



Hazel

# Newsletter

14th December 2018



Hazel

The first term of the year is almost over and no one here can quite believe where the time has gone. It has certainly been an eventful first term, with the recent Christmas nativity plays taking up a lot of time these past few weeks. But weren't they fantastic?

As has been stated before, Year 2 is a tough year with quite a lot expected of them as they build to the SATs in May. I have made it my aim to ensure that while we are covering what we need to cover in class, the children are not being overwhelmed by content and we are able to balance the core subject content with activities that give the children opportunities to express their creativity and enable them to have a bit of fun while at school. I sincerely hope that your child has enjoyed this first term in Hazel class and that they enjoy next term even more.

We'll see you all again in January. - Mr Palmer



## Maths



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Over this term we have concentrated on the fundamentals of Maths in Key Stage 1.

Place value and a focus on addition/subtraction has been a crucial part of our learning this term and we will continue to work on these areas throughout the year. We have brought in multiplication and division during the second half of this term and we have been looking at money a bit earlier in the term as well. Next term we will be looking at measurement and conversion in addition to revisiting some of the topics we have looked at this term to further cement our learning.

*Caitlin: I think we're doing very well.  
Dec: We have been learning about division and using the arrays which makes it easy.*

## PE

The children have been learning about hockey and football in P.E. with Mr Gawthrope. P.E. is always that little bit extra challenging in the winter months.

*Karl: I love the exercise  
Ned: I like P.E. because hockey and football are my favourites.*

## CHRISTMAS PLAY

I would be remiss if I didn't take a chance to praise the children for what was a fantastic effort in putting together the Christmas nativity plays as well as the class assembly a bit earlier in the term. We hope you guys had as much fun watching them as we had putting them together.

## English



The children have really come into their own in English this term. We have explored creative writing in imaginary settings (with fantastical elements) and more familiar settings (more grounded in reality, which the children have taken to and produced some wonderful work. It has been really encouraging to see so many of them unlock their creative imaginations, as they get older their abilities to explore creative thinking becomes an essential transferrable skill so I've been keen to get them to use this aspect in their writing as much as possible. We have also explored letter writing, including how to write formally and informally and how to write postcards (teaching them about a time where not everyone had phones and we sent postcards instead was an enlightening insight into modern history for them!).

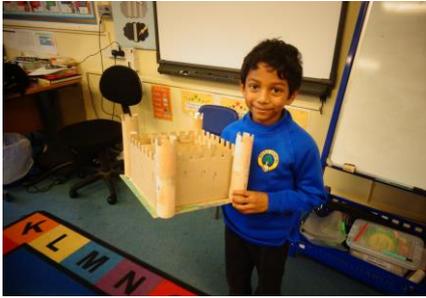
The children have also been looking at poetry this term. We have explored humorous poetry, acrostic poems as well as the more traditional structured rhyming poems.

*Eshaal: I like English because sometimes the things we do are a lot of fun, I really like writing poems.*

## Science

Our topic for this term has been everyday materials. We have explored many different materials and their properties, looking at what we use them for in day-to-day life and why we don't use them for others. The children have had a go at manipulating materials, discovering if things can be stretched or crushed etc. The children have had a chance to be creative in this area as well by designing some inventions which make good use of their knowledge of materials and how they can be of benefit to the world. You may have seen some of these on our display in the hallway.

*Avish: I like finding out about new things in Science.*



## Recorders

The children have continued their recorder and music lessons with both members of staff reporting much improvement since the first term. A few budding musicians in this class for sure!

*Betty: I like learning the new notes*



## Castles

As our topic for this term draws to a close, I can report that it has certainly been a successful topic area which has really captured the children's imaginations. We have learned about medieval life and the cultures of the time period. The children enjoyed making castles for their half term homework and we have had them displayed prominently around the school. We are looking forward to next term and studying a new and exciting topic.

*Sam: I loved making castles and bringing them in*

*Meredith: I like learning about castles and the different parts.*

*Grace: I liked our assembly, it was fun to show what we have learned.*



## Half term homework.

Although there is no set homework in the Christmas holidays to be handed in, it will be essential to ensure the children are continuing to read at home as often as possible. In addition, I would strongly advise frequent practise with handwriting and spellings. Some of you should have copies of the 100 high frequency words for Year 2, these are a good place to start with words to practise. Copies of these words are easily accessible online as well. As before, I would encourage parents to help the children identify nouns, adjectives and verbs in their reading texts. We have also been looking at suffixes and adverbs this half of term and what constitutes statements, commands and questions. I would encourage the children to try to identify these as well wherever possible. The children are becoming a lot more fluent with times tables in class from our unit on multiplication, it might be advisable to keep them practising the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables at home to better hone their fluency. Frequent quick bursts of practise in these areas really can make all the difference in their learning.