



2021 Autumn Two Newsletter

Welcome back to the second part of our autumn term! As our letter yesterday mentioned, we are having to reintroduce some of our preventative measures such as face coverings in communal spaces and reducing the mix of year groups within enclosed spaces but we are still hoping for some autumn/winter fun to be had!

Please visit our school website for further information but here are some dates for your diary:

- **Friday 12th November** – FORP dress-down day
- **Friday 19th November** – Children in Need non-uniform day
- **Friday 26th November** – BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)
- **Tuesday 14th December** – Virtual Aladdin Pantomime
- **In the final two weeks of this term, we are looking to hold year group carol concerts outside. More information to follow!**

Mrs Nicole Bramwell
Head of School

New!



Retrieval Practice

By now you will have hopefully seen your child bringing home some retrieval questions as part of their weekly homework tasks. This is linked to our work on how we remember things. In school we are doing lots of work on how our long term memory stores information. Part of being able to remember things quickly is to over learn something. The retrieval questions which your child has are key facts that your child's teacher needs your child to be able to recall instantly. Every time your child looks at these questions, it strengthens the connections in their brain helping them to remember the facts. Please do support your child with looking at these questions, the more times they look at them the more it will stay in their long term memory.

Safeguarding Snippet

We often hear about children playing Roblox and Minecraft and we would like you to be aware of some disturbing scenes that your child may come across when playing these games. On both these sites there are scenes where children are encouraged to re-enact the terrorist actions of the London Bridge attack. This information has recently come to our attention, and we wanted to let you know so you can put restrictions in place to help keep your child safe.

I'm sure many of you have heard of the new Netflix series called 'Squid game'. This is a series that should be watched for people who are 15 years and above. We have witnessed some children playing and talking about 'Squid game' on the playground. A version of 'squid game' can be accessed via Roblox and we wanted you to be aware of this so you can ensure your child's devices are only allowing them to access suitable content.

If you have any questions, then please contact one of the school safeguarding team.

Miss Maddie Boothroyd, Mrs Gabby Nicholls & Mrs Katie Parry



Sports Section by the PE Team

So far, this academic year the children of Rickley Park have taken part in following during PE lessons: Gymnastics, football, Badminton, Basketball, Hockey and Swimming.

With the return of wake and shake every morning, children have had the opportunity to play football, run 'Return to Russia' or Dance before the start of school. Furthermore lunchtime clubs have been provided on the astro for Key stage two, where Football, Handball, Run club and Dodgeball have been delivered by the PE team.

In addition to the two hours PE lessons across the school week, Rickley Park has provided after school clubs for over 100 different children so far varying in activities, from football, Multi-sports to badminton.

Furthermore Rickley Park School has had over 160 different children participate and represent the school in either a fixture or festival so far this academic year. This includes such events as Cross Country where Rickley Park had a very strong showing, with children finishing in the top 20, highest being 8th. The year 3/4 basketball team finished in 3rd place at their regional festival qualifying for the finals. Whilst the Year 5/6 Basketball team who finished their regional festival undefeated, winning all six matches. With Other sporting events enjoyed were, football, Netball, dodgeball, try rugby and end ball.

Currently the PE team are now hosting a six week football event for all IFfL trust schools, on our school Astroturf, this being the first large competitive event of its kind to be held within the trust for PE. The Rickley Park PE team have had a very busy half term, but we still have more events planned for our children this half term, including more Football, Netball and Hockey.



FORP News

Thank you to everyone who came along to the FORP Halloween Parties! Lots of great outfits and the children appeared to have a great time with their friends!

In this next half term, the FORP team will be holding a dress-down day (please see ParentMail or our website for further information) on **Friday 12th November** where voluntary donations are being asked for instead of a voluntary payment. The reasons for these donations will become clear over the next couple of weeks! There will also be Christmas-themed activities for all children across the school in the final week of term including a virtual pantomime of Aladdin!

What is happening this half term?

Nursery

Our Focus in Nursery this term is autumn and Light. We are hoping for some spectacular Autumn colour for leaves and berries, make bird feeders and create some great art for this season. For Light we will learn about Diwali, look at fireworks and lights when we get to Christmas time. Our phonic focus will be Aspect 2 : to develop the general sound discrimination. This covers tuning into sounds of instruments, adjusting the volume of quiet and loud sounds, playing games where children move to different sounds and making their own instruments. Our mathematic focus will be to learn to subitise starting with 3 and building up to 4 and 5. Also we will have a focus of discovering the vocabulary of positional language. In Nursery every Friday our Homework and Big idea will be uploaded to the Google Classroom. We are also beginning to send out Pivotal Learning observations of each child so look out for your child's Wow Moment of the Week.

Reception

This half term in YR we are thinking about 'Light and Dark', learning about traditions of fireworks, Divali and of course Christmas! We will be practising for our Nativity and learning lots of festive songs.

In Maths we are representing and comparing numbers and thinking about the composition of 1,2 and 3 and what 1 more is. We are also thinking about 2D shapes with 4 sides. We will be using positional language to describe where things are, such as: under, on top, next to. We will be thinking about time and the changing months and seasons.

In Literacy we are exploring the Fantastic 'lenses' to explore different stories and activities. We meet 'Grandma Fantastic' who collects new words in her basket. We will use our new phonics sounds in our reading and writing.

Year One

In Year One we will continue to punctuate short sentences using capital letters and full stops. Using our phonics knowledge, we will also begin to sequence sentences to form short narratives.

In maths, we will be consolidating knowledge of place value in numbers up to 20 (and beyond). Children will be focussing on subtraction in different ways, using the part-part whole model and word problems to deepen understanding. We will also be learning about the properties of 2d shapes.

