

West Tytherley CE Primary School

Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well that half- term flew by in a flash! The holiday break is now around the corner, and with it the promise of Spring!

The next half- term will start with parents evening, where we will have the opportunity to talk about your child's progress and wider school experience. We will send out letters to book places, straight after half-term.

School Money - settling debts and unpaid monies

Thank you for your patience as we introduce School Money. I know that many of you are very diligent around keeping up with payments and that is very helpful to us. As a small school we cannot afford to carry the debt, and therefore I would ask that all parents pay promptly. If this is you already, thank you, or if you haven't been able to pay due to technical issues, that is understood too.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me and chat if payment is proving to be an issue, and we can make an arrangement.

Twilight Reading

My blog this week is all about the loveliness that was 'Twilight Reading'. On Monday, lots of children, parents and the best array of pyjamas and teddies came back to school to share stories with each other. It was truly lovely to see children reading together and also sharing books with grown-ups too. Thank you to all the families that supported this. I know it was a chilly evening and the temptation may well have been to go home and put the heating on instead, but I think that it was most definitely worth your extra effort!

Clubs

Thank you all for returning your forms with the choices. Please make sure that you know which days and times that you have signed up for. The following pick up points are organised:

Monday: Multi-skills pick up is at top door.

Tuesday: Both Football clubs at top door.

Thursday: Mad Science (KS1)- Bottom door.

Craft Club (KS2) - Top door.

ASC: Please ring the doorbell that is stuck to the window, next to the front door.

Water Bottles

At the moment we are having to provide cups for a lot of children to have water throughout the day. Please can you make sure that your child has a bottle and that they are responsible for its whereabouts. Bottles can remain in school, and be rinsed out, or come home on a daily basis, depending on your preference. At the end of the day, all teachers remind children to gather their belongings, but they can't do this for them. Please help us by expecting your child to take responsibility for their own things.

Please can we also ask that over half-term, uniform is checked and named, ready for the next half term.

Safeguarding concerns

As you will be aware, we take our safeguarding responsibilities at school very seriously. If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding during the holidays that you would normally refer through school, and that you feel are too urgent to leave until Tuesday the 21st February, please report them through Children's Services or, in an emergency, phone the police.

Have a lovely week's holiday

Kind regards

Lucy Macey

Weekly Awards Friday 16th September 2022

Beech	Holly	
Willow	Elijah	
Oak	Noah	

Thought for the Week

This week I have been away in London so haven't been able to come into School. However, at 1030am in East Tytherley Church on Sunday 12th February, we have a 'Short but Sweet' service with songs we know – and a Maximus Mouse Story. Even if you can't get to Church on Sunday we can join in a prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for the stories which Jesus told. Help us to understand his words and to obey them at all times so that our lives might be built on the rock which is Jesus. Amen*

Vicar James

News from around school

Beech Class

As our 'Once Upon a Time' topic comes to a close, the children have been recapping their learning from the past few weeks. Throughout this half term, the class have been beginning to record their own ideas and findings during topic time and becoming more independent learners. They are growing increasingly settled into the class routines and enjoy getting ready for the beginning of each new session. The creative area has become a firm favourite in the class with the cold weather making our inside classroom much more desirable. The children have requested new materials and art supplies so that they can start to improve and add detail to their creations. Some of Beech Class have even been following instructions in the craft books that we have available.

I was very impressed with the Year 1 children's attitude and studiousness during last week's assessment week. They were very mature in their approach to some tricky questions and showed real resilience in solving unfamiliar problems. Alongside this, the class's passion and interest in reading has started to flourish, with all members of teaching staff being approached with requests to read with the children. We have started a weekly "cup" for writing and reading in our class to encourage the children to further their learning throughout their free learning time. It has been wonderful to see the children choosing to write and read in this time, writing cards, labels and even recipes. The reading area has also been well used and the new bean bags have been a hit!

Our topic focus for the week has been 'Everyday Materials' with a science focus. The children have been sorting materials by their properties and beginning to notice similarities and differences between metal, wood, plastic and glass. The children have continued their enquiry in their free learning time, seeing which materials sink and float. We have linked this to our Traditional Tales topics by creating our own house for the three little pigs in our chosen material.

In Maths, we have been learning how to double, halve and share an amount using concrete resources. We used our 'mini-me' characters to share sweets at our own imaginary birthday parties, ensuring that everybody had an equal amount. We have used the language of 'part-part-whole' to solidify the children's understanding that even though the amount has been separated, we should still be aware of the whole amount.

In literacy this week, the children have been focusing on recipes. We looked at the features of a recipe, focusing on the ingredients and method. The children enjoyed finding the 'bossy' words and using them to tell their partner what to do. Some of the class had the opportunity to follow this recipe to create their own cookies in the school kitchen. Following this, they have written their own recipes which you are welcome to try at your own risk. Ingredients include slug slime, unicorn dust and a hat!

