



# The Longvernal Letter

*"part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership"*

Term 4

Newsletter 2020/21

We are building a community where learners have no ceilings to their aspirations and successes. Everyone is respected and loved in their own right.

## Dates for your Diary:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Start of Term 5

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April - Class photos

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - End of Term 5

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Start of Term 6

## Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to thank you all for your support with the arrangements such as staggered timings and various entrances/exits that have helped us to keep everybody safe since the reopening of school. A huge thank you also to the parents who have helped to keep children safe by being a presence out on the road in the mornings.

The children have settled well back into school and have enjoyed reuniting with their friends. We have re-introduced by means of a rota system for 'bubbles' use of the Reading Hut, The Snug (new lodge), the play equipment, new school scooters and the large sandpit, thus improving play, curriculum and well-being provision.

This term has been busy. Children enjoyed dressing up as various original superheroes to raise money for Comic Relief and at the time of writing we are looking forward to children dressing in blue on Thursday to raise awareness of autism. Many children wowed Lynda Robertson, Midsomer Norton Mayor, with their artistic Easter bonnets, decorated egg pictures and mini gardens. A big thank you to the PTFA for organising this event.



Although school is not yet back to 'normal', we are gradually broadening our offer. From April a full range of extra-curricular clubs will be on offer, run by both teachers and external providers. Additionally, Eco Club has started at lunchtimes and informal rounders, cricket and athletics clubs will take place a couple of lunchtimes a week from Key Stage 2 on a 'turn up' basis, no kit required except trainers/daps which could be kept in school or brought in daily in readiness.

During lesson time, Y6 will be working with choreographer Michelle Rochester in Term 5 to work towards their own 'Dance Umbrella'. This starts on the first day back after Easter so Year 6 can come to school in their PE kit on that day.

A football coach will work with Oak and Holly classes and Bath Rugby will work with Maple and Chestnut classes. This term, Bath Rugby selected 2 Y5 pupils, Olly and Lacey, to be the team's 'virtual mascots' for the rest of the season following their tremendous efforts on rugby sessions.



We will be holding a mini 'SATS week' for Year 6 week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> May during which we intend to offer a breakfast experience and a fun day following the assessments - more information to follow nearer the time.

Please enjoy the following pages about the learning this term.

Wishing you a Happy Easter and a restful and enjoyable break with a renewed opportunity to see friends and family.

*Karen Bazeley*

#### Play Pod request:

To replenish our Play Pod which is based on OPAL principles of imaginative and child-created play, if you have any items that may be of use, please consider donating. Old landline telephones, prams, push along vehicles, 'small world' items (animals/cars/dinosaurs.....) gratefully received. Please put them in a plastic bag and leave under the canopy (by the main entrance) **next term** and we will quarantine and sanitize before usage.

Thank you.

#### Polite reminders:

- Please supervise children off site before and after school to keep them safe from traffic and to avoid trespassing on neighbours' properties.
- Please avoid parking on Mandy Meadows. If you do so, be prepared to wait until all pedestrians have left before driving.
- If dropping by car in the morning please wait in queue until you reach the teacher at the top of the steps before your child gets out of the car. Some children have to exit their car on the driver's side because of baby siblings in fixed car seats on the passenger side. Cars passing on the right having let out children at the top pose danger. Drivers who do not comply will be asked not to use drop off facility.

Thank you for your support.

## COVID 19 - Test over Easter Holidays

Please use this link to report a positive covid test within the first 48 hours of the start of half term - i.e. up to Wednesday 7th April.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0yWC\\_fzSJn8DWPO7akxOM-hlx5EUDVwep3\\_pTO25pcrCqWQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0yWC_fzSJn8DWPO7akxOM-hlx5EUDVwep3_pTO25pcrCqWQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Please see attached link from the School Nurse for advice about Cleaning Teeth.

<https://youtu.be/IQE4xxk1r5g>



#### FREE SCHOOL MEALS VOUCHERS

If you are entitled to benefit related Free School Meals, the local authority are providing vouchers for over the Easter Break. You should have received a letter and an email explaining how to claim this voucher.

## Holly Class News – End of Term 4

I am so pleased to be writing this website update with all the children back in school. The last two terms certainly haven't passed without their challenges! I would like to say a big thank you to all of Holly Class parents for your amazing efforts throughout home learning. Although the children continued to do so well whilst learning at home it has been lovely to have them all back in the classroom.

It has been a busy four weeks! We have continued to learn about our Term 4 topic 'People Who Help Us' whilst settling back into school routines, being outdoors and active as much as possible and having lots of free-flow time to engage in those very much missed social interactions. Seeing how happy the children were to see their friends and be back in school was truly amazing!

In Phonics, we are now beginning to read and write more complex words and simple sentences. It would be great if you could practise our reading, writing and red words at home too!

In Literacy, we have been learning about different people who can help us. We have discussed different situations where we could ask different people for help. Then we looked at the kit that some people need to do their job, we chose our favourite and labelled their kit using our impressive phonics skills. During the last two weeks, we wrote about what we would like to do as a job when we grow up and why. Miss Nash was VERY impressed with our writing skills!

In Maths, we have been consolidating our adding knowledge. We have used the adding machine to add two groups together and find the total amount, then we recorded the number sentence using ten frames. More recently, we have been reading 'maths stories' and recording the number sentence using ten frames to find the answer. We have also been recognising and ordering numbers to 20, identifying missing numbers and playing shape splat. It would be great if you could practise counting backwards from 20-0 with us at home as this is something we are currently working on as a class.

Since returning to school, we have continued to discuss our feelings, emotions, similarities, differences, likes, dislikes and uniqueness. We have also continued to develop our fine motor skills by completing the following activities; scissors skills, pencil skills, playdough and teeth brushing.

In Art and Design, we have created Mother's Day Cards and Easter Cards as well as lots of child-initiated art work! We have also completed activities on the computers.

In Forest School, we have been spotting signs of Spring. We have talked about changes to day length, the weather and what happens to flowers and trees during Spring. We took cuttings from different trees and brought them back to the classroom to observe and spot changes. We noticed changes such as blossom, buds and even roots growing! Then we tried to identify each cutting to see what type of tree we thought it would grow into. We have also had lots of fun in the big sand pit!

In P.E., we have been doing gymnastics. We have learnt different gymnastic sit holds; such as, tuck, pike and straddle. We also learnt the gymnastic caterpillar travel move. Furthermore, we had a go at jumping and landing using a spring board, balancing on benches and climbing on the big climbing frame! Needless to say, the big climbing frame in the hall was very exciting indeed! We have also continued to participate in Jump Start Jonny activities.

Finally, we have also been busy gardening this term. We have been weeding and prepping our flower bed and vegetable garden ready for planting in Term 5 so I will update you with our gardening progress soon!

We hope you have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 5!

## Oak Class

We've had a busy return to whole class learning here in Oak! Year One have shown so much resilience upon their return and I am so proud of how they are getting on...

In English, we have been writing a range of genres. We have been news reporters writing about the disappearance of our beloved Phonics Frog Fred; we have written 'Wanted' posters and letters; a recount about a welly walk and descriptive pieces using a range of adjectives. Wow - it's been an impressive array of writing so far! Our handwriting is really improving too.

In Maths, we have been continuing to develop our addition and subtraction. We have been using tens frames, Base 10 and cubes to help us with our accuracy.

In Science, we have started to explore our different senses. We enjoyed our taste experiment lesson! The lemons were a little sour though!

In P.E., Mr Phillips has been teaching us some football skills. Mrs Chilcott-Dean has been very impressed with how well we are controlling the balls. Next term, we will be continuing our weekly football session and will be introduced to some mini football games. Exciting stuff!

In our Forest sessions with Chestnut, we have enjoyed exploring the signs of Spring. We particularly enjoyed making bird feeders that we got to take home with us. We are looking forward to some cooking on the open fire soon!

In Art, we have been working on our sculpture projects based on the Hong Kong Skyline (we've been learning all about Hong Kong in our Geography sessions). We got a little sticky with our papier mache - but they're certainly starting to come together now...

We certainly have been busy bees in Oak and can't wait to continue our learning next term!

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Easter Holidays!

