



Issue 2, December 2020

End of Term Round-up



As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I wanted to take the opportunity to again thank you all for being such an amazing school community. Our collective efforts have ensured that we can continue to provide the very best for the children and help them to thrive in their learning. I have made every effort to keep everyone as safe as possible and I am very thankful to you all for your continued support to keep the spread of the virus limited in our school community.

The school team have been outstanding in their ability to adapt to such constantly-changing situations and have continued to work with positivity, energy and commitment. I know they are all



looking forward to a relaxing break over Christmas and I hope that each and every one of them and you have the chance to rest and recharge your batteries over the festive period.

Although we may be far from returning to 'normal' times in school, I am confident that if we continue to work together we can minimise the impact the virus will have on our school community.

Thank you all for supporting our school, keeping to your collection and drop-off times, keeping your distance from staff and other families and for following the guidance and adapting as necessary. These are very trying times, but we will get through this.



We hope that with the updates we share, parents and carers can feel closer to the learning that is happening in school every day. We are not able to have open mornings or exhibition afternoons at present, but we are always here to support you and your children. If you would like to get in touch with your child's class teacher, please either send a note in with your child, or email the school office at ghpsoffice@maidenerlegthrust.org.



Remote Learning – Please don't get left behind!

All classes from Reception to Year 6 now have access to their own Google Classroom. This is our home learning platform and will not only be used during times of Covid-19, but will also be used moving forwards for setting home learning and sharing class updates and news. You will need to have access to see what learning has been set and to be able to contact teachers for support. If you have not yet responded to the access request for Google Classroom, please do so via the form [here](#).

CALENDAR

17 th December	End of Autumn Term – school finishes at normal time
4th January	Start of Spring Term
12 th January	Online Family Learning (English) Morning sessions begin – parents must sign up to take part – full details on the flyer here
12 th January	Online Family Learning (English) Evening sessions begin – parents must sign up to take part – full details on the flyer here
27 th January	Trust-Wide Inset Day
15 th –19 th February	HALF TERM
22 nd February	Children return to school
1 st April	End of Spring Term – school finishes at 2.15pm
19th April	Start of Summer Term
3 rd May	May Day Bank Holiday
10 th –13 th May	KS2 SATs Week
31 st May	Spring Bank Holiday
1 st –4 th June	HALF TERM
7 th June	Children return to school
16 th July	End of Summer Term – school finishes at 2.15pm

Consideration for our neighbours

We are very lucky to have ample parking incredibly close to the school. Unfortunately, I have recently received feedback from our neighbours in Wordsworth and Cunworth Court that a few of our parents continue to cause inconvenience by parking in resident parking areas. Please take a moment to think about the impact inconsiderate parking can have on others and utilise the large public car parks nearby.



Amazing Attendance!

A huge well done and very big thank you for all your support with attendance this term, especially in exceptional circumstances with Covid. The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and we aim to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average which on the 10th December was 89% for state funded primary schools.



Thanks to your continuing support, our attendance figure to date is above the national at **97%**, which is a great achievement! Thank you!

Websites for Learning

From time to time we find some websites that contain learning tools which you may enjoy sharing with your child, please do take a look!

<https://explorify.wellcome.ac.uk/blog/tis-the-season-to-have-fun-with-science> -

Lots of links for festive-themed science activities for all age ranges.

<https://dig1t.com/game-resources> - Downloadable free Christmas-themed maths resources



Family Learning Sessions are now online!

We are continuing to work with the Bracknell Forest Family Learning Team, who have previously hosted face-to-face learning workshops for parents to find out about how their children learn in school. In the current circumstances, we cannot have the workshops in school, so they are now fully online via Zoom. There are two groups of five sessions, one in the morning and one later in the evening, which will run in the new year. Places on these sessions are limited, but if you would like to sign up, please email the school office. More information is on the flyer on our website [here](#).

We would love to share some of the home learning from the last half-term with you all. The children have been amazing and continued to work hard to produce some truly GREAT learning.

Wishing you all the best for a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R Ferris'.

Richard Ferris
Headteacher

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and don't forget term starts again on Monday 4th January!



Christmas Performances

The children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 have been working very hard practising their Christmas performances. Although it will be slightly different this year, we have been able to video them and will be sharing the link for their performances through Google Classroom.

If you have not yet signed up for Google Classroom access, please complete the form [here](#).

If you have already filled out the form you should have received a letter containing login information.

If you have not received your login details, please email the school office so we can send them out to you again.



Butterflies Class

The children in reception class have been very busy decorating their classrooms, making Christmas cards and practising their nativity. The recorded performance will be uploaded and we will notify you as soon as we have a link available for you to view.

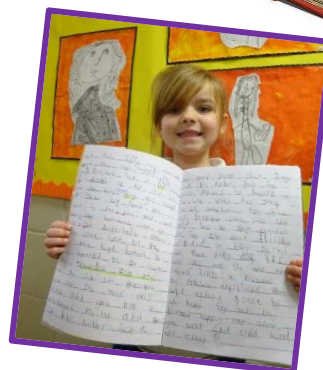
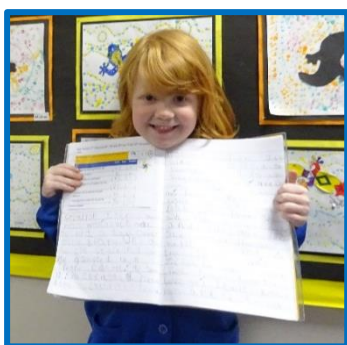


The children have also been reading 'Stick Man' and have created their own Stick Man puppets, as well as continuing to focus on GREAT phonics and number learning.



Foxes, Badgers and Hedgehogs

Year 1 & 2 have been learning about fairy tale stories like Beauty and the Beast, they have been retelling the story and have written their own fairy tales. Some of the children have also been having a go at making snacks and trying some different foods.



Eagles and Kestrels

Year 3 have been learning about magnets and forces in their Science learning, they have applied what they have learnt to make magnetic track games and puppets with moving parts. In Music they have been learning about Tchaikovsky and enjoying some of his compositions.



Falcons and Hawks

Year 4 have been learning all about volcanoes, which included some experiments to create their own volcanic eruptions on the school field and making fantastic volcano art pictures. They have also been learning about plants and used food colourings to show that water travels through them.



Tigers, Lions and Panthers

Years 5&6 are exploring their topic of 'Space' and have created some fantastic space-themed artwork and cross-stitch Space phone cases.



PE News from Mr Roberts

In P.E. this half-term, we have been busily learning lots of things.

Year 1 and 2 have been looking at the skills needed to play the game Benchball. These include chest and bounce passing a ball to a team-mate and intercepting the ball from the other team both while standing on the floor and while balancing on a bench.

Year 3 took on the mantle of exploring through land, sea and air and imagined themselves exploring through the Guatemalan jungle. Some of them have also enjoyed trying some Yoga too!

Year 4 started to learn the skills needed for the game of Basketball, by taking their passing skills and adding dribbling and shooting.

Year 5&6 have taken the basketball skills and turned them into a socially-distanced game of basketball, along with practising and measuring athletic jumping and throwing events to Tournament standard.