In topic, we are making a windmill house from a mouse using our own designs, name and draw parts of the human body plus identify the main parts of the human body and be able to link them to our senses. In addition to this, we will learn about the local area and make a weather chart. In computing, we are learning how to log on to Purple Mash.

Year Two

Maths - In maths, we will be moving from addition and subtraction to money. The children will learn to recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins. They will then use their knowledge of place value to match coins with equivalent values. For example, ten 1 pence coins is equivalent to one 10 pence coin. We will also use our understanding of place value to see that one note can represent many pounds, e.g. a ten pound note could be 10 pound coins or 3 two pound coins and 4 one pound coins.

In English, we will continue to focus on key grammar skills needed for Year 2 such as adjectives, adverbs, contractions, commas. We will then apply these grammar skills in our next writing unit based on the 2017 BBC1 Christmas advert 'My Christmas Star!'

In our topic "Celebrations", we will learn about special celebrations in our local community and in the wider world. We will take part in lots of exciting learning and activities, discovering the different ways we celebrate. - and the many different things those celebrations can be about!

Burrow & Hub

The Burrow and Hub have moved onto a space theme for their English lessons. They will be designing their own aliens and planets using adjectives and nouns. This term we will be concentrating on using the correct punctuation including inverted commas and question marks.

In Maths this week the children have been reminded of the correct names for coins and notes, can they tell you what they are? They have been looking at ways of making different amounts whilst using all of the coins and notes. We will be continuing working on addition and subtraction too.

Over the next two weeks, the children will be assessed in Maths and English to see if there are any gaps in their learning so we can recap. An early night and a delicious breakfast will help prepare them for these assessments. Please note that the children have not been told that they are being assessed as this may cause them unnecessary anxiety. These assessments are used to help the teachers see what we need to go back and repeat.

Year Three

In English this half-term in Year 3 we begin by looking at the features of Explanation Text. Our model text is based on "How a Robot Dog Works" by Jane Considine. We will learn how to use the language of "cause and effect." Phonics activities and spellings will run alongside lessons in small groups, and as ever practising our handwriting to improve neatness, fluency and speed.

In Maths we are learning about addition and subtraction in numbers to 1000. We are building on our understanding of Place Value using a variety of equipment such as Base 10 to show exchange. When ready to progress, the children will then learn the formal written column method. As always we will be continuing to learn our times tables using TT Rockstars and Rolling Numbers.

Our Science topic continues to be about Forces and Magnets, using the Topic name of Scrapheap Challenge. Linking to this we will be sewing in DT, learning a variety of stitches to design Robot book marks and make robot puppets. In Computing we are developing our typing skills before beginning the topic called "Communications" which involves how to send emails and messages safely on blogs, vlogs and age-appropriate social media platforms. In RE we continue to look at the strand Belonging.

Year Four

In Year 4 we have started our new topic, Epic Empires! We will kick this topic off with an exciting Roman Day on Thursday. The children will make their own costumes, design mosaics, make swords and headpieces. This exciting day will be a great starting point for all the learning coming up. In English, they will be writing a Diary entry from the point of view of a Roman Emperor. Year 4 will also be reading the Thieves of Ostia, a fictional Roman mystery story. During our History lessons, the children will have the chance to explore Roman living, jobs, inventions, and invasions! In Maths the children will continue to work on subtraction and move onto measurements. They will also be learning Roman numerals! The year group will be taking a trip to Bletchley library to see if they can find some Roman non-fiction books to support their learning. We are also hoping to plan another trip to some Roman ruins to really make the topic come to life!

Year Five

English this half term we will be writing our own adventurous comedy narrative about a central character who releases an ancient Daemon accidentally and needs the help of a constellation and the Greek Gods to help save the world. We will then be writing our own non-chronological report about a Greek mythological creature, based on shared writing about the cyclops. There will again be a key focus on year 5 grammar skills, relative clauses, relative pronouns, parenthesis just to name a few.

In reading we are starting on "Who Let the Gods Out" by Maz Evans. It is a comedy narrative based on Elliot letting out a Daemon accidentally. Our writing is based on this book.

In maths, we will be looking at Multiplication and Division. This will include recapping three and four digit multiplication while also moving onto long column multiplication and four-digit bus stop method division. Following this we shall be looking at working out the area and perimeter of various shapes.

Art and DT will focus on the design and creation of Greek amphora pots. By the end of autumn 2 we will have painted Greek pots and made Greek pots out of clay. History is all about ancient Greece, including timelines and periods as well as the Greek Gods. RE is focussing on Christianity and how Christians celebrate new life. In Science we will be looking at forces including gravity. In RSHE we are looking at health and wellbeing and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Year Six

In English this term, we are revising our basic skills and working hard on editing our own work carefully. In reading, we are covering a range of texts and ensuring we can retrieve information accurately and quickly. Many children are working hard on fluency in reading to make sure they can access the secondary curriculum next year. We have asked all the children to read at home for half an hour a day to support this and we are helping them to find books that they enjoy reading. In Maths, we are consolidating our prior fractions knowledge before developing our ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. In addition, we will be improving our arithmetic skills through daily practise to ensure speed and accuracy.

In foundation, we are learning about South America. This includes work on the Amazon, the Andes and comparing countries within the area. We will find out all about earthquakes and the devastation they cause. We will finish our topic by building earthquake proof structures so send your cardboard boxes in please! In computing, the children are deepening their understanding of how to be safe online before moving onto being able to code information on spreadsheets.