



St. Benedict's Newsletter - 28th April 2016

Clothes Recycling

So far, we have had six bags of clothes collected and have raised £41.75. We need to raise loads more, so please bring in any clean clothes that you don't need any more to help school and those less fortunate than you.

Governor's Spot - April 2016

It's been a quiet time for Governors in April with the Easter Holidays at the beginning of the month. However, we have had to go through a Birmingham City Council Audit and set up the Strategic Plan for the next three years within the last week. Our Governors work very hard to assist the school leadership in achieving their goal and they thrive on the experience.

We would welcome any applications for the vacancies we have. Therefore if you are interested or know someone that may be interested, please go to the school office for further information.

Reception Admission - September 2016

If you have a child born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012, they will be due to start Reception class in September. If you have not been allocated a school place, please contact the Admissions Office on 0121 303 1888 or speak to the office staff who will assist in completing the relevant form.

Reception

We have started our topic learning about different animals and the story of 'Elmer - The Patchwork Elephant'. We will be having a theatre company come in on 3rd May to act this out for the children. We are looking forward to the trip to Dudley Zoo on 18th May. Also on the last day of half term (27th May), we will be having a 'Wear it Wild Day' when we can dress up like animals to raise money for trips.

Nursery

The new topic book for this half term is 'Come on Daisy' by Jane Simmons. The children will be doing lots of work around nature. Please support your child at home by talking about animals that are born during spring time, such as lambs and chicks. We will be looking at changes that occur during spring time in the surrounding area and visit local parks to look at ponds, plants and flowers.

Year One

This term, our topic is called 'Into the Wild' and the children will be learning all about different groups of animals. So far, the children have created fantastic observational drawings and illustrations of animals from 'The Gruffalo'.

In English, the children are very busy learning 'The Gruffalo' and they will be writing their own version of the story.

In Maths, the children have been using their understanding of measuring and weight to make their own Gruffalo, Crumble and Yummy!

The children had a fantastic time at the Eco Park, where they got the chance to retell 'The Gruffalo' in the deep dark woods and they took part in other activities linked to the topic.

Year Two

In English, the children will be learning to write a newspaper report and a story based on the 'Enormous Crocodile' by Roald Dahl.

In Maths, children will be using all the skills they have learnt so far in Key Stage 1 and using them at a greater depth in a range of reasoning and problem solving activities. At the end of May, Year 2 children will be taking the new SATs tests over a period of two weeks in small groups.

Thank you for your support so far this year and please remember how important it is to send your children to school every day ready to learn.

Environmental

Although it is spring, there is still a chill in the air and this means a slow growing season in our school garden. However, the children are still busy weeding, watering and planting large amounts of vegetables in the greenhouse.

Despite this spring being a cold one, it hasn't stopped the birds from nesting and the children have been lucky enough to watch a blue tit making a nest in one of our bird boxes which has a camera inside! The children can clearly see the nest being made over the last week and we are hoping to be able to see the chicks hatch later in the year!

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we have been awaiting some rocket seeds which have been on the International Space Station with Tim Peake...this has now arrived and gardening club will be monitoring and recording their progress and sending our results back to the European Space Agency!

Reminders

School will be closed on Monday 2nd May for Bank Holiday, Thursday and Friday 5th and 6th May for elections and training day.

On Wednesday 11th May, we will be holding our annual community day where you will get the opportunity to meet various external agencies for advice and support. Watch out for further details!!