



SINCLAIR PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Dear Families,

Welcome to our November newsletter! We are moving into our second half of the term and the children are all working extremely hard. Within this newsletter details of Christmas performances, pantomimes, Christmas celebrations and more will follow. The weather is starting to get very cold, so please remember to bring coats into school for play and lunch times!

Curriculum and Enrichment

Nursery

Nursery have been exploring the season 'autumn' and all the festivals and special occasions that it includes. We had great fun exploring our autumn treasure bags together, we found so many treasures, we had; leaves, pumpkins, conkers, fir cones, acorns, sticks, berries and so much more. Thank you for supporting the children with this activity at home.

We have also explored Diwali and fireworks, this time of year can be so colourful in the sky at night and it has been great to involve the children in recreating their own fireworks that they have seen. We have celebrated the festival 'Diwali'. Diwali is the Hindu festival of light and is also celebrated in other Indian religions, it symbolises the victory of light over darkness.

At nursery we love to explore and develop a love of reading, we encourage the children to read at home with our books at bedtime. At nursery we share a special time daily where we listen to a story read by the nursery grown ups. Our current favourite is 'The leaf thief' by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater. The silly squirrel thinks the animals are stealing his leaves but the leaves are falling from the trees due to autumn and the wind. Please continue to explore the love of reading at home, it is so important for the children and will help develop their communication, language and extend their vocabulary.

Year R

This term in Year R we are learning about different religions and cultures and their special celebrations such as the Hindu festival of lights - Diwali, and the Christian celebration - Christmas! We will be doing lots of cross-curricular activities to fully immerse ourselves in this learning experience. To start this half term we learnt about Diwali by exploring our Diwali themed home corner, and making decorations in the creative area. We have now changed our role play corner to a Christmas themed one and the children have loved wearing our different Christmas costumes.

In writing we learnt all about the story of Rama and Sita and looked at some photographs of people celebrating Diwali and discussed the beautiful colours, lights and lanterns. We have used our phonic knowledge alongside our understanding of Diwali to write a shopping list to help us prepare for the celebration. We have also looked at the stories "We are going on a Bear Hunt", "Brown Bear Brown Bear" and "10 things not to do with a baby." We have learnt the stories, made story maps and wrote down our own versions.

In maths we have been learning all about the numbers 1 to 10. We know how to make and order these numbers. We have also learnt one more and one less. We have found out which numbers add together to make the totals.

Year 1

In Year 1 we have been learning about the different seasons. In Science we went on a seasonal walk where we explored the changes in the trees and leaves. We then wrote our own Autumn Poem during our writing lessons. We used the stem sentences 'I can see...' 'I can hear...' 'I can feel...'. We learnt about adjectives and generated our own adjectives to describe what we could see. Some children decided to extend their ideas by using conjunctions!

In Maths, we have discovered subtraction. We have been looking at real world problems that use subtraction and solved these using concrete resources. Afterwards, we learnt how to pictorially represent subtraction number sentences. We really have enjoyed the practical nature of this unit! Next, we will be exploring the more abstract concepts of subtraction.

Year 2

In Year 2 we have been learning all about animals and their habitats in Science. We are focusing on the ocean, desert, polar regions and rainforest, thinking about which animals live there and why they are suitable for their habitats. We have been really enjoying finding out lots of fun facts! One of our favourites is that polar bears have a layer of fat to keep them warm in their cold habitat which is called blubber.

Has your stationary ever got fed up with the way you treat them and written you a letter of complaint? In writing, we have been pretending to be different bits of stationary that we have in our classroom, writing to our owners and complaining about the things that they do to us. The glue sticks are furious that we sometimes leave their lids off, the rulers are FED UP of being used as musical instruments and the chairs cannot stand it when we swing on them and they get the blame for our injuries. Whoops!

Year 3

Bones, bones, bones, that's our skeleton! This song is certainly stuck in our brains (inside our craniums) after our science lessons so far this half term. We have loved discovering more about our bodies and so far we have developed knowledge around the name of our bones and muscles.

In writing, we have adopted the role of the devious, sneaky Dr Hunter who is inviting the innocent, unsuspecting animals to his manor for a 'glamorous' stay. We have loved convincing the

animals to attend through our persuasive invitation which has included ambitious and formal language. We are certain that our writing will persuade them to attend!

Year 4

In Year 4 we have been exploring the telekinesis powers of Star Lad in the book 'My brother is a superhero' in our Writing unit. The children have been preparing for their recount by making up their own actions and rhymes as a class to remember the sequence of events.

In science we have been learning about electricity! The children have explored what dangers there are with electricity and how they can identify and prevent any hazards. They are truly experts and have been able to label each room of the home where electricity is used and have been giving tips on how to keep safe. We can't wait to carry on with this unit and set up our own circuits in the upcoming weeks!

Year 5

Year 5 has been exploring our solar system and learning all about the planets, the moon and the sun during our science lessons on space. We are finding everything we can out about space before we have to report back to NASA at the end of the unit to help them on their mission!

In writing, we have been creating a persuasive piece about the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans. We have been shocked to discover how much damage is being caused to our oceans because of plastic, and have become passionate about communicating this through our writing. We have thought about different persuasive techniques we can use to encourage the reader to make a change, and how we want the reader to feel.

