



# Monthly Newsletter

February  
2018

## February in School

**Puffins** In Puffin Class we have started our new topic 'Animals'. We have learned the story of Dear Zoo by adding actions, which has been recorded and is on Tapestry. We have been excited with our new role play area - the pet shop - and have been role playing being pets with our friends. We also enjoyed creating our own animal masks, which we took care over when making.

**Owls** This term Owls are diving deep into our experience at the Sea Life Centre, as we develop our non-fiction writing to create a rich recount of the day using past tense verbs and time connectives to describe the order of events and our feelings about the experience. Within Maths, we have been focused on time, reading the clock and drawing the hands to show times to the hour, and now are exploring some simple multiplication and division by finding equal groups and finding the total of different numbers of equal groups of objects. In Science, we will be extending our learning of animals by looking at habitats of mini-beasts around our school. Our topic in history is The Great Fire of London, which is providing excellent opportunities to extend our learning through Design and Technology and Art.

**Flamingos** Our second spring term opened to rain, fog and drizzle. Just a little reminder for our weather/science project examining how the days start to change in the season of spring! Therefore, we have had to be very inventive to find ways of exploring and investigating the signs of spring (and yes, there was some!). If you venture outside as a family, please encourage the children to look at the trees for signs of life and buds. We have investigated how the sun moves across the sky during the day and looked at shadows. This will be developed further in the term when we explore 'Shadow Puppets' for our Design and Technology project. Maths mastery looks at the four operations in maths and how we can use these efficiently and effectively to develop fluency and problem solving. As usual, the practise of times tables will help your child enormously, not just reciting them but looking at inverses and commutativity to really embed knowledge. Flamingos are using their writing skills to produce a newspaper report based on a traditional tale and I am waiting with bated breath to find out what inventive ideas they can come up with. We have been practising our country dancing skills in P.E. and we shall continue to do so working and focusing on sequencing and movement. Last but not least, we are looking forward to our carousel world book day event where book characters come alive. From the excited conversations that the children have had, I am wondering if I shall recognise any of the children in my class... but then again... will the children recognise the adults in their class. We shall have to wait and see!

**Eagles** In Eagles last month, we looked at fractions in a great deal of detail and the class showed a real development in understanding. In our Literacy work we have seen some wonderful creative writing based on the 'The Door' and we are excited about the next phases in this unit of writing. In R.E. the pupils have been considering creation stories from multiple religions through their studies. Netball has been introduced on a Friday afternoon and the pupils are adapting well to the new skills required. Finally, the class has done a great job of testing their inference skills by studying pictures and short texts and piecing together the clues on display.

**Toucans** Though a somewhat wintry end to the month, Toucans still managed to pack a lot in to February. In literacy we have been developing our descriptive writing to help build atmosphere. We have been using a rather spooky story by British poet Walter de la Mare. The reaction to the text has been fantastic and is really inspiring them to think about how writing can provoke emotions in the reader.

In maths we have been busy learning about BODMAS; perimeter, volume and area; and have begun to explore algebra. The positive and can-do attitude has been outstanding and they are really enjoying the ability to use their maths skills to solve some tricky challenges based on these areas. Can I ask that at home, you spend time working with standard units of measurement (mm, ml, l/ g, kg/ mm, cm, m, km/ time). Every opportunity to note relationships, what the time will be in 25 minutes time, etc. will really help secure the children's understanding.

I have been particularly proud of the classes attitude in PE. It has been cold and the field has been more a muddy bog than a playing field. And yet the children have embraced hockey. They have developed some fantastic skills and it was wonderful to see them all going for it during games. With worries about children not getting enough exercise and the subsequent health implications, I have been really proud that Toucans won't let winter stop their love of sport outdoors.

Other exciting news has been the organisation of a trip to Harry Potter Studios for later in the year. Thank you for the contributions, without them it would be impossible to organise such outings. BTW I'm not sure who is more excited; Miss Stedman or the class.

**Suggestions Box** From Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March there will be a suggestions box in the Office area. We want to improve the way in which we communicate school news, dates for the diary and updates with you. If you have any ideas of what you would like us to do, please put your suggestions (named or anonymous) into the box for us to look at.

**Parents' Evening Crèche 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March** Advance notice that we will be providing a crèche on Tuesday until 6.30 p.m. and 5p.m. on Wednesday for the period of your appointment only. Cost will be 50p per child and must be paid on the evening.

**Manor Lake Residential** Please note that payments can be made at anytime for the residential trip. However, full and final payment will need to be made by 30<sup>th</sup> April. Please ensure that any monies are placed in a named envelope. Thank you.

**Easter Egg Raffle Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March** Advanced notice that The Friends will be holding an Easter Egg Raffle and would very much appreciate any Easter Egg donations. These can be brought to the Office at any time. Thank you.

**Bags2School** Thank you to everyone who brought in filled bags. We raised a total of £44.00 for school funds.

**London Fashion Week** Congratulations to Gyles who participated in London Fashion Week.



**Ofsted** As you are aware, Ofsted visited the school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February for a Section 8 short inspection. Thank you to those of you who took the opportunity to talk with HMI John Lucas on the playground and to all of you who completed the Parent View questionnaire. As soon as the report is finalised and published we will share this with you via email/letter.

### **Dates for your diary**

**12<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Social Media Workshop 9-10 a.m.**

**15<sup>th</sup> March - Flamingos Parent Lunch at 1 p.m.**

**21<sup>st</sup> March - Eagles Parent Lunch at 1 p.m.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March - Puffins Parent Lunch at 1 p.m.**

**23<sup>rd</sup> March - Sports Relief**

**23<sup>rd</sup> March - Bawburgh Youth Club**

**27<sup>th</sup> March - Toucans Parent Lunch at 1 p.m.**

**27<sup>th</sup> March - Parents' Evening**

**28<sup>th</sup> March - Parents' Evening**

**29<sup>th</sup> March - School Open and Whole School Cafes at 9 a.m.**