



Newsletter 10 – February 2022

Our value this term is Respect

Stars of the Day

Weeks 5 Kiera, Rupert, Walter, Juliette, Arthur L
Week 6 Charlotte, Rupert, Walter

Star of the Week

Week 5– Ferne for her hard work preparing for Number Day.
Week 6 – Eva for her positive and helpful attitude.

Friday Table

Well done to the children who have been role models of good behaviour during lunch and got to sit on the Friday table:
Week 5 – Archie, Arthur L, Juliette, Nancy, Holly & Eva.



Diary Dates

15th February Cygnet trip to 'Sharing Shakespeare at Mary Arden's Farm'
15th February 3pm Chess Club
16th February – Swans' trip to the Corinium Museum
17th February Cygnet- Whole Class Forest School am.
18th February – End of Term 3 at 3.30pm

Covid-19 Guidelines January 2022:

Thank you to those of you who have been continuing to test yourselves and your children. It is really helpful to try to minimise the transfer of infections. Quite a few pupils have been complaining of stomach ache, please be aware that this can be a symptom of the Omicron variant.

Changes to our guidelines -

Due to the increase risk levels at the moment, we are asking all adults to wear facemasks at drop-off and pick up and not to come inside the school building.

If you have access to lateral flow tests please test yourselves and your children twice a week if you feel comfortable doing this. It is helpful to the school to help contain outbreaks.

Please could you continue to talk to your children about the importance of washing their hands thoroughly and regularly?

Covid Measures:

- We will continue to:
 - ask pupils to wash their hands on arrival at school and after breaks and at hometime.
 - ventilate the classrooms, but not at expense of necessary warmth, open windows and doors to clear air when room not in use.
 - hold outdoor worship where possible
 - have additional cleaning of high touch areas at lunchtime.
- Face coverings are recommended for staff in crowded spaces, though not required.
- Staff continue to wash hands first thing on arrival at school.
- Symptomatic staff or pupils, and those who record a positive test, will still need to isolate in line with current guidance.
- The Co-Head teachers are required to monitor cases to identify any outbreaks and close contacts. If 5 staff or pupils test positive within a 10 day period or if a member of staff or pupil is admitted to hospital we will seek public health advice and implement additional infection control measures – e.g. additional cleaning, additional ventilation.

Full details can be seen in the Outbreak Management Plan on the website.

Covid-19 Symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are usually mild, but some people can become very unwell.

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

If you have these symptoms you are able to seek testing.

You can ask for a test:

- for yourself, if you have coronavirus symptoms now (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- for someone you live with, if they have coronavirus symptoms

You need to get the test done in the first 5 days of having symptoms.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Adhering to Government Guidance

Please adhere to the latest government guidance on socialising and avoiding infection, which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Covid-19 Arrangements

If you have any concerns or questions about the new arrangements in school please contact Mrs Simmons (admin@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk), Miss Davies or Mrs McLellan (head@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk)

Governor Update

Many thanks to Stephen Wells for leading the Governing Body since 2018. Stephen has led the Governing Body through the Covid Pandemic which has been extremely challenging. It has been a real education and privilege to work on the Governing Body under his leadership. Thank you, Stephen you will be greatly missed.

It has been difficult to find a replacement for Stephen and the search continues. Until a suitable candidate can be found the task of chairing the Governing Body is happily with James Simmons and myself. James is taking the lead in a Co-Chairing role with myself in support also as Co-Chair.

James and I have had several online meetings over the past 2 weeks since Stephen's departure and we are, I believe, doing well to pick up the mantle.

I would like to thank the Co-Heads and all the other members of the Governing Body for helping James and I navigate our way through the necessary work to lead a successful Governing Body. A special thanks to Rachel Mehtar for working hard to keep the governors in check in her vital role as Clerk to the Governors.

Finally, thank you to all the members of staff who work hard to make Southrop School an inspiring place to learn.

Ed Morris – Co-Chair of Governors

In the Swan Classroom

In English we have been continuing our work on news articles very imaginatively. Y3&4 have been enjoying writing articles about a mystery guest who disappeared from the royal ball at midnight! Y5&6 have been writing about a strange invasion of flying pig. Sounds unbelievable – well take a look at this news article about pink frogs raining down on Stroud and Cirencester 30 years ago.

<https://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/17154361.remember-pink-frogs-rained-stroud-cirencester/>

In Maths everyone has been doing some data handling and using the results of the Big Garden Birdwatch to help them. Year 3 & 4 have been looking at bar charts and Year 5&6 interpreting line graphs and using timetables, the latter being something that children in our area do not have much access to. Do please seize any opportunity to discuss any timetables you come across with your child! Y5&6 have also been thinking about reflecting and translating shapes and learning what makes a shape congruent - you might want to check their knowledge at home! Meanwhile Y3&4 have really been impressing Mr Jones with their knowledge of column addition and subtraction.

While the Y5&6 Cross Country Team were busy at Far Peaks the rest of the class enjoyed some time Scratch coding and debugging a quiz with Mr Jones.

This week we were really lucky to Zoom into the Cheltenham Synagogue with the rest of the school, as part of our study of Judaism. Thank you to Mrs Tipple for arranging this. The children were able to get some first-hand information about the different festivals celebrated and even learnt a Jewish prayer.....in Hebrew!

In art we learnt about The Firebird by Stravinsky and used the music as inspiration for our own artwork. The children had free choice over the medium they wanted to use for their picture and really captured the emotion of the music in their art work.

After all this we still had some energy left to design a work out during PE. Miss Belcher challenged the children to design a routine that exercised each muscle group. We even found some muscles we didn't know where there!

Cross Country at Far Peaks



A huge well done to the Y5&6 team who put themselves forward for the challenge. Cross Country ordinarily takes a lot of determination and strength of character, and this one more than most, as there were quite a few uphill sections. They showed great teamwork supporting each other and we are very proud of them.

World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day. This is a great opportunity for the children to explore books and reading. More details will be sent out but half term is a good opportunity to decide on a book character for dressing up on the day.

Number Day

Well done for Mrs Dawson and the School Council for arranging such an enjoyable day. The morning started with a Number Day worship, then learning maths through stories. Over lunch children were busy making numbers through gymnastic with some help from Miss Hall. The afternoon was a frenzy of weighing, measuring and baking mug cakes in the microwave. The day finished with Maths Who Wants to Be a Millionaire and the grand draw of the raffle. In addition everyone got to take home a number biscuit thanks to Ferne. Wow – what a day!



After School Sports Club

Cygnets had a fabulous time last week with Miss Belcher setting obstacle and challenge courses for the another team to navigate. As you can see they did a fabulous job. They also evaluated each others' courses very effectively and suggested improvements. You can see video of the courses being used on our Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LF8P78BYfR4>



Donation from the CHEQS and Local Villages Trust

We were surprised and delighted to receive a cheque for £1000 out of the blue one Friday afternoon! The trust would like us to spend it on items to support the children's wellbeing and the staff are considering that carefully at the moment. We will keep you posted.

In the Cygnet Classroom

The Cygnets have had another busy week of learning. We have been continuing our topic, Famous For More Than Five Minutes, and the children loved drawing and painting portraits of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I. The Cygnets worked together to sort and order different writing technologies. They were intrigued to find out that William Shakespeare handwrote all of his plays, imagine not being able to type up what you wanted to say! They have also chosen their favourite famous person to research further and write about in detail. They are really excited about our upcoming trip to Shakespeare's farm next Tuesday.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs Silverston from the Cheltenham Synagogue Zoomed in to speak to us about Judaism. She showed us photos of the synagogue in Cheltenham and talked us through the various festivals. Mrs Silverston also answered the Childrens' questions about Judaism. The children did a wonderful job of listening intently, asking interesting questions and were able to connect their learning in class with real life.

In English, we have been reading and discussing poetry. We have looked at lots of different types of poems: classic, nursery rhymes, funny poetry and themed poetry. The children are excited to find a favourite poem from home and bring it in next week to share with the class and explain why they chose it. We have also focused lots on writing out poems with an emphasis on handwriting. Most of the children are beginning to join their letters and are becoming competent little writers.

In Maths, Year One children have been working on number fluency. They are exploring and understanding number facts for numbers up to ten. They are using a range of resources to help them and are becoming more and more fluent in reciting these number facts. Year Two children are spending lots of time talking about and questioning the properties of a range of 3D shapes. The children are becoming confident with the vocabulary around these shapes.

In Computing, the children tried their best to direct Mrs Martyn and I around the classroom by using a clear set of instructions to program us. They found this very tricky and also hilarious when their instructions sent us off in the opposite direction. This week we explored Bee Bots and how to program them.

In Science the children have been learning about different materials. This week they did different experiments to investigate the different properties of these materials. We have had a huge push on using scientific vocabulary. I wonder if they have been using any of it at home.

Whole Cygnet Trip to Forest School

The whole Cygnet Class will be going to Forest School for the morning on Thursday 17th February. Please make sure you child is dressed for the weather and has wellington boots. They can change into their school uniform when they return.

... and the Nest

Reception has been having even more fun with dinosaurs for the last two weeks. We have used colourful non-fiction books to answer our questions and explore the subject further. The children have really enjoyed turning the pages and finding dinosaurs and habitats that they are keen to share and copy. They have excavated dinosaur fossils in the sandpit and measured them with cubes. They made their own playdough dinosaurs which they embellished with spaghetti spikes and penne pasta and gave them deserving adjectives. We read and acted Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs and the children have written their first three-sentence stories using that framework. Each has a beginning, a middle and an end - and glorious illustrations.

We have nearly finished Set 2 sounds in Phonics. Today we enjoyed the sunshine and practised 'ou - shout out loud' in the playground, writing 'ou' words in chalk on the ground.

In Maths, we are looking at 6 - counting, composition and calculating within 6. We are using our dinosaurs to add and take away as well as ten frames and number lines. We are also making super patterns, lining dinos and counters in fabulous, careful orders.

Dressing up has been our play of choice every time, every day. There are four favourite characters: William Shakespeare, Rapunzel, Tiger and Victoria (the Queen). It is a toss who bargains which dress or suit but the conversation and imagination that follows is golden. Happy days.

Chess Club

Chess Club will continue next term but the starting date is still to be confirmed with Stephen Wells.

Julia McLellan

Mrs J McLellan

Co-Head Teachers

Megan Davies

Miss M Davies