



Dear Families

As we draw to the end of a busy half term it is wonderful to reflect on all the amazing learning that the children have been doing. I have heard all about how the Great Fire of London changed how we build houses from Mercury class, learnt another new nursery rhyme with Little Stars, seen some brilliant times tables in Saturn (super speedy recall!) and been impressed with the pop art being created in Neptune. The children have been working incredibly hard and deserve a lovely break over half term.



It was lovely to see many of you this week at the parent consultation evenings. I hope that it was an enjoyable and informative opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and to see their books.

Wishing you all a fabulous half term break

Lesa Garside

Interim Headteacher

INSET Day

Just a reminder that Monday 30th October is an INSET day and children should return to school

on TUESDAY 31st OCTOBER

NSPCC Workshops



All classes have had an online NSPCC assembly this week. The workshops will be held for Year 2, 5 & 6 on the afternoon of 31st October. Please note that these are the only year groups which the NSPCC offer workshops to.

In School This Week

This week in Little Stars we have been exploring all things Autumn. We've been out on a walk and collected lots of leaves, conkers and pine cones.

We have also been practising our mark making using chalk and patterns.



It has been Neptune's turn on the construction zone this week and some of our class have taken the opportunity to link this with their history learning. Groups of children created various WW2 theme bases, shelters and vehicles!



In Saturn this week we have been working towards completing our non-chronological reports. We have researched a chosen animal, planned out our report and now are finishing our writing. The reports are fantastic and the children have shown incredible knowledge and writing skills. We are also working to produce our final piece of artwork which has a World War Two theme and is inspired by the work of Banksy and Andy Warhol. I can't wait to share what the children produce.



Mercury class have been busy planning and painting their final pieces in the style of Brian Pollard, a local artist from Plymouth. We have learnt about primary colours and how we can make all other colours by mixing red, blue and yellow. The children have been using acrylic paint to produce vibrant landscapes of our local area and mixed some beautiful shades of blue and green. Children have included hot air balloons, clouds, lighthouses, beach huts, flowers, boats and tractors to make some very bold and bright artwork.



Start of Day Routines – Safeguarding

As you know, if visitors, including parents, come to the school during the day we have a tight signing in/lanyard system to ensure that we are meeting safeguarding expectations. This is because if people do not have a DBS from the school they must be accompanied by a member of staff.

At the moment we are not meeting these safeguarding expectations in the mornings when parents come into the school unaccompanied by a member of staff. Whilst we understand that Parents may wish to pass on a message to the class teacher, we simply cannot have unsupervised adults in the school building.

Therefore, from after half term, children will only enter the building through the main entrance.

There will be an adult available to greet the children and pass on messages to staff if necessary. Teachers do check Dojo every morning so messages can also be sent through that too. Thank you for your support with this and ensuring that all of our children are kept safe.

Parent Volunteers

We have had lots of enquiries about parents wanting to volunteer in school. There is a process which we need to go through to enable this to happen.

1. Parent contacts the office to offer volunteering services (at this time we would ask that you are able to commit to a regular time each week in the afternoons, we are not able to use volunteers in the mornings at present)
2. Following this offer to commit to a regular time, Miss Garside will complete a volunteer risk assessment
3. Mrs Maloney will ask the parent to complete the application form, Childcare Declaration Disqualification (CDD) and the volunteer agreement
4. The volunteer is asked to bring these 3 forms along with 3 forms of identity to the school office. Mrs Maloney will scan them over to the People team
5. The People team will ask the volunteer to complete the DBS process and their safeguarding training. They will reach out for references
6. Once everything has been completed/received, the volunteer will be informed that they are now allowed to volunteer
7. On the first volunteering session, Miss Garside will complete an induction checklist with the volunteer.

Whilst this may feel like a lengthy process, it is imperative to ensure that our children are kept safe at all times. If you would like to offer your services, please contact Mrs Maloney who will start to get the ball rolling after half term.

After School Clubs

The sports clubs will continue as normal on a Thursday and Friday. We are trying to organise an outside provider to run a Drama club on a Tuesday and will be in touch after half term with the plans for Tuesday and Wednesday clubs.

Visitors

We are expecting our NSPCC visitors on Tuesday 31st and a visit from Kate Brimacombe, a Director of Education, later in the week.