

Spring Newsletter 2



Dear Families

The chilly weather has certainly not stopped the children doing some excellent learning this week. I have seen some excellent mathematical problem solving, some great vocabulary choices for their writing, children learning and remembering their new phonic sounds and some excellent scientific reasoning to name a few!

We do try to ensure that the children are able to get outside for break time and lunchtime as fresh air is so important so please ensure that the children are dressed appropriately with warm coats, sensible footwear and gloves/hats/scarves as necessary.

So far we have escaped the brunt of the snow and fingers crossed that this continues. Should we need to alter any school arrangements, we will communicate this through Dojo and MCAs and will endeavour to let you know in a timely manner. Fingers crossed, we avoid the adverse weather!

Have a great weekend

Lesla Garside

Interim Head

In School This Week

In Little Stars this week we have been continuing our learning about People who help us. We have been busy making police car collages, thinking about the jobs we would like to do when we grow up as well as reading stories all about real superheroes. In maths this week we have been learning all about patterns. We have also had a very exciting delivery this week which include new resources for our classroom! Look out pictures once it has all been set up ready for the children.



In Mercury this week we have enjoyed learning more about Florence Nightingale the lady with the lamp. We focussed on the conditions in hospitals in the 1800's and used our knowledge to describe what we would have seen in a hospital during these times. The children really impressed me with their ability to write some amazing sentences and use adjectives to describe the terrible conditions. Next week we will look at the changes made by Florence Nightingale to improve conditions.



In Saturn this week we have been enjoying writing our holiday brochures for Skara Brae, which is an ancient settlement on the Orkney Islands. We have also been working scientifically and completed an investigation looking at what would happen when we mixed certain solids and liquids. The investigation was called ballooning and we mixed small amounts of Bicarb and vinegar and observed the effects.



In Neptune this week we have been further exploring our art topic for this half-term. We are focussing on the local artist 'Sue Read' and we noticed she uses different techniques to create her artwork, one of them being painting. This week, we explored colour, tone and shade and how we can create different colours by mixing different amounts of colours together. We also explored the effects of adding black, white and grey to colours. Finally, we discussed how we might use these colours, tones and shades in our own landscape artwork.



New KS1 Books

We have been thrilled to take delivery of a huge amount of new picture books for Little Stars and Mercury classes this week. The children have been excited to dive into the new books. Why not ask your child what they have read this week?



Attendance



You will have seen in the news and on social media about the absence crisis that schools have faced since the pandemic. Jacobstow attendance currently stands below the national averages at 93%.

To you as parents, percentages and statistics mean little other than to illustrate the problem we face in school. What matters most is your own child's attendance.

Missing a week of school for a family holiday taken in term time means that your child has missed 25 hours of learning new things that they will never be taught again but which future learning may be built on. Having broken attendance (a day off a week or fortnight on random days) means that the children will miss 5 hours of new learning each time but will struggle to understand the learning that they do the following day or week because lessons are taught in sequences which rely on prior learning.

There is significant correlation between absence, exam results and lifetime earning potential. Whilst this may seem very removed from our children as they are so young, their learning whilst at Jacobstow lays the foundations for their secondary education and it is important that they are able to build strong foundations whilst here.

We understand that it can be tricky at times to know whether or not to send your child into school, particularly in these winter months where there are coughs and colds around. Alongside this newsletter is a guide for parents to support this.

Please also be aware that we are able to administer medication at school if the correct forms are filled in, including Calpol. If you feel unsure whether or not your child should be in school, please give the office a ring and someone will support you with this decision.

Visitors

In school this week we have had visitors to support with the deliver of Fencing to KS2 and Wild Tribe for Saturn class. We have also had our Trust English Lead working alongside Miss Ball to develop writing in Neptune. She was really impressed with the children's ideas.

Next week we have a headteacher from another school, Dartington, visiting us on Wednesday and on Thursday, Heather Taylor, one of the Trustees is visiting for a tour of the school. I am sure that the children will blow their socks off with their good manners and warm welcome.



Special Educational Needs
& Disabilities

Hello parents/carers,

I wanted to share with you all the Cornwall Council SEND website. Here you can find the Local Offer, request services and access a whole range of support and information. Please do access this website and make use of the information which is available.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/special-educational-needs/>

Mr Tom Thorne
Trust SEND Leader