

# Termly Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup> February 2012



Hazel

I can't quite believe we have reached half term already! This half term really has whizzed by and we have been very busy. The children have continued to work incredibly hard and are making good progress within many areas of the curriculum. I am pleased to say that Mrs Seymour is feeling much better and is really looking forward to coming back to school after half term.

Miss West has thoroughly enjoyed her time with the class over the past few weeks and says she will miss her time with Class Hazel.

*Mrs Daniels*



Hazel



## Literacy

The children have worked hard on a range of literacy skills this half term. The poetry unit on nonsense poems and riddles was great fun and gave the children a taste of the range of poetry that has been written. In addition to the children writing their own nonsense poems the children were able to confidently perform poems such as 'The Ning, Nang, Nong' in class! The children have worked incredibly hard to recognise the features of non-chronological reports. Drawing on this knowledge, they then wrote their own information leaflet about Bourn village. The walk around the village and the interviews made this an exciting challenge for the children as they were able to use lots of first hand knowledge in their leaflet. The children were given the challenge of writing their own information leaflet about our class this week as a writing assessment to see how they are able to apply these skills independently. The children have continued to develop their punctuation and grammar in their writing and I am pleased to see the children are becoming more thorough when editing their work to check spellings, punctuation and that their sentences make sense.

## Numeracy

We began the term by partitioning 2 and 3-digit numbers into hundreds, tens and units and looking at place value and ordering numbers. Throughout the term we have talked about the 4 rules of number and how addition is the opposite of subtraction, eg, how we can use the same 4 numbers to make different calculations, eg,  $8+2=10/2+8=10/10-2=8/10-8=2$ . We have also spent time talking about the role of the = sign and how we can puzzle out sums with 'missing numbers,' eg,  $\square + 5 = 10$ .

We learnt how to tell the time and times ranged from o'clock to 'minutes past' and 'minutes to' the hour. We then applied these skills to solving time-related problems. The children really enjoyed our unit of work on money, looking at how we could make the same amount of money with all sorts of different coin combinations. We used a real life situation and made a book shop selling a range of books and some children solved some complex problems using amounts of money to £5.00 including explanations about a decimal point!

Throughout our work this term we have introduced the children to a range of mathematical vocabulary which you might like to reinforce at home, eg, + (add, plus, greater than), - (take away, subtract, minus, less than)

The children have also completed a unit of work on data handling and have interpreted and drawn a range of their own graphs including pictograms, block graphs and Venn diagrams.

## Phonics

The children have worked on a range of skills within the different phonic phases this half term. Some children have focused on learning the rules when adding suffixes to words, for example, when adding the 'ing' suffix the children know to double the last letter when they have a word with a short vowel sound and one consonant at the end. We have concentrated on learning the alternate pronunciations for certain letters, for example c, where it can make the 'c' sound in words like 'cat' or the 's' sound in words such as 'dice'. We have been referring to them as the soft 'c' and the hard 'c'. Other children have been continuing to revisit words with digraphs in them, including the alternate spelling of certain digraphs, for example, the 'er' sound can also be written as 'ur'.

## Time Travelling Detectives



The children have really enjoyed this half term's topic. We have looked at all sorts of different maps and plans and travelled the world with the help of google earth. We located Bourn in the world and then travelled to the other side of it to find out where Miss Bates is currently visiting! Our travels began with a walk around the school grounds with our maps and clipboards. We then walked around the village and interviewed residents and people who work in Bourn. All of this research enabled us to produce some wonderful leaflets about Bourn which will soon be on display in our Bourn Tourist Information Office in the classroom.



Our topic has been brought to life by some of the wonderful pieces of homework that the children have produced - maps, plans, powerpoint presentations, models of houses, photographs and information from residents who have lived in Bourn for many years.

We will continue with a geographical theme after half term before the launch of our very exciting new topic. We still have to finish gathering our information to go into our time capsule before it can be sent to a school in a different country.

### Mental Maths



The children have been doing brilliantly in their Mental Maths tests - learning number bonds and times tables each week and then being tested individually or in small groups. For some children the times tables they are now working on may prove a little bit more tricky to learn. We will encourage the children to look out for patterns in their tables or number bonds which will help them to recall the answers at speed.

### Notices

- Please can I ask that your child has a bag no larger than a book bag to bring their things to school in each day. Our cloakroom is very small and the children are finding that the larger bags are knocking items off pegs and blocking the corridor. This then makes it very hard for all the children to access their things.
- I have set no homework or spellings over the half term break, so everyone can have a rest and enjoy their holiday!
- **KS1 Choir** - The children will be performing in the music assembly on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012.

Have a lovely half term!