Year 6

In Year 6 we have been learning about WW2 and this term we have looked into what it is like for civilians and children of Britain. When the Blitz happened in 1940, children were evacuated to be protected from the bombing. They would live with a foster family in the countryside away from the attacks. We are also currently learning about what it was like for women in WW2 and how it differed from women in WW1.

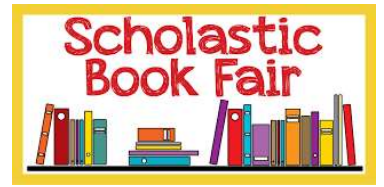
In writing we have started our new unit of 'Be the Best'. We have been looking at people who inspire us as well as motivational language to write our own piece on why that trait is so important to have and how we can encourage that trait in others. We are going to make sure to include all of our different sentence types as well as our non-negotiables and motivational quotes.

Showcase Musical Concerts

Showcase invited our Year 3 and 4 parents to watch a small musical concert to celebrate the children's progress in their instrumental lessons this term. We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to hear your child/children play some wonderful music on Tuesday 28th November.

Scholastic Book Fair

From Tuesday 21st November until Tuesday 28th November our school welcomed the Scholastic Book Fair into our school. Thank you for your support of the Book Fair, this helps our school to continue purchasing new books and resources and we hope that it continues to encourage our pupils to keep reading! All of your purchases totalled £480!



Reading Ambassador Trip to Central Library

On Monday 20th November, our ambassadors from all five partnership schools met with Southampton Library Service staff who gave them a fantastic insight into the role of a librarian, how the library works and the organisation that goes into Southampton's libraries. All ambassadors returned to Mansel Park to discuss ideas for our partnerships libraries. They all worked incredibly hard and had an

amazing time!

PE kits

Please ensure your child has their full P.E. kit in school at all times and that it is labelled. Below are the P.E. days for each year group:

Monday – Year 1

Tuesday – Year 5

Wednesday – Year 6

Thursday – Year 3 and Year 4

Friday – Year R and Year 2

Christmas Countdown

We have lots of exciting Christmas celebrations to look forward to. Please find below an outline of the upcoming events.



Christmas film and popcorn

On Monday 4th December children will be able to enjoy a Christmas film in school from 3:30pm. Tickets are available from the school office for 50p, this includes a drink of squash and popcorn. The children will be ready to be collected from school at 5:15pm.

They are welcome to bring a onesie or Oodie into school to change into at the end of the day for the film.

Years R, 1 and 2 will be watching Arthur Christmas.

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be watching The Grinch.

Pantomime time - Oh yes it is!

Friday 1st December – Year N, R, Year 1 and Year 2 – Panto (in school) – A Christmas Carol

Tuesday 12th December - Year 5 and 6 - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower

Thursday 14th December – Year 3 and 4 – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower

Year Group Christmas celebrations

Children will be singing their favourite Christmas songs. Due to hall space restrictions, a maximum of two adults per child can be accommodated at these events and tickets can be purchased from the school office for £1 each. This will include a hot chocolate and a mince pie for the adults.

All events will begin at 2.45pm and finish for the end of the day.

Monday 11th December – Years 1, 2 and 3 – in the hall

Wednesday 13th December – Years 4, 5 and 6 – in the hall

Friday 15th December – Year R – in the hall

Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day

On Friday 15th December, our kitchen staff will be preparing a delicious meal for us all to enjoy together. Please complete the google form to order your child's lunch if you haven't already.

<https://forms.gle/fppk2w7W9D9sR9vx9>

Your child can wear their Christmas jumper on this day and instead of monetary donations we kindly ask for any non-perishable food items that will be donated to the local food banks/Poitiers.

Nursery celebrations

This year at Sinclair Nursery we will be having a Christmas party for every child to enjoy. This is an exciting time for the nursery children and grownups. The party will be held on **Friday 15th December**.

Each nursery child will receive a party invitation detailing which allocated party time your child has been invited to. We are looking forward to sharing this experience with your child. Each child can attend wearing a party outfit, dressing up outfit or a Christmas jumper to get into the festive spirit.

During our party we will play party games, share some party food and then finish with a special Christmas rhyme time. We would like to invite each child's parents/carer to join us for our special Christmas rhyme time to finish. This will be held in the nursery and we hope you bring your singing voices with you!

We ask for a voluntary contribution towards the party food/drink of £1 per child, in advance. No need to provide any food/drink yourselves. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday, 1st December – Nursery, Year R, 1 and 2 – Panto (in school) – A Christmas Carol
- Monday, 4th December – Christmas film and popcorn
- Thursday, 7th December – Coffee morning and pre loved uniform swap and Christmas clothing swap.
- Friday, 8th December – INSET day
- Monday, 11th December - Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Celebration
- Tuesday, 12th December – Year 5 & 6 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre



- Wednesday, 13th December - Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Celebration
- Thursday, 14th December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Friday, 15th December – Year R Christmas Celebration
- Friday, 15th December – Christmas Dinner Day
- Friday, 15th December – Non Uniform (Christmas Jumper) Day
- Friday, 15th December - Nursery Christmas Celebration
- Christmas Break
- Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 – Back to school
- Thursday, 4th January – Coffee morning and pre loved uniform swap
- Monday, 15th January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications