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No. 5

School Newsletter

January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking time to read our January newsletter. As you will see, all of the children are fully stuck into their new topics and have been working hard to learn all sorts of different skills and information throughout the start of this Spring term.

Behaviour Policy Information Evening

A big 'thank you' to everyone who has signed up to attend our online information evening on Monday 3rd February at 7:30pm. The evening will focus on our school behaviour policy and the reasons as to why we use this approach. As a school, we have noticed a number of very positive improvements as a result of changing our policy in September, this has also been recognised by the local authority during their recent monitoring visit with us. In addition to this, leaders from a number of other Hampshire schools have recently contacted us and then spent the morning at Freegrounds, talking through how we have implemented this new approach.

The changes we have made to our behaviour policy are significant, important and they are part of what we do every day in school. I hope that you will prioritise the information evening on Monday 3rd February, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. All the information that you need to attend this is on blue flyer later in this newsletter.

Lunar New Year - Lion Dance

As a school, we recognise that our demographic is not typical to that of 'modern Britain' as a whole (90% of our children are white British, a significantly lower proportion to the rest of Britain). As a result, we work hard to ensure that we carefully plan our curriculum and the children's experiences so that they are aware of and exposed to the diversity and richness of the country which we live in.

On Tuesday this week, we all enjoyed learning about Lunar New Year in our assembly and then had the chance to experience a traditional Lion Dance which was performed in our playground. The children thoroughly enjoyed this, with some of them becoming even more excited as they were hit with a piece of lettuce towards the end of the performance. Something that is considered to be lucky in Chinese culture!

I hope you all enjoy a fun weekend and we get a break from some of the gloomy skies and rain which we have felt the full force of over the past few days!

Kind regards

Ryan O'Hearn



Year 3

Year 3 have had busy start to the term, delving into our new topic 'Our Community.'

In RE, we have been learning about the concept 'Neighbour.' The children enjoyed learning about the Christian story of 'The Good Samaritan' and making story cubes with a hidden message inside. We then had a visit from Rev. Phil from St. John's church who talked to us about all the things the church does to support our local community and how this links to the concept of 'neighbour.'

In Design and Technology, we have been busy investigating gift packaging and designing packaging of our own for various items that we will be selling towards the end of the half term. The children thought carefully about the closing mechanisms found on packaging and how they can make their packaging as eye catching as possible for their target audience. Any money raised will be given to a charity in our community so please keep an eye out for more details in the coming weeks.

In our PE lessons we have been having fun orienteering. We are lucky enough to have a permanent orienteering course in our school grounds and the children have enjoyed learning how to use maps to find the various control points.

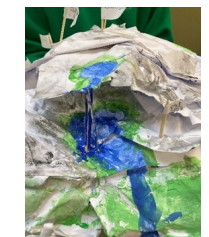


Year 4

Pine and Beech classes have had a busy January enjoying our topic "Survivor!" A particular highlight was the Survival Day which was spent in our amazing school grounds building dens, lighting fires, purifying water, team building and orienteering. It was a cold but fun day and the children were fantastic at working together and following instructions to meet each challenge.



As part of our Survival topic, in Geography we are learning about mountains and mountain ranges around the world. We launched the unit by finding out what defines a mountain and the key features of a mountain such as plateau, ridge, summit and outcrop. We made papier mâché mountain ranges, painted them and then labelled them with the features that we had learned. We will move on to locating key mountains on a map and then we will focus on how and why mountains form.



We were very excited last week at the launch of our HIBA (Hampshire Information Book Awards) competition. We found out that over the next 8 weeks we will be reading five different Information books that have been shortlisted for the award by the School Library Service. Then we will be given ONE vote each to cast for our favourite book. SLS will count up all the votes (from around 100 schools!) and then announce the winner of the award for 2025. Our first book is "Children of the World" by Nicola Edwards and Andrea Stegmaier. I wonder which book will win?

Year 5

Marvellous Mexico

Year 5 have had a colourful start to the year as their topic 'Marvellous Mexico' has got underway. The children have been busy learning all about the location of Mexico, which foods come from Mexico and what famous landmarks can be found there. In History, we have been focusing on the Ancient Mayan Civilisations and the legacy they left behind in Mexico. We were luckily enough to have a visit from experts 'Mexicolore', last week who brought with them a whole range of artefacts, books and music instruments used by the Mayan people. The children (and staff) learnt so many interesting facts and took an active part in dressing up, chanting, speaking Mayan, holding different artefacts and making music. A fun morning was had by all and we have already been using some of our new knowledge back in the classroom – adding finer details to our Hero Twins adventure stories and expanding our research packs in History.



Year 5 have also begun, and are looking forward to completing, their Mexican DT food unit. They will be making some Mexican inspired meals next week and will be welcoming Liam, head chef from Aspens, into the classrooms to assist them with their cooking. Finally, we are studying the work of Mexican Artist Freida Kahlo and will be creating our own colourful self portraits in her classic style.

Viva la Vida Year 5!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant start to the new year and new term.

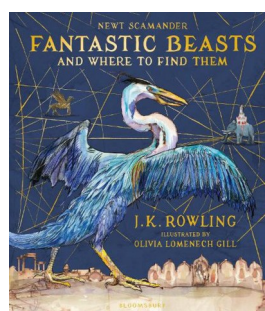
In English, the children designed their own Fantastic Beast after being inspired by the book 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'. The children have written in the style of Newt Scamander, thinking carefully about tone and vocabulary to ensure they sound like an expert, to inform the wizards and witches of the Wizarding World about their new find.

Within our science lessons, we have been investigating evolution and classification. The children learnt about this in a practical way during our 'Clippy Beak' investigation: they pretended to be a species of birds to explore how diet and adaptations can affect natural selection and the process of evolution over time.

Our PE lessons have been focused on Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA). The children have been demonstrating excellent teamwork skills. The children have learnt how to accurately use a compass on a map of the school site and successfully navigated themselves around the school site to retrieve information.

In Geography, we have begun to explore natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanoes. The children have learnt that natural hazards are most common around areas of plate boundaries. We learnt about Mount St. Helens and the physical and human impacts of its eruption in 1980.

In computing we have been making games on Scratch. We have had to be very resilient and think critically about the best ways to make our games work.





The Empowerment Approach

Online Parent/Carer Session

Monday 3rd February at 19:30



Following the launch of our new behaviour approach and our new pro-social and pro-learning policy sent out in September, we would like to invite you to join a zoom presentation to introduce parents/carers to this approach and to understand how it works.



**Meeting Our
5C Needs**

“Only by making people feel better can they do better”

The presentation, led by one of the Changing Chances Team, will aim to answer some key questions:

- What does the Empowerment Approach mean?
- Why do we not use traditional sanction systems at Freegrounds Junior School?
- What does this mean for my child?



Please sign up in advance to the session on this google link

Join Zoom Meeting here

<https://forms.gle/JWMpsvLXF5HJpEXQA>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86218339946?pwd=TsAlrYnpEmLiK5c5ukA85FcdZiwbrb.1>



Meeting ID: 862 1833 9946
Passcode: 396086

NEW
FOR 2025



Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

HAMPSHIRE CAMHS INFORMATION & ADVICE SESSION

10am - 2pm

Wednesday, 5 March 2025 and then every
first Wednesday of the month

The Arc, Jewry Street
Winchester
SO23 8SB

This is an opportunity
to come and chat to
our CAMHS clinicians,
ask questions, get
advice and resources.



hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk