



Loudwater Combined School

Learn, Create, Succeed

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LOUDWATER UPDATE

Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents,

Important Dates

Monday 26th February – Foundation Stage visit to Flackwell Heath Library

Thursday 29th February – Year 5 Science Oxford Trip

News from the classes this week:

Foundation Stage

In Phonics this week, Foundation Stage has learnt the new sounds "ch" & "sh". We have also revised the Tricky Words he and she.

On Thursday, we had a mystery to solve in our outside learning area. One of the houses had been messed up and we looked for clues to see who might have done it. This is what we found. There was a little chair that had been broken, 3 bowls and 3 spoons, there were porridge oats spilt on the floor and a blanket hanging out of a window. Some people thought that a giant had done it, and lots of people thought a bear had done it, but when we saw the sign on the door, most of us started to think it might have been Goldilocks who had caused a problem. We have written "crime reports", noting all the clues and we will let you know if we get any more information...



In Maths we have continued working on odd and even numbers, and practising our doubles. We have also been talking about length and height and working out which is the longest (or the tallest) and which is the shortest. We have sung the song "days of the week" and we know the order they go in.

Thank you for sending in photos of our bears. We have used them to help us make detailed sketches of them. We have also used the digital microscope to observe some teddies even more closely.

The Reading Eggs programme has been provided by the school for us to use at home. You can access it via this website. Your individual login is in the front of the orange Home Reading Record book.

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

Year One

This week in English we have been introduced to our new text which is 'Dinosaurs and all that rubbish' by Michael Foreman. We thought about what we mean by rubbish and came up with some alternative words such as waste, litter and trash. We wondered if rubbish was a problem near our school so we went for a walk and were very sad to find over 100 bits of litter. We made posters to remind people not to drop litter and we then wrote letters explaining some of the problems associated with littering.

In Guided Reading we are enjoying 'The big book of birds' by Yuval Zommer. I have asked the children to see how many different types of birds they can find over the weekend. If you need some help identifying birds this website will help.

<https://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activitymenu/?cat=birds>

In Phonics we have been learning about c making the s sound (as in space, city and pencil) and g making the j sound (as in giant, germ, page).

Our focus words this week are oh and their.

In Maths we have been focussing on subtraction. We have been using a number line to support us with subtracting by counting back. We discussed the fact that we really need to make sure that we are being accurate.

In Guided Maths we have been focussing on the different ways of making 9.

In Science we are learning all about animals, including humans. This week we have been naming and identifying some of the animals that we can find in the UK. We have also been comparing different animals.

This week we have been really lucky to welcome some visitors into our classroom. Judith, Sue and Clare from the 'Hearing dogs for deaf people' came to talk to us about the amazing work of a hearing dog and how important they are to people who are deaf. We were very excited that a hearing dog in training came to visit us too.

If you want to find out more about this charity this is the link to their website. It is a local charity and they have a great café and restaurant that you can visit too!

<https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/>

Useful websites

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/mental-maths-train> (select the subtraction to 10 or 20 options but make sure you read the questions carefully!)

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/dragons-den> (choose any phase!)

Year Two

In Phonics, we have been learning how to read and write words with the suffixes -er, -est, -ing and -ed. We have focused on words ending with a 'y' and learning to use the 'change a y to an i' rule. E.g. funny – funniest and crazy – crazier etc. In Guided Reading, we have begun to read the book 'The Flower' by John Light. We have used our prediction and inference skills to think about what the story is about and what is happening in the story. In English, we are using 'The Diary of a Killer Cat' by Anne Fine to help us with our writing. We are learning to write a recount from the perspective of Ellie. This week, we have explored other examples of recounts and built a writer's toolkit of the features. We have also learned how to use conjunctions and noun-phrases to write interesting recount sentences.

In Guided Maths, we have partitioned single digit numbers to build numbers over 10. We have thought about how to split the numbers to build 10, and some more. E.g. $8 + 4 = 12$. We would split the 4 into $2 + 2$. Add 2 to the 8 to make 10. Then add the other 2 to the 10 to make 12.

In Maths, we have learned how to group objects to divide a whole into groups. For example, we had 20 counters, split them into groups of 4, then counted the number of groups. So, $20 \div 4 = 5$. We have had lots of practise using concrete resources.

In PSHE, we considered how to keep safe in different rooms in the house. We agreed some rules to help keep people safe at home e.g. Do not play games on the stairs, and Do not open the medicine cupboard etc. In Science, we have learned what animals, including humans need to survive. We considered the food, drink and shelter needed by a human, dog and bird and compared these. We then explored the importance of washing our hands to keep healthy. We have set up an investigation to find out what happens to dirty hands over time. In Computing, we have learned how to collect data using tally charts. We analysed the data we collected and answered questions. In RE, we have thought about which books are special to us and why.

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> You can use this game to practise: number bonds, halves, doubles, multiples of 2, 5 and 10 and, as a challenge, division by 2, 5 and 10.

Year Three

'The Wolves in the Walls' by Neil Gaiman is our new text for English.

There are sneaking, creeping, crumpling noises coming from inside the walls... Lucy is sure there are wolves living in the walls of their house but her family doesn't believe her. Then one day, the wolves come out!

This book is a gripping read and has inspired us to think about our own dreams and fantasy worlds! We loved working together in groups to act out different fantasy worlds. There were magical kingdoms, enchanted forest and underwater cities. We have also identified some of the key features of descriptive writing and learnt what coordinating conjunctions are and how to use them in sentences. I wonder how many conjunctions the children can remember from the acronym FANBOYS? We have learnt how to add extra information and description to their writing in preparation for writing about their own fantasy world next week.

In Guided Reading, we have been introduced to the myth 'George and the Dragon' and have been making predictions and discussing the dragon's motives and behaviour. In Maths, we have completed our learning about Length and Perimeter. To conclude our learning, we used various methods to subtract lengths. We have learnt about perimeter and how to calculate the perimeter of shapes. In Computing, we have started learning about data and information. In PSHE, we have been learning about the community and what makes a community. This week, we explored why it is important to feel you belong to a community.

We have learnt lots of interesting facts about our new Science topic, Light. The questions we have thought about this week are: What is Light? How can we see objects? How can we stay safe from the sun? We have learnt that light travels in straight lines and that it travels faster than anything in the Universe. We were totally amazed to find out that in 1 second, light can travel around the world seven and a half times! The children have also drawn detailed diagrams of how light travels from a light source to an object and then showing how the light is reflected back to the pupil of our eye. Super work Year 3! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmbvgwx>

Year Four

In our English lessons this week, we have been busy writing our own Coraline stories. We have been focusing on creating satisfying resolutions and endings for the reader. To improve our stories, we have been practicing our editing skills and incorporating elements such as fronted adverbials, descriptive language and speech. We have also started publishing our stories in a special class book called Coraline Stories. In spelling, we have been using a range of strategies to learn words that we have previously spelled incorrectly in our writing books. By using these strategies, we are becoming more confident in our spelling abilities. During our reading sessions, we have been exploring the characters from the book Cloud Busting by Malorie Blackman. This has allowed us to deepen our understanding of the text and develop our comprehension skills. In Maths, we have started learning about perimeter. We have been converting between kilometers and meters and have discovered that 1000 meters is equal to 1 kilometer. By counting the number of squares around the outside, we have also found the perimeter of different shapes.

Additionally, we have learned how to calculate the perimeter of rectangles. We have also explored finding the area of rectilinear shapes by adding all the sides together.

In science, our focus has been on the states of matter. We have learned about the different properties of solids, liquids, and gases. As part of our investigation, we conducted an experiment to determine the rate at which different materials melt. We observed the melting rates of substances such as water, juice, milk, and vegetable oil, using data loggers to record our findings. Our computing lessons have been centered around finalising our podcasts. We have added background music and sound effects to accompany our voice recordings, which has made our podcasts more engaging and enjoyable to listen to. In PE, we began learning the sport of handball. We have been practicing our handball skills in small-sided games, which has allowed us to develop our teamwork and coordination. During our RE lessons, we reflected on books that hold special meaning to us. We also explored different religious holy books, gaining insight into their significance within various faiths.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zgwc96f/articles/zngfp4j>