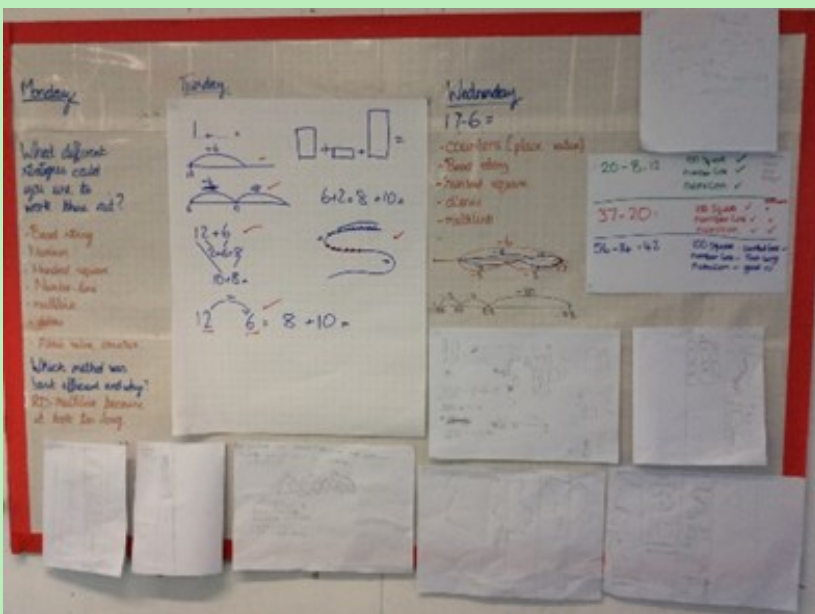


Willow

Throughout this week in Maths, the children have been investigating many different methods that they could use when solving addition and subtraction. Using the different strategies, the children had to decide which one was the most efficient based on the question and whether there were strategies that were less efficient (they all decided that multilink was not an efficient strategy when solving addition and subtraction calculations using large numbers). By exploring these different strategies, the children were able to apply their understanding through word problems. Over these lessons, the children's understanding of certain resources, that aren't always necessarily used, increased and they were able to say what made these strategies efficient. Some of the different resources used were: number-lines, multilink, bead strings, hundred squares, Numicon, dienes and place value counters.

Over this half term in Design and Technology, the children have been exploring the structures of houses and how they can be made to be earthquake-resilient. We started the unit looking at a variety of houses and identifying features before moving on to look at buildings from an earthquake-prone country, Japan. Last week, the children designed their own earthquake-proof houses, thinking about the techniques used in Japan and the resources that they could use to ensure the stability of their buildings. This week, the children will be creating their houses in groups and then they will test the effectiveness of them.

Over the past couple of weeks in PE, the children have been developing cognitive skills, thinking about ways that they can identify the improvements and what they have been successful at, through ball skills. We have taken a new approach in PE with partner work, with one person being the coach whilst the other is the athlete. Through this approach, the children have been coaching each other, which has encouraged them to think about how the skill is to be developed and the steps needed to do this.



Oak

Oak class have been continuing with the hard work, right up until the end of term. Last week, we conducted our termly assessment week. Miss Lee was very impressed with everybody's resilience and perseverance and is very proud of everyone and the progress they have made.

The class have been furthering their knowledge of World War 1 over the last fortnight, building up to creating a double-page spread about everything they have learned. We focused on how the war impacted children and the different jobs and activities children completed to help with the war effort. We then learned about the end of the war and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. In groups, we role-played as the countries taking part in forming the treaty and discussed what we would want. We then compared this to what was actually written in the treaty and explored whether or not we thought this was fair.

Last week, we had the fantastic opportunity to take part in an online Q and A session with Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut. We found out some very interesting information about Helen's process to becoming an astronaut and what she experienced in Space. We have continued our Science learning by looking at air resistance, with a focus on how parachutes are designed to make them safe. We began by exploring the question 'How does the size of the parachute affect the time it takes to fall' and plotted our data onto a scatter graph to help us draw conclusions. We then used our knowledge of parachutes and air resistance to design a parachute, which would help land the Mars Rover. We had to make choices about the materials we used, the size and shape and the weight added to the parachute, before testing our designs against other groups.

We have really been enjoying our cricket sessions with Graham on Friday mornings and last week was no exception! We began the session with a game of cricket noughts and crosses, where we had to work as a team to catch the ball in order to fill in part of the noughts and crosses grid. If a team won, the challenge was made harder by either moving further away from each other or only using one hand to catch the ball. Then, we played a game of cricket rounders. Miss Lee was very impressed with some of the big hits!



Date	What	Who	Where	
13/02/2023- 17/02/2023	Half Term Week	All		
20/02/2023	Inset Day	All		
21/02/2023	Start of Spring Term 2	All		
14/03/2023 16/03/2023	Parents Evening	All		

From Derek Smith Chair of Governors

I hope you will have all heard and seen the great news about our OFSTED inspection, which found the school to be a 'good' school. As you may know, this was a detailed graded inspection, where the OFSTED team looked at several distinct areas of what the school provides, including the quality of education, behaviour, personal development, and leadership and management. The inspectors found each of these areas to be 'good' and also confirmed that safeguarding was effective and early years provision was good.

These grades are simple words, but there is a huge amount of content behind every one of them. On behalf of the whole governing body, I want to congratulate Mrs Macey and all the staff on this achievement. The inspection process itself is demanding and rigorous, and the outcome not only shows how well everyone responded over those two days in December, but also reflects a huge body of work that all the staff have done over a very long time. Thank you to all – and thank you too to the children, who represented the school brilliantly, and to you parents who made your views clear in feedback to the OFSTED team. We were delighted that your engagement was strong and so positive.

We have posted the OFSTED report on the school's website. I encourage you to read it.

Derek Smith

INSET Days for the next academic year 2023

20th February 223

20th March 2023