



NEWSLETTER



21.05.21

Message from Mrs Hird

It has been another exciting week at Castleton. Acorn class have loved seeing our newly-hatched chicks developing and have also taken delivery of some fabulous books which link to learning in maths. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed their Bikeability sessions, showing great concentration and determination in developing their skills. Across the school, children have been adding to their Arts Award portfolios, through a range of interesting activities. I had a fantastic time finding out about the Maasai Mara people from pupils in Acorn class and was so stunned by their knowledge that they all earned a Headteacher's Award!

Mrs Hird

Attendance: This week's attendance was a fantastic **99.12%**, so above our target of at least **97%**.

News from the Classes

This week, **Acorn** class have worked so hard despite all the excitement of having five chicks hatching in the classroom. They have managed to remain focussed on their written tasks. 🐣

In Literacy, the Reception children have been making stick puppets and retelling the story of Handa's surprise with them and with fruits and animals. Some have chosen to write out the story and even wrote their own versions of the story as the Year 1 and Year 2 children have. Some wonderful story telling vocabulary with expressive voices and adventurous adjectives has been seen. Years 1 and 2 have finished their personal versions of Handa's surprise, set in Yorkshire rather than Africa and we are really pleased with how imaginative and descriptive they are. They have all created some amazing stories and should be very proud of their efforts.

In Maths, everyone has been concentrating on direction and movements. Thinking about turning left and right, clockwise and anti-clockwise, forward and backwards. We have had fun outside with Mike the Monkey and a large chalk grid.

Wednesday was a busy day in the garden. Lots of weeding and planting, thanks to Mark who delivered some plants that he had grown from seed for us to put in our planters, garden and greenhouse. We also made sure that there was plenty of food for our resident hedgehogs on their feeding station.

All of Acorn class enjoyed an 'African' morning on Thursday. Having learnt about the Maasai Mara people the children went on to make craft representations of some of the lovely and colourful jewellery the tribes' people wear. We discovered that red is a very important colour, representing bravery and is used a lot in clothing. The children made simple peg dollies of tribes' people and used play dough and twigs to make representations of the types of homes of the Maasai Mara. We had a jumping competition to see who could jump the highest and for the longest. In Maasai tradition they would then be the strongest warrior. Many thanks to Paul Williams and Gaby, our wonderful cook, for bringing in an amazing collection of African masks and photos. These really helped the children learn more about the Kenyan and African traditions.

The Acorn **Star of the Week** is **Alfie H** who has been working so hard with his reading all week but has also produced the most amazing piece of independent writing in Literacy. A really lovely story inspired by Handa's surprise with wonderful adjectives, perfect punctuation and a funny ending. Well done Alfie, keep up this excellent work!



It has been a busy week for the *Oaks*. It began with Bikeability for the Year 5/6 children, first thing on Monday morning. They began on the playground, quickly progressing to the road after breaktime. They all passed their Level 2 and received their certificates, badges and snap bands. Well done everyone!



In Maths, the Year 3 children have continued with fractions and we think we have made them our friends now! Year 4's continued with decimals and dividing any number by 10. Year 5/6 children have answered problems linked to their ratio and scaling work. The children have written letters to, and biographies about, a sportsperson of their choice this week. They edited their writing to ensure a variety of sentence starters had been included, as well as using editing stations to look for other aspects to improve.

In the garden, children have looked in detail at different leaves and classified them according to their shape, veins, edges and arrangements. We also used the new outdoor classroom and drew our designs for a postcard competition across the YEAT schools.



The Oak **2 Stars of the Week** are:

Pearl for always being a great support to others in the class.
Nancy for working hard in all of her lessons and for being kind.



Year 4 Multiplication Tests

Although the Year 4 Multiplication Check is not mandatory this year, we are still going to trial the multiplication check at some point in the month of June. At school, the children will be practising their times tables at speed and in the same format so they are fully prepared. If you could support them to learn any times tables that they are not secure in and practising at speed on Times Table Rock Stars too, that would really help them.

More information for parents is available from the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multiplication-tables-check>

Swimming next Half Term

A letter was emailed out earlier in the week about swimming on Monday afternoons next half term. Please complete the online form as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so, and arrange payment through MCAS as detailed in the letter. If you would like a printed copy of the letter and form, please ask Mrs Blacklock.

Diary Dates

Monday, 7th June	Return to school and first swimming session.
Tuesday, 8th June	Individual and class photographs. Unfortunately this year, we are unable to invite younger siblings in.
Wednesday, 7th July	Whole school out at Blakey for "Let's Learn Moors Day." Further details to follow.
Friday, 23rd July	Break up for summer.

Next Week

There will be no Signing Club on Tuesday due to staff training.

Monday	Music Lessons with Alix Lillie. Please remember instruments. Choir after school. Finish time 4.15pm.
Tuesday	PE for Acorns
Wednesday	All pupils Outdoor learning. Children can come to school dressed in appropriate clothing. Gardening after school (Oaks). Finish time 4.30pm.
Thursday	PE for all pupils. Football after school (final session). Finish time 4.15pm.
Friday	PE for Oaks. Break up for half term.