Year Five

In English and Guided Reading lessons this week we have started to focus on a new text – Alfred Noyes' narrative poem: The Highwayman. We have really enjoyed listening to this story (with a very tragic ending!) and have found ourselves feeling surprisingly sorry for the thief! We have sequenced the main events of the poem and have begun to internalise the first few verses – you could ask us to try to perform these! In Science, we began the week by learning about the amazing Chinese chemist, Youyou Tu, who discovered a drug in the 1960s which could successfully treat some of the symptoms of malaria – a disease spread by parasite-infected female mosquitoes. Thanks to Youyou Tu and the drug she developed from traditional Chinese medicine, millions of lives have been saved although malaria continues to claim hundreds of thousands of lives every year across the world. To start our new science unit about properties and changes to materials, we predicted if a previously frozen metal spoon or a wooden spoon would keep an ice cube frozen for longer, and conducted an observation over time to investigate. Many of us were proved wrong so please ask us about this. We then considered different ways of sorting and classifying materials according to their properties before creating mixtures and solutions of our own. Next, we had the opportunity to explore different methods of separating mixtures and recovering substances from solutions. This helped us then plan a series of steps we should take to separate specific materials in a bucket. In Maths, we have been multiplying non-unit fractions and mixed numbers by integers (whole numbers). In our daily Spelling lessons, we have been learning to spell pairs of homophones where one word is a noun and the other a verb in the past tense. For example: *guest and guessed*. In our indoor PE dance lesson this week, we practised moving around in a heroic way, incorporating proud walking, chainé turns and spotting in our own ideas – we'll happily give you a demonstration!

Check out the following link to get more practice converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa: [Math Antics - Mixed Numbers \(youtube.com\)](#)

Year Six

In Year 6 this week, we started the week with an enjoyable walk to Flackwell Heath library. In English we have started a new unit of writing based on the book, Troofriend by Kirsty Applebaum. It is about a girl who is given an AI friend and what happens as their friendship develops. We will be writing our own narrative based on an AI friend. We have been reading the book, discussing the main characters and settings and exploring the vocabulary that the AI friend uses. In Spellings we have been distinguishing between the two graphemes 'ou' and 'u' which has the same phoneme /u/ as in cup. There is no spelling pattern for these words and they are words that we just have to learn. In Guided Reading, we have been reading Rain Player by David Wisniewski. This book is based on an Ancient Maya traditional. We have explored the front cover,

making predictions about what we think the story will be about and have discussed some of the vocabulary used.

In Maths, we have completed our algebra learning. We have solved 1 and 2 step equations, found pairs of values and have solved problems with two unknowns.

This week we have started a new Science unit – Evolution and Inheritance. We discussed whether we had ever been told that we look like a parent or a relative. We explored what inherited characteristics are in humans, other animals and plants and also considered environmental characteristics. We then looked at the characteristics that we have inherited from our parents. We have also explored fossils and the evidence that they show us for evolution. In PSHE we have used the BBFC film classification to help make choices about what to watch. In RE we completed our work about who is responsible for looking after the world: we followed this up with some art work. In Computing we created some data by rolling dice and entered this data on a spreadsheet.

Website

Maths Whizz – See link below

<https://whizz.com/>

This forms part of the weekly home learning each week. The expectation is that 60 mins will be completed in total each week – this is measured from Friday to Thursday.

KS2 Arithmetic

A great site – Arithmetic questions available as a free resource in the Primary section.

<https://mathsbot.com/>

Punctuality

We are always pleased to see so many children waiting in the morning for the gates to open so they can come into school. Most of our children consistently arrive on time – or sometimes earlier for breakfast club, Nessy or OT club – and we greatly appreciate this. Children who are at school on time are able to engage with a variety of learning opportunities as soon as they get into class. Each class teacher aims to create a range of learning tasks across the week to support children in consolidating or deepening their understanding of things that they have already learned. Research shows that this kind of regular practise supports children in remembering what they have learned in the longer term.

