

Friday Flyer

Friday 25th September 2020

Head Teacher Message

As we come to the end of week 4 the children have been very settled and have been working hard and with renewed enthusiasm for learning together. The novelty of the new term has not worn off and we are capitalising on it! We are managing to do some assemblies on zoom and today we enjoyed our first virtual achievement assembly! Congratulations to Emily, Isabella and Archie who became the first in the golden book.

This week we have had an external review for our Inclusion Quality Mark. In 2019 we were recognised as a Centre of Excellence for inclusion. This status has to be externally reviewed each year which is a rigorous but worthwhile process to engage in. This week we had a one day assessment which was conducted via a series of zoom meetings as the assessor could not be on site with the current restrictions. As you can imagine this brought some additional challenges. Special thanks to the parents who contributed and to the children who were interviewed on zoom. We should know the outcome within the next fortnight.

As local and national restrictions have tightened it has now become apparent that we are not going to be able to visit our new school site until we move in at half term. This is challenging for staff as they have not had the chance to see the space they will be working in but this is also going to be challenging for you as parents as we will not be able to do any site familiarisation visits as we had planned. We now plan to produce a video for parents and children at half term to show how you will access the site and to show you around the classrooms. Unfortunately we will not have site access until then. Boxes have started to arrive on site this week and we now have a strong sense that this is actually happening! We are donating unwanted and surplus resources to a charity for refugees who are settling in Newcastle. The link to the charity is from our former pupil Bridget Stratford who works for the charity and we are proud to support.

Maternity Leave Today is Mrs Bell's last day on site. Next week she will be working from home before beginning her maternity leave at the start of October. I know that you will all join me in wishing her well as she awaits the birth of her first child.

Congratulations go to Miss Ward who will be taking over as Key Stage 1 Manager for the duration of Mrs Bell's maternity leave.

Bus bay

Please do not park in the bus bay outside of school as this is causing difficulties for child care providers who are licensed to park there.

Music Mark



We are proud to have been nominated for and awarded the Music Mark. This award recognises our commitment to delivering high quality music education across the school.

Showcasing art

Mrs Frame teaches art across school and supports the children to develop their skills and their understanding. I have included some examples of work done this term showcasing their progression in skills and their knowledge of how art and design reflect and shape our history.

If you want to see more please follow our school twitter account for art

Art@PontelandPrimary



Year 2



Inspired by our Power and Governance and the Great Fire of London topic, we used the wet on wet technique with watercolours to create our own impressions of fire. We talked about how our puddles of water created 'happy accidents' on our pages.

Year 3



The beginnings of some lovely tints and shades work. The children enjoyed experimenting with acrylic paint and managed to keep their clothes relatively unscathed! One child said 'I think these are the sort of paints real artists' use'!

Year 1 have been working on their page doodles, developing their skills in moving between light and dark. Mrs frame was very impressed by the progress shown since last lesson.



Year 4



Our Year Four children were introduced to their new theme in our global curriculum, 'Social Justice'. We talked about the issues we were most passionate about and how we could help. We also looked at four artists who used their work to talk about social justice. There has been some lovely work produced by our Year Four children as they created impressions of the artist's work studied



Year 2

We had a super morning in the woods. We spent lots of time using our senses to describe the fire- thinking about what we could see, hear, feel and smell. We recorded some adjectives on clipboards to help us write poetry . Then we thought about what we could taste..





Nursery

Nursery experienced their first visit to the woods, known as Welly Wednesday. After getting ready (quite an event in itself!) we formed a “crocodile line “ to walk over to the woods. We checked the road for cars and walked over the zebra crossing. We then lined up outside the fire circle. We practised walking around using the song “Follow The Leader” We waited behind our wooden logs and then, after the count of three , stepped over and sat down safely. We then practised singing our ‘Hello Forest’ song before talking about safety in the woods. We had a good explore, looking in the pond, climbing and jumping before spotting some conkers on our horse chestnut tree – we ended up collecting 14! We headed back to the fire circle for the ‘Bye Bye Forest’ song. A wet but wonderful Welly Wednesday!

Upcoming Dates In Autumn Term

Week beginning 5 October
Wednesday 21 October
Thursday 22 October
Friday 23 October

Parent- teacher phonecalls
End of half term
School move – removal vans on site
School move – removal vans on site

Monday 2 November
Tuesday 3 November

Teacher Training Day
Start of the new half term

L Blain
Head Teacher