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**No. 3**

**School Newsletter**

**November 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic half term we are having! I hope this newsletter captures some of the wonderful things that the children have been up to recently - even though I know there are more events to come in the next few weeks as we enter that very busy and exciting time of the year! Please make sure that you check the calendar dates so that you don't miss out on an opportunity to come into school and share in what the children have been learning.

As I write this email, I am very aware of the technicians who are currently hard at work in the hall (and will be tomorrow too), as they fit our new lighting and sound system. This has only been made possible by the hard work of Friends of Freegrounds Junior School (FoFJS). Over the years, the children have benefitted greatly from the events that they have put on and the money that has been raised. Dawn and Sarah, who have run FoFJS are currently looking for a new team of volunteers to take over towards the end of this academic year. Please can I encourage you to think seriously about whether you could support us as a school in this way. We have had limited interest so far and it would be such a shame if we were not able to build on this when they move on from their FoFJS roles. You will no doubt be aware of the work that goes on in many other schools as a result of parents volunteering in similar ways and roles and it would be a real shame if Freegrounds were to miss out. Dawn or Sarah will be more than happy to talk to anyone interested please contact them at [friendsoffreegroundsjunior@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoffreegroundsjunior@gmail.com)

I hope you enjoy a wonderful, longer than usual, weekend.

Best wishes  
Ryan O'Hearn

### **Important Update and reminders for FoFJS**

Thank you for all your generous donations towards our rainbow raffle. Tickets have been sent home with children today and cost £1 a strip, additional books of tickets are available from the school office. We have 29 hampers available to win!

We have a fun packed December ahead with Christmas shopping on Thursday 5th December, the House cake sale competition on Tuesday 10th December and the rainbow raffle draw on Tuesday 17th December at 10.45am.



### Year 3

**Butser Farm:** On Monday 18th November, Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Butser Farm to learn more about the Stone Age civilisation. The children were greeted in a roundhouse by the Butser Farm staff before setting off to start their different activities. Over the course of the day, all children had the opportunity to be archaeologists and dig for Stone Age artefacts – some of us found remnants of pottery or animal skulls. We turned our hands to traditional spinning and learned how to tease out and spin sheep's wool to make bracelets and necklaces with. After lunch, we were given a guided tour around the different settlements and learned about the materials used to create the roundhouses and tepees. Before leaving Butser Farm, we carved our initials and a Stone Age style picture onto pieces of chalk using flint before adding colour, using green leaves. The whole process required a lot of resilience and patience but we all achieved it! A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by everyone.



**Peggy the Therapy Dog:** On Friday 22nd November, Peggy the Therapy Dog and her owner Guy, came to visit Year 3. The children had the opportunity to stroke Peggy and learn about her role in our school where she listens to children reading aloud. There were lots of questions for Guy to answer about Peggy but we learned that she is 28 years old in human years!



### Year 4

Pine and Beech classes have had a very busy November! We marked 'switch off fortnight', Remembrance Day, outdoor classroom day and 'odd socks day', all whilst learning about Ancient Egyptians, the school pond, portal stories, our times tables and so much more.

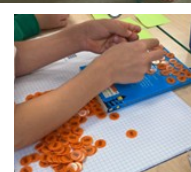
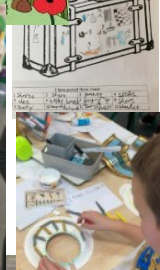
We loved learning about children in World War 2 on Remembrance Day. We put the events of the war on a timeline and discovered what it was like for children living through World War 2. If they lived in big cities like Southampton, they got evacuated from their homes to live in the countryside and ate meals using rations, leftovers and homegrown food. We thought about what we would pack if we were evacuated, like our favourite teddy and simple games like a ball or skipping rope.

In History, we are learning about the Ancient Egyptians and so we had a 'Hook Day', where we dressed up in costume, wrote in hieroglyphics, made jewellery and solved puzzles on our orienteering course around the school. It was so much fun and a great way to kick-start the topic!

In English we have been planning and writing a portal story using *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis as inspiration. We are writing a story about Lucy who finds a wardrobe in an empty room, gets into it, but instead of finding herself in Narnia, she is transported to Ancient Egypt! In our hook lesson, we crawled through a wardrobe and into an Ancient Egyptian world of artefacts, music, the sweet smell of sandalwood and the feel of warm sand! Our stories need to include expanded noun phrases, correctly punctuated internal thought and prepositional phrases.

In Maths, we have been learning all about how to use our times table and division facts to solve problems. We have been using inverse triangles to show how multiplication is commutative and how to make division sums using multiplication facts. We have made arrays, used concrete resources, number tracks and counters to support our learning.

We began our longitudinal study of the school pond in our Science lessons this month. We will look at the pond every season to investigate the changes that happen throughout the year. We drew sketches, took photographs, recorded the air temperature and much more. We will be back in Spring to compare our findings.

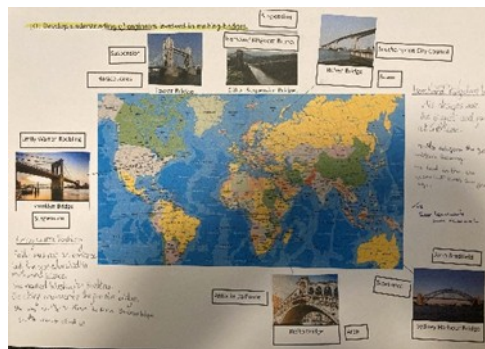


## Year 5

Year 5 were pleased to welcome Ross from Wessex River Trust into school at the start of this term to launch our Rivers topic. We enjoyed an interactive session building an example of a river system and labelling lots of the human and physical features you find in and around them. This has linked well into our Geography lesson where we have continued to learn about Rivers and have used the school grounds to explore the concepts of transportation, deposition and erosion.

In Design and Technology, we have also been thinking about rivers but more specially how to cross them! We have enjoyed making examples of Truss, Beam and Arch bridges and learning about how suspension bridges work. We have focused on some key examples from around the world and begun learning about the designers and engineers who worked on them.

In English, we are finishing our Winter poems – we look forward to sharing these with you at the Year 5 and 6 Christmas event in a few weeks.



## Year 6

Year Six have really enjoyed learning all about World War Two this half term. We started off the topic with Remembrance Day. The children then focused on the role Southampton played in the war and why it was significant. We learnt all about the Spitfire factories and how the docks provided Britain with much of its food. Then we explored why this made Southampton a target for bombings during the Blitz. All this learning helped when we went on our visit to Southampton. Everyone listened so well on the tour of the city and the vaults and asked lots of insightful questions. At Solent Sky Museum we loved looking at all the planes (including the Spitfire), even getting to go inside of some! It really was a great topic!

In English, we have been exploring poetry. Year Six have spent many lessons analysing poems and looking for the key features. We put all our learning together to write a poem which takes the reader on a journey through a winter's scene. Everyone wrote amazing poems and were able to use great vocabulary and figurative language to paint the picture of the scene. Some children will be reading aloud in the Christmas Celebration.

What a great half term! We are looking forward to the new year when our topic will be "Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them"



## **Family Support Worker: Coffee Mornings for all parents**

I am holding a Christmas card coffee morning on the 5th December. It's a chance to get together, eat croissants and listen to some Christmas music.

**Thursday 5th December 9:00am - Christmas Card Making and FoFJS Raffle draw at 9:15am**

Please complete the google doc <https://forms.gle/tLF3jpKV7AaaXAj47>

Michelle Brightwell  
Family Support Worker



## **Outdoor Project Update**

It has been wonderful to see our children playing on the new area!!