Children who do not get to school punctually are not able to take advantage of these opportunities and I would urge those parents who are not always able to get their children to school on time to think about what their child could be missing. Although we never draw attention amongst the children to the time that they arrive, being the last or one of the last to go into class can be a challenge for some pupils, creating anxiety around their start to the day. We also notice that a number of children who, whilst they do not arrive late, are frequently one of the last to arrive meaning that they too are not accessing this learning at the start of the day. If there is anything we can do to support you in getting your child or children to school more punctually, please do not hesitate to ask either Gemma or myself.

Pupil Premium Eligibility

The Pupil Premium is additional funding that the government gives to schools for each pupil on roll where their parents receive certain benefits. The money is spent on that pupil to support their education, and is for the school to determine how it is spent. As well as the money the school receives, your child may be eligible for a free school meal even if they are in Key Stage 2.

Your child or children can get a Free School Meal or the pupil premium if you, your partner or the child is receiving one of the benefits below:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA(IB)) - Not JSA(Contribution based)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA(IR)) support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that does not exceed **£19,995**.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Universal Credit

Parents can apply for free school meals through the school office; this is a quick and simple process. All you need is your National Insurance Number, date of birth, name and child's details and an eligibility check can be carried out using Buckinghamshire Council's Eligibility Checking System, this will confirm if details have been matched or not. It will not tell us what benefits you are in receipt of, dates when a benefit was awarded or say how much you receive. The check should be complete within 5-10 working days. If you would like to check your eligibility please let the office know.

Internet Safety

During this week, all our children have watched the Internet Legends Internet safety assembly. This is the link for information for parents if you wish to watch the video again with your child or would just like more information: <https://youtube.com/live/zGfMFG8JZI?feature=share>

Please also see attached to the newsletter information from Cyber Choices who are offering webinars to support parents awareness of possible dangers for children and young people and how to stay safe online.

Achievement Award Winners

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
02.02.24	Hadi	Millie-Lou	Bentley	Ahil	Justyna	Jake	Leo
09.02.24	Aubrey	Braylee	Avaya	Noemi	Emily	Esme	Kata
23.02.24	Ruby	Daisy	Blake	Noemi	Alyssa	Kelci	Sameer

The Head teacher's award this week was awarded to Callum in Year 6 for the great attitude he has shown towards his learning in Maths, well done!

The following children have been recognised in achievement assembly for their good behaviour:

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
02.02.24	Dylan K Ruairi	Eshal Evie	Scarlett Sienna	Jake Noemi	Emily Oliver	Jake Jensen	Narin Callum
09.02.24	Amina Dylan K	Carrie Sarah	Sam Rose	Marley Lillie J	Thomas Diya	Charlie Ryan	John Hyukjoon
23.02.24	Leo C Frankie A	Peter Millie-Lou	Jessica Dylan	Zak Sam	Kallia Ollie	Aoife-Rose Imogen	Adil Mia

The following children, in KS2, have made particular efforts with Tables Rock Stars/ Maths Whizz:

	Times Tables Rock Stars/ Maths Whizz
02.02.24	Ronnie – Y3 Kallia – Y4 Aoife-Rose, Elliotte, Brooklyn – Y5 Julia – Y6

09.02.24	Christopher – Y3 Alyssa – Y4 Aoife-Rose – Y5 Eleithya – Y6
23.02.24	Sania – Y3 Magda Y4 Molly – Y5 Narin – Y6

The following children have made particular efforts with Reading Eggs or Accelerated Reader.

	Reading Eggs	Accelerated Reader
02.02.24	Finn – FS Harry – Y1 Sam -Y2	Mark – Y3 Amelia – Y4 Samuel – Y5 Hyukjoon – Y6
09.02.24	Liam – FS Harper – FS Julia – Y1 Holly – Y2	Marley – Y3 Aadya – Y3 Scarlett – Y4 Binon – Y5 Joseph – Y6
23.02.24	Frankie L – FS Shi’Loh – Y1 Faizan – Y1 Dyuthi – Y2 Noemi – Y3 Diya – Y4 Imogen – Y5 Leo B-C – Y6	

Attendance

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
02.02.24	86%	87%	92%	87%	99%	95%	90%
09.02.24	93%	96%	92%	93%	90%	95%	93%

Punctuality

Number of children arriving after their class start time.