Mrs Chilcott-Dean.

## Chestnut's March news 2021

What a start to the year (2021) we have all had. First I would like to say a huge well done to all the children in Chestnut Class; they have coped so well with all changes (both in and out of school) with a very grown-up attitude. I am proud of your efforts and resilience. I would also like to say how wonderful it is to have the whole class back together. Everyone was very pleased to see each other and we are now getting back in to a solid structure and routine of school.

In English, we've been learning about Australian Dreaming Stories, which are traditional indigenous stories based on how the earth's landscape, animals and people came to be. We have enjoyed learning the different stories and having a go at writing our own. Next term we will be focusing on writing descriptions and a narrative based on a certain enormous crocodile.

Since coming back into school as a whole class, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction in a column both with and without exchanging. We have really enjoyed this, especially relating both pictorial and abstract methods of the Maths. We have also been learning some new vocabulary around addition and subtraction; why don't you ask us what it is?

During this term we have been learning about Australia in Geography. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning different facts about Australia and its population, human and physical features and especially learning about the native wildlife there. Now that the weather is much better and the forest has recovered from the cold, wet weather we have been able to get outside more fully. We have liked looking for the different signs of spring that the forest offers and have even had a chance to make predictions about what will happen during the next season. We have also enjoyed making feeders for some of the birds and wildlife we have around the forest. Next term we are looking forward to cooking a little more on the fire and beginning to use some different tools.

Now that we are all back together, we have learned to appreciate how much we enjoy P.E. lessons outdoors. This term we have been looking at different elements of circuits and how we stay fit and look after ourselves. It has been a lot of fun. At the end of term, as a special activity, we have written instructions on how to make chocolate spring time nests. The best part was then using those instructions to make the nests, they tasted delicious!

Now that we are fully back together as a whole class we cannot believe how quickly 4 weeks have flown by. In Term 5 we are looking forward to learning about WW1 and remembrance in History, having a focus on measure in Maths and learning how to use new and different tools in the forest.

## Maple Spring 2021

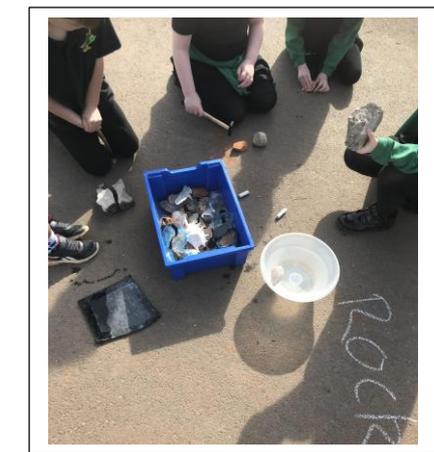
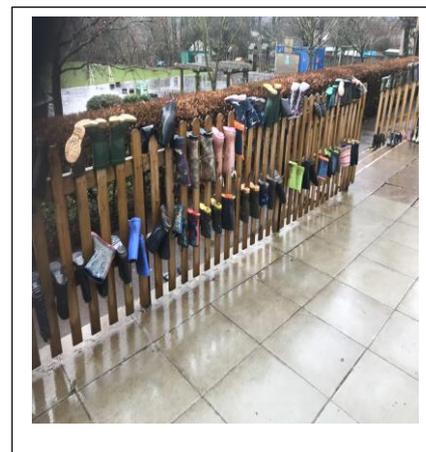
It has been brilliant to be back in school with all the children for the last few weeks. All the children have enjoyed seeing their friends and they have settled back into their learning incredibly well. The children in Maple Class are incredibly resilient and it has been an absolute pleasure seeing them learning and thriving in school once again.

We have enjoyed using the Chrome Books to help us learn our times tables using 'Times Tables Rock Stars'. After completing Varjak Paw as our class novel, the children were keen to use word processing software to write up Varjak Paw character descriptions. They also enjoyed explicit teaching on how to type; a key skill for children growing up in the world today.

During Forest School, the children planted 3 different potato varieties: 'Charlotte', 'Kestral', and 'Accord'. As ever, the children enjoyed getting muddy hands! After 12 weeks, we are planning on cooking each variety in school and conducting a 'taste-test' to see which potato variety is the class favourite.

Whilst learning about rocks, the class conducted an experiment on the properties of different kinds of rocks. We investigated which rocks were the hardest, which ones floated, which rocks were permeable and which ones were the most durable. The class enjoyed using hammers, sandpaper and large bowls of water to put the rocks to the test!

We are looking forward to an Easter break, but we can't wait to get learning again in the summer term!



## Willow Class

What a wonderful few weeks in Willow Class! It has been brilliant to be back together and the children have had a fantastic time with their friends. We have certainly made the most of returning to learning in class!

In Maths, Year 5 has really loved learning long-multiplication, whilst Year 4s have been consolidating their knowledge of addition. In Writing, the children have written fictional recounts and narrative poems and in Reading, the focus has been on our latest class novel *The Midnight Fox*.

Since their return, in Story Time, we have completed *The Explorer*, the fantastic short novel *Cloud Busting* and recently we have completed *The Midnight Fox*. The children can hardly wait to hear what our new novel will be, after the Easter holidays. As well as listening to stories, they also enjoy having an opportunity to share what they are reading, making recommendations to their peers.

In Science, the children have conducted experiments on reversible and irreversible changes and in Geography, they have delved into the Water Cycle, creating their own working models in a bottle. In computing, they have continued to learn about spreadsheets and in Music, they are considering the composition of rap music.

The children have been excited to return to practical DT lessons where they have been investigating cam mechanisms, ready to design and produce their own moving toy next term. It has been lovely to return to Forest School, planting trees, making bird feeders and cooking s'mores on the fire. PHSE lessons have been held in The Snug which gives children a wonderful opportunity to relax and focus on well-being. A particular favourite has been PE, when we have been lucky enough to have the lovely coaches from Bath Rugby Academy taking touch rugby sessions.

I hope everyone has a relaxing Easter break and I look forward to what next term will bring!

## Sycamore Class

Easter Greetings! It has been brilliant to have all the children back in school again, they have adjusted quickly to the classroom setting and have been settled and keen to learn! It has been a busy few weeks, during which time we have been learning about the impact of 'The Blitz' in Britain, getting to grips with Area and Perimeter in Maths and enjoying being outdoors together for our Forest learning. Year 6 have also been fortunate to have received rugby training from Bath Rugby coaches which has been a super experience.

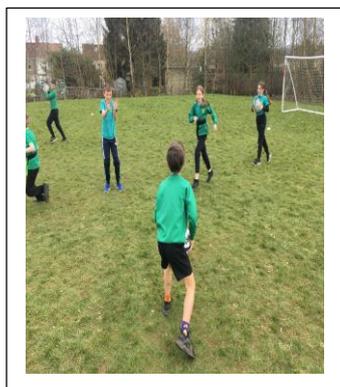
Sadly, we have now said 'Goodbye and Good Luck' to the very capable Miss Lester, we wish her well for the rest of her Teaching Practice and for her future teaching career (Mrs Clarke and Mrs Reid are also very grateful for the technological support she has provided them!)

We can't believe it will be the final term for Year 6! We are looking forward to providing them with the special experiences they very much deserve, including Dance Umbrella (every Monday) and an end-of-term production.

Thank you for all the support you have given the children whilst at home and the continued encouragement you provide now they are back in the school setting. We wish you a relaxing Easter break and look forward to a lovely last term.

Kind Regards,

Team Sycamore x



## Acorn Class - Nursery

This term in Nursery we have been on an adventure to the jungle. We have learnt lots of new jungle facts! The children have loved finding out about which animals might live in a jungle environment. We have made our own jungle animals using lots of different media. We have explored the patterns that the animals had on their skin and had a go at making our own patterns with the paint. The children made their own binoculars and worked as a team to go on a safari hunt around Nursery. In Forest School the children have been busy looking for different bugs and learning about the homes that they live in. We have been developing our understanding of the world and the children helped plant peas and carrots and have been keeping a close watch on how they are growing. We have also been busy updating our Nursery garden and have made a lovely new construction area. The children have loved using this in different ways and it has made a great 'Dinosaur Land'.

