February 2021

Mawsley C.P School

Spring 1 End of term Newsletter

Government Announcement

On 22nd February, we are anticipating an announcement about whether schools will fully reopen on 8th March.

Once a return date for all has been confirmed, we will work quickly to put into place the required plans and communicate with you all.

Mawsley Parent Feedback Survey

Thank to you to those of you who completed our Remote Learning Survey. I was able to share your feedback with the teaching team at our staff meeting this week.

Where is Bebo?

We know that for many of our children it must feel like a very long time since they have been in our school building.

To test their memory, in the style of 'Where's Wally?' we have created a 'Where is Bebo?' photo challenge. On the front page of the school website you will find a gallery that shows Bebo hidden in different places in the school.

Can they recognise where he is?

Next term we will share with you his hiding places!

Get spotting!

Mawsley School Science Day

On Monday 22nd February, all our remote and in-school learners will be taking part in a Whole School Science Day. Let's get connected and enjoy a day of science learning together after the half term break. All the learning activities will have a science theme and can be found in the usual place in the Remote Learning pages of the website.
On the day you will be sent an email from the office with a link to our Virtual School Trip to the Cambridge Science Centre. The link is valid for seven days so, if you enjoy the trip, you can visit as many times as you like. All year groups have the same link, so siblings can enjoy them together.
Attend your first Zoom lesson of the day to find out about our whole school science challenge! It's very exciting!

Gallery Challenge!

We know that many of our children have enjoyed seeing the faces of children from their year group in our daily zooms but are missing the opportunity to see the smiles of others from school.

To help with this connection we will be creating a 'Make each other Smile' Gallery on the front page of our website'.

Take a photo of your child smiling; they might want to give a thumbs up or another pose that will make us all smile. We will add the photos that are sent to us to our virtual gallery. We can't all be together in the building but we can create a school community gallery which allows us to see each other.

Please email your photos to nicola.watts@mawsley.org.uk. By emailing your photo you are indicating to us that you give consent for the photo to be placed on our school website.

World Book day

It's back! World Book Day is here again on Thursday 4th March, a chance for us to leap into a totally different world and explore inspiring and interesting characters or find out about fascinating and informative facts. This year, each class is going to virtually meet and find out about some exciting children's authors through the Festival of Literature platform. I wonder who your child will get to know? To find out more about this year's World Book Day and links to lots of different book and activity ideas that you may want to investigate at home, go to: https://www.worldbookday.com/

Mawsley Half term Art Challenge

On the last page of this newsletter find information about our exciting Art Challenge!

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Reception

We are really proud of the children for their hard work this term.

All of our children have adapted to change incredibly well; whether it is changes to zoom lessons or changes to which classroom and adults will be with them in school. We are so proud of them for this.

The children at home come to lessons very well prepared and show great courage in putting themselves forward to answer questions. They have all really enjoyed their art lessons on a Friday and have produced some real masterpieces!

The children in school have impressed us all by developing new friendships and taking real care of each other as a group. They loved pretending to be real police officers last week and helped to solve a mystery crime that had taken place in class!

Year 1 and 2

The Phase 2 team would like to say a great BIG thank you to the children for their high levels of engagement and participation in our live lesson and those in the school building! We know how daunting it can be to share your ideas with a group... trust us when we say that even the grown-ups find this tricky! Our English unit ended with a BANG! We have been blown away by your fantasy oceans and have really enjoyed listening to your non-fiction texts! Your ideas were super creative (and completely bonkers!) Thank you for being brave enough to share your ideas in our feedback sessions and class sessions.

We have been so impressed with all of the incredible reading happening in Phase 2 and how much the children have engaged with Reading Eggs. In January, the children completed 292 hours between them and completed 501 lessons! Wow!

Year 3

Year 3 has risen to the challenge of home learning with enthusiasm and courage. Mrs Johnston and Mrs Istok have been really impressed with how well all the children have been taking part in the live lessons. It's not easy looking at a screen on your own for a whole hour, but all the children have shown how resilient and determined they are. They have been real 'Stay at Home Superstars'.

The children that have joined us in school have been equally resilient. Getting used to new seats, new rules, new classrooms and a new teacher each week! They are our 'Stay at School Superstars'.

This term in Science, we were exploring light; sources of light, reflective surfaces and creating shadows. These lessons were mostly practical and learners both in school and at home have enjoyed this side of our learning. Each lesson they have had their torches ready to experiment how light works and how it travels to our eyes. Children have created fabulous designs from school bags with reflective stripes to curtains, which prevent light from entering a baby's room. We certainly have some inquