



## Newsletter – Autumn 1 2023

### Abbey CofE Infant and Nursery School

Love, Laugh, Learn – Walking with Jesus to life in all its fullness, John 10:10

#### Squirrels

The children have settled so well into nursery life in Squirrels, they have had so much fun exploring the new exciting environments, engaging in new learning experiences and making relationships with staff and their peers. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and can't wait to learn and have so much more fun together.

This term we have been learning about All About me, we have been talking and naming our facial features, creating our own marks to make our All About Me tree and looking at our family photos showing each other and talking about them, this was a lovely activity and helped us settled in.



Also, this term we have been exploring our senses, we have been smelling and feeling lots of textures, extending our vocabulary describing them, we really enjoyed this. We have also been reading lots of stories, we have developed our listening and attention skills by listening to the stories and retelling them using familiar phrases, one of our favourite stories was 'Goldilocks and the 3 bears.'



We have been exploring Autumn, looking at Autumn treasures, such as leaves, conkers, sticks and much more. We have been getting creative using different media and materials making collages, leave printing, making hedgehogs and even exploring pumpkins. We've had an amazing time in Squirrels.





## Owls

What a brilliant, busy, first half term for the Owl children!

The children have settled really well into the rules and routines of Nursery. They have been enjoying exploring our indoor and outdoor environments and making new friends.

This half term we have been learning about our topic 'All about me'.

In PE we have been enjoying lots of outdoor time in our garden where we have been developing our climbing and balancing skills. We have used the climbing frame, balancing equipment and balance bikes to support with this learning.

In Art we enjoyed drawing club. Each week we attempt to draw different things. This half term we have drawn ourselves, our families, a tractor for Harvest and a hedgehog for Autumn. We also painted a self-portrait for a lovely display in our classroom. Recently we enjoyed creating an Autumn clay piece of art work from our Autumn walk.

In Music we have learnt lots of different Nursery rhymes and explored our music area in the garden outside.

In RE we have discussed who is special to us and why. We have shared our family photos and talked about favourite family members, friends, teachers and pets. We looked at harvest and learnt lots about different vegetables.

In Science we have been learning about our bodies. We drew around our friend and labelled them. We played 'point to your... head/ shoulders etc' games and sang 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes'. We also learnt all about Autumn- what changes happen in Autumn and looked at Autumn objects such as conkers, acorns, Autumn coloured leaves etc.

In maths we have been working really hard on our counting skills, subitising up to 3 objects, singing number rhymes and learning the positional language of up and down.

We love reading in Owls and we have loved reading lots of books including Owl babies, Peace at last and the Colour monster.

Great work Owls, see you after half term!



# Willow Class

## Settling In

The children have settled into willow class brilliantly. They have formed lovely friendships with each other and have been sharing and taking turns well. The children have had lots of fun exploring the activities both inside the classroom and in the outdoor area.

## Little Wandles

The children have taken part in daily phonics lessons where they learn a phoneme day. The children have done a fantastic job of then writing this in their writing books. They are also learning to blend phonemes to read words, e.g. c-a-t. The children have blown us away with their amazing progress.

## Reading Enrichment

We have enjoyed reading lots of different stories and poems during our reading enrichment lessons. We have read stories such as My Magic Family, Funny bones, Six Dinner Sid, Perfectly Norman and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have also learnt about poetry and rhyming words. We have used our Write Stuff lenses and characters to make predictions, to think about how the characters may be feeling and to sequence key events within the story. Grandma Fantastic has also helped us to learn some new vocabulary such as scrumptious, proud and suspicious.

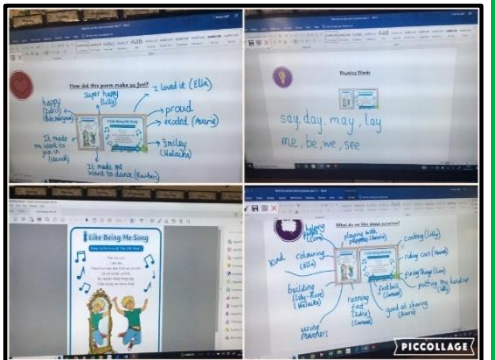
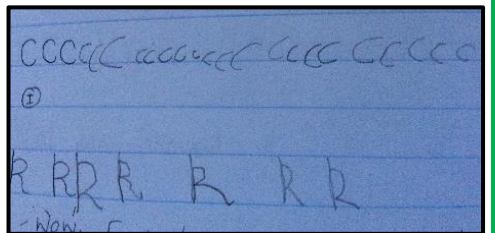
## Maths

In maths the children have been developing their subitising skills. This means they children are able to quantify sets of objects by 'just seeing' rather than counting.

The children have also been exploring how numbers can be composed using smaller numbers, e.g. 3 can be composed of 1 and 2. We have had lots of fun using the counters and multilink cubes!