	Foundation Stage	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
02.02.24	1	1	6	2	2	4	0
09.02.24	1	0	3	3	1	0	2
23.02.24	0	2	3	0	2	2	1

House points for the week

	Beethoven	Mozart	Tchaikovsky	Elgar
02.02.24	243	226	264	248

09.02.24	144	167	186	188
23.02.24	243	247	248	236



**Pen License
James – Y4**

Update from Gemma (Family Support Adviser)

Gemma's contact details:

Work mobile number: 07792 142825.

School email: gnortheast@loudwater.bucks.sch.uk

Family Learning courses in February

Please find attached multiple leaflets from the Family Learning Team in Bucks advertising upcoming courses for the last week in February. There are still spaces on these courses so if you would like to attend any of them, please sign up to them by using the QR code or following the link on the leaflet (by clicking on the date of the course).

Lending Library donations

We would like to replenish some of the Lending Library stock, so if you have any unwanted educational games at home that you are willing to donate to the school, we would gratefully receive these. We would be grateful if you could please check that there are no missing parts in the game before you donate it. Please hand any donations directly into the school office. Thank you in advance for your support.

Gemma

At the end of this half term, Gemma will be going on maternity leave. I am sure that you would like to join with all of us in school in offering her and her husband many congratulations and our good wishes as they soon embark on their journey of parenthood.

Prior to Gemma starting her maternity leave, Gemma will complete the work with children that she is currently working with. Next term, if you have any wellbeing concerns about your child, please talk to the class teacher in the first instance and we will look at how children can be supported in school by other members of staff.

Friends of Loudwater School – FOLS

Please see the attached flier for the end of term disco. The Gateway will open on Tuesday for you to sign up your child for this event.

Yours faithfully

Clare Cunningham

Mrs C Cunningham
Head teacher

Disclaimer

From time to time, we are asked by a range of organisations to give out leaflets. We always agree if we think this could be of interest or benefit to the children. However, we do not endorse any of these organisations and parents should always check their credentials carefully to make sure children would be safe and well looked after.

Wycombe Wise Owls

Support in learning – please see [here](#).

Rail Awareness Safety – Simon Frazer, Principal at Guilsborough Academy

Primary school version: Suitable for KS1: <https://learnliveuk.com/ks1-primary-school-safety-talk/>

Primary school version: Suitable for KS2: <https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-primary-school-safety-talk>

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL **Calendar of events for 2023-24**

<u>Values Assemblies</u> All Start at 9.05am 24.1.24 Honesty Year 1 28.2.24 Love Year 3 23.5.24 Trust Year 2 26.6.24 Self-belief Year 6 18.7.24 Friendship Foundation Stage	<u>January</u> 4 th & 5 th School closed – training days for teachers 8 th Children return to School	<u>February</u> Week beginning 5 th Parent /Teacher Consultations 12 th - 16 th Half term break 19 th Return to School
<u>March</u> 1 st Notification of Secondary School Places 7 th World Book Day 8 th Book Character Dressing up day 7 th Parents' Forum 7pm Week beginning 25 th Parent /Teacher Consultations Y6 27 th Y5 Hispanic Evening for parents 28 th School closes at 2pm for Easter Break	<u>April</u> 15 th Children return to School Week beginning 22 nd Parent /Teacher Consultations (FS-Y5)	<u>May</u> 6 th Bank Holiday 13 th Year 6 SATs Week 20 th Year 5 Assessment Week 27 th – 31 st Half term break
<u>June</u> 3 rd School Closed Training Day for teachers	<u>July</u> 2 nd Secondary School Induction Day (Y6) New Parents Meeting	<u>Class Assemblies</u> <u>Spring term</u> 9.05 Start 18 th January - Year Six

4 th Children return to School 10 th – 14 th Year 6 residential 10 th – 14 th Assessment Week Y1, Y3 & Y4 28 th School Closed Training day for teachers	12 th Sports Day 16 th Reserve Sports Day 22 nd 7.00pm Y6 Leavers Production 23 rd 9.30am Y6 Leavers Assembly School closes at 2pm for summer break	25 th January – Year Two 1 st February – Year Four 29 th February - Year One 7 th March – Year Five 14 th March – Year Three 21 st March - Foundation Stage
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