. Some of the children thought it could be a pterodactyl, others a bird eating dinosaur, whilst some thought that perhaps our Year 2 chicks had been growing inside! They had such fun putting their skills to the test.

Thanks to artefacts borrowed from the Sedgwick museum, the children's studies went even further, with a special unearthing of fossils that gave us clues to the past. The children made predictions about the different types of creatures that would have roamed the earth in Jurassic times. This is what they told us: 'I think it is a toe claw because it is sharp' and 'I think it is a triceratops horn because of the shape'. Our team of palaeontologists then checked them against dinosaur fact cards to see if they were correct!



Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform:

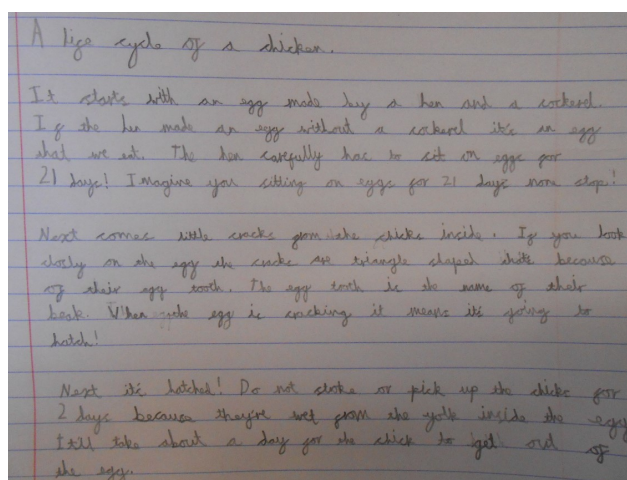
- ⇒ Bottle green jumper/ cardigan or school fleece
- ⇒ White polo shirt
- ⇒ Grey/black trousers
- ⇒ Black shoes



Chick update



Last week our widely anticipated chick hatching happened in Year 2, with our feathered friends making their first appearance in the world as the children looked on. Tap tapping and gentle cracking could be heard within each classroom as the chicks let us know that they were on their way. It was certainly an anxious few days as one by one each chick appeared, dried itself off and made its first few steps. The children have been intrigued by each stage of their development and are now eagerly anticipating the chicks change in colour as they become more mature. They have used their careful observations of the chicks to write their own descriptions about their observations, as you can see in this example.



Skipping workshops for Key Stage 2

It has been fabulous to see children getting active again, following the restrictions of lockdown and the limitations this placed upon us. To help us raise our heart rates and to get us moving at Monkfield Park, we enjoyed taking part in skipping workshops throughout Key Stage 2 this week. We learnt a variety of skipping games that were both old and new. Skipping is a super convenient, easy and fun activity to take part in that can be done alone or with a group of friends. We look forward to seeing the children transfer their new-found skills to the playground.



Headteacher Roll of Honour

The following children have really grabbed our attention this week.

Amelia in Lacerta Class—Amelia delivered a very moving talk to the class about dementia, which helped us all to appreciate the difficulties experienced by those living with or experiencing supporting others with this condition.

Bradley in Cygnus Class—Bradley is recognised this week for his concerted effort in writing. His writing book is now a sight to behold and shows amazing progress since September—well done Bradley.



Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what they can see from the top of the beanstalk.

Ask your Year 1 child to retell the story 'Tidy' and explain how we can look after wildlife.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain the life cycle of a chicken.

Ask your Year 3 child how forces make things move.

Ask your Year 4 child what a decimal number is.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain what a modal verb is and to use one in a sentence.

Ask your Year 6 child to explain why you would write a letter of application.

Building brain power with speed stacking

Did you know that speed stacking with cups can exercise the brain? This is what our Key Stage 2 children found out this week as they took part in a special speed stacking workshop. They had to put their powers of hand-eye co-ordination to the ultimate test and to work in a quick witted fashion to copy the patterns that the speed stacking leader demonstrated to them. By crossing what is known as the 'midline' of their bodies, the children created new connections in their **brains**. These new connections are known to help spur **brain** growth which in turn promotes greater academic achievement. This certainly shows that you can have fun and learn at the same time.

The children showed amazing levels of concentration, perseverance and self control as they tackled this tricky activity and they certainly gave the leader a run for their money!



Children get to have their say

This week we have shared an assembly with the children that is known as 'The Big Ask' assembly. During this assembly, the children were virtually introduced to the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza. Dame Rachel is seeking the opinions of children from across the nation to find out how they have been affected by the pandemic and how they wish to be supported in light of this. She is inviting young people of all ages to participate and have a say in what happens next for them after a year which has hit young people particularly hard.

The more children that take part, the bigger the further reach and impact, so we're thrilled to be supporting the Children's Commissioner to get the message out there to young people. You may find a link to the survey here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/> which is open until 19th May and which takes between 5-10 minutes to complete.



Forthcoming Dates

These dates may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance.

w/c 26th April—International Week

3rd May—Bank holiday (school closed to children)

7th May—Phoenix Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

14th May—Violet Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

19th May—Reception celebration at 10am via Zoom (more details to follow)

21st May—Dorado Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

21st May—Team pod afternoon

21st May—STEM Week

21st May—Class photos

28th May—Aquila Class assembly at 9.15am via Zoom (more details to follow)

w/c 31st May—Half term

7th June—INSET day (school closed to children)

8th June—INSET day (school closed to children)

9th June—Children return

11th June—Indigo Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)

18th June—Lacerta Class assembly at 9.15am (via Zoom, if necessary)

21st June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)

22nd June—Year 4 Mini Olympics (more details to follow) **NEW DATE ADDED**

23rd June—Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day (more details to follow)

24th June—Reserve Reception & Key Stage 1 sports day

28th June—Key Stage 2 sports day practise (all children to wear PE kits)

30th June—Key Stage 2 sports day (more details to follow)

1st July—Reserve Key Stage 2 sports day

1st July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

2nd July—Columba Class assembly at 9.15am(via Zoom, if necessary)

7th July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

7th July —New Reception parents' evening at 6.00pm (more details to follow)

8th & 9th July—Year 6 new intake days at Cambourne Village College

13th July—New Reception children come and play at 9.30am

14th July—Year 6 production at 2pm (via Zoom, if necessary)

15th July—Year 6 production at 6pm (via Zoom, if necessary)

21st July—Year 6 Leavers' assembly at 10am (via Zoom, if necessary)

22nd July—Last day of Summer term

23rd July—Start of Summer holidays

These dates may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance.