## Topic-All About Me

The children have enjoyed being artists this half-term! They did a fantastic job of creating their own self-portraits. The children have also used different media to create artwork based on various genres of music. In Science the children have been learning about how to keep themselves healthy. We looked at various fruits and vegetables before creating our own fruit kebabs. The children had a fantastic time cutting and tasting the different fruits!



# Maple

## Settling In

What a very busy half term Maple class have had! The children have settled into school so well and are beginning to form lots of lovely friendships. They have had lots of fun exploring the provision and engaging in different activities inside the classroom and outside!

## Little Wandle

The children are taking part in daily phonics lessons where they learn a phoneme a day and then write the grapheme into their book. We have also been practising our sounding talking and blending of words. They are making brilliant progress with this and they should feel very proud of themselves.

## Maths

In maths the children have been developing their subitising skills.

This means they children are able to quantify sets of objects by 'just seeing' rather than counting. We have been practising our careful counting and looking at the order of numbers. The children have also been exploring how numbers can be composed using smaller numbers, e.g. 3 can be composed of 1 and 2. We have also looked at comparing numbers are using key vocabulary such as 'more than' and 'fewer than'.



## Reading Enrichment

We have enjoyed reading lots of different stories and poems during our reading enrichment lessons. We have used our Write Stuff lenses and characters to make predictions, to think about how the characters may be feeling and to sequence key events within the story. Grandma Fantastic has also helped us to learn some new vocabulary such as 'scrumptious', 'proud' and 'suspicious'.



## Topic

The children have enjoyed being scientists and looking for signs of Autumn during our walk to Weddington fields. We saw the different coloured leaves on the trees, small acorns and shiny conkers, which we enjoyed collecting. The children noticed that the leaves were falling from the trees and enjoyed walking through them. We have also explored how to use different art media such as; water colours, charcoals and pastels while listening to different genres of music. We made mind maps of what the music made the children think of, played the music and watched what they created. We had lots of lovely creativity and the children used the media effectively!



# Sycamore

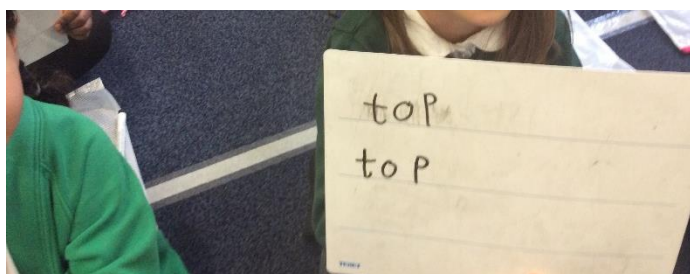
## Settling In

We are delighted with how the children have settled into school and their new class. The children have really loved exploring our indoor and outdoor environments. It has been wonderful to watch them engage in classroom provision and activities, and with each other.

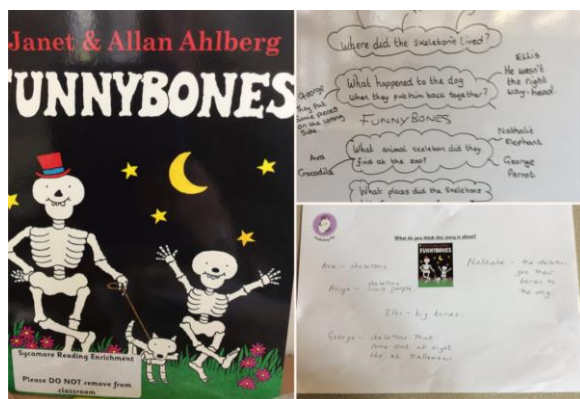


## Little Wandle

The children have really taken to our daily phonic lessons and especially enjoy spotting our new phoneme game. We are progressing with our writing in our books practising on our whiteboards each day.



## Reading Enrichment



We have covered a variety of texts and genres including rhymes and songs. The children have made some lovely predictions and explored the characters' feelings using our 'Write Stuff' lenses. The children have also been expanding their vocabulary using Grandma Fantastic. The book *Funny Bones* was definitely a firm favourite with Sycamore.

## Topic

Following our Local Area walk, the children further developed being geographers by working on their mapping skills, producing messy maps. They used items from around the classroom to represent all the features of the local area that they saw. They got really creative with their ideas. Our topic work 'Ourselves' involved looking at how we have all grown from . It was fun and so lovely to see all the baby photographs and discuss how much we have grown and changed.



## Hazel Class:

We have had a fantastic start to year 1 in Hazel class. Miss Murphy, Miss Waters, and Miss Smith are incredibly proud of all that we have achieved.

We have settled well into Year 1 and are following our new routines including our new early phonics and reading scheme- 'Little Wandle', The Write Stuff, Maths, and our topic lessons.

In Maths, the children have been looking at place value with numbers to 10. We have compared numbers, used the more than, less than and equals symbol, used tens frames to represent numbers with counters as well as using a 100 square to find one more or one less than a number.

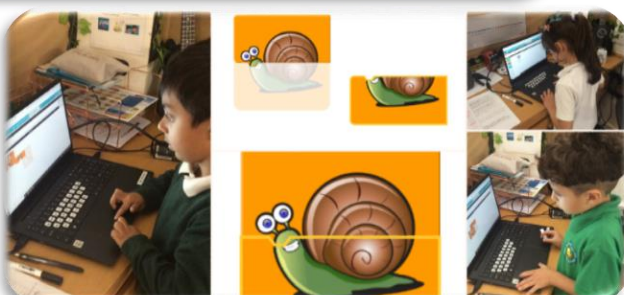
In The Write Stuff we have been looking at the story 'Last Stop on Market Street.' In this book we have been following CJ and his Nana on a bus journey. We have used the FANTASTIC Lenses to write sentences about what CJ could see, smell, hear, feel, imagine, and say or think about on his journey. We even had an opportunity to go on our own bus journey. The children have been continuing to use their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops as well as being introduced to speech marks as well as commas and alliteration of words.

We have explored a variety of different texts in Reading Enrichment, including, traditional tales, instructions, poetry, and non-fiction texts. We have had fun using the VIPERS to predict, sequence, learn new vocabulary, and answer questions about what we have read.



In RE this half term we have been learning all about the Creation Story in the Christian bible. We have learnt what Christians believe about God. We have re-told the Creation story, discussed how we can look after God's world, and created a poem/prayer to tell God what we are thankful for.

We have had lots of fun with our topic lessons this half term, we have been explorers in Geography, scientists, artists, musicians, gymnasts, and designers. We have explored our 5 senses in Science and which body parts links to those senses. Drawn portraits in Art using different media including water colours and pencils. Looked at directions and maps in relation to our local area and discussed using a compass in Geography. We have designed and created our own healthy sandwiches in our Design Technology lessons, as well as looking at where our food comes from. In PE we have been practising gymnastic skills, including travelling in different ways and using our muscles to hold different shapes. In music we have been listening to hip-hop music, we have had lots of fun finding the pulse, learning about rhythm, singing, rapping, and discussing pitch. We have also explored different musical instruments, including glockenspiels and recorders. In computing we have learnt what technology is, how to log in and use a track pad on a laptop, how to paint a picture using the paint programme, how to add text to a document and save our work, and we discussed rules for using technology safely.



## Cherry Blossom Class:

The children have settled so well into Cherry Blossom class this year! Mrs Khela, Mrs Dawood and Miss Mason have been so impressed!

We have started straight away with our Year 1 routines including completing our new early phonics and reading scheme- 'Little Wandle', The Write Stuff, Maths, as well as Science, Art, Design, PE and Geography this half term.

In The Write Stuff, we have been looking at the story, 'Last Stop on Market Street', where the children have been continuing to use their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They have been introduced to speech marks as well as commas and alliteration of words. We even went on a bus ride and pretended we were CJ!

In Maths, the children have been looking at place value with numbers to 10. We have compared numbers, used the more than, less than and equals symbol, used tens frames to represent numbers with counters as well as using a 100 square to find one more or one less than a number.

In Science, we have looked at our 5 senses and what body part we use that links to the senses. We have drawn portraits of ourselves in Art, using watercolour paints, and crayon. We looked at famous portraits from Picasso, Andy Warhol and many more! The children's portraits have turned out lovely! We can't wait to show you at parents evening! In Design, the children have designed healthy sandwiches as well as looking at where our food comes from. In Geography, we have looked at maps and direction as well as a compass. In PE we have been practising our gymnastic skills.

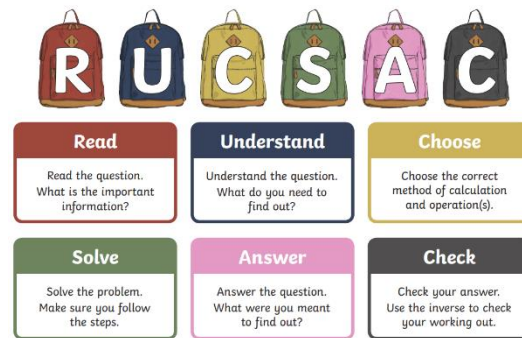


## Oak Class

Oak class have settled into year 2 beautifully. Now they have got used to the expectations in year 2, they are really trying to complete all their learning the best they possibly can. In **Literacy**, we completed the story 'The Little Red Reading Hood'. The children loved the twist in this story and particular enjoyed the experience days that came with it. We enjoyed choosing a spot on the field to read and a visit to Nuneaton library. We are now reading 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and are writing letters to our felt tip pens pleading for them to come back- they've quit!



In **Maths**, we have been practising our 2s, 5s and 10s, as well as problem solving and using our method 'RUCSAC' to help us solve problems all by ourselves. I'm sure the children can tell you all about it.

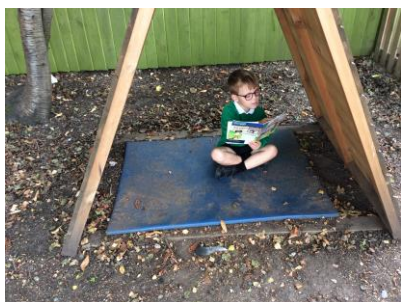


In **Topic**, we learnt how to keep our bodies healthy in **Science** and even had Justin visit us from 'Change Makers' who told us all about the different ways we could keep our bodies healthy. We have also been learning how to draw our self-portraits in **Art**. We learnt so many new skills in order to draw ourselves in more detail. These skills involved stippling, hatching, blending and scribbling. Our self-portraits were amazing- we definitely have some future artists in the making! We then learnt how make bread in **Design Technology**. We designed them first and then made them ourselves. Not only do we have future artists, we have future bakers too! In **P.E**, we did Gymnastics and learnt different moves such as the bridge, arabesque and japana!



## Cedar:

The children have settled into year 2 life and are into the swing of all the learning that takes place throughout the day. In Literacy, we have completed our first book of the year Little Red Reading Hood where the children wrote a recount of the story. I must say I enjoyed reading them all, the children did so well and should be proud of themselves. We have started our next text in Literacy, The Day the Crayons Quit, where we will be writing a letter to try and get our felt tip pens back. In maths we have been learning about place value and what each digit represents in a two-digit number. We have been perfecting our counting in 2's, 5's and 10's forwards and backwards from any given number. We need help though to ensure that we do not forget how to do this.



## Topic

Our science learning this half term has been about being healthy. We have looked at the different body parts, why we need to exercise and what a healthy diet is. To embed our science learning, we had a visit from Jusitn at Change Makers. He discussed what a balanced diet consists of and why we need to increase our heart rates when we exercise.



As part of our art learning we have been looking at self-portraits. We looked at different artists and the different techniques that they have used. We have practiced these different techniques before we had a go at sketching our self-portraits. We started by looking at our picture and where the different of our face are. we sketched in pencil and then when we were happy, we went over the lines in black pastel. We used water colours to apply the base coat of colour and added detail with charcoal and pastel using the techniques that we had practiced.



Within our DT project, Mrs Horton wanted the children to eat a healthier snack involving bread. The children tasted different types of bread and then designed their own healthier bread roll. We practiced kneading the dough before we made our actual bread roll. We mixed all our ingredients together and kneaded the dough before we left it to rise. In the afternoon we shaped and cooked our bread and enjoyed eating our creations.



## Elm Class

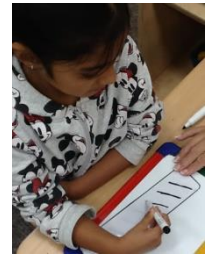
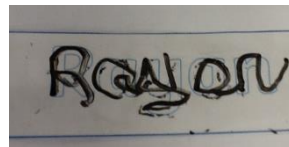
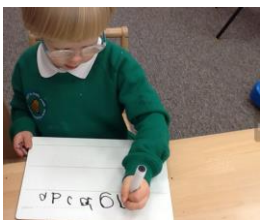
Our class have settled in well to our new classroom and have become more confident in our routine. We have been working on how to know what is happening now and next.

### Phonics

In phonics our children have been trying hard with our sounds. Every day we practice and move on to a new sound when the children are confident.

### Writing

The children then practice their writing and fine motor skills by tracing the letters we have learned, using playdough to strengthen their hands or practicing cutting. We have explored writing and practicing with various different mediums to try in different ways until the children are confident. Many of the children are becoming more independent with their writing and are choosing to try writing throughout the day. The hard work the children have put in has blown my socks off!



### Maths

We have been learning about shapes this half term. We have been learning to identify circles, squares and triangles in lots of different ways to build confidence. We have used shape boards to help identify the shape and match them correctly. We have also been practicing building using shapes, matching shapes, painting and printing shapes. The children have especially enjoyed the 'I am a shape song' playing the shape monster game and building pictures using shapes.



### Topic

We have been learning all about me this half-term. The children have enjoyed creating different kinds of self-portraits and being artists with different mediums. We have also been learning about turn taking and waiting for your turn using timers as well as learning to sit together and play with our friends. In science we have been learning about our bodies so that we know where are our body parts. We have started working on our senses and have been exploring different smells, textures and looking boxes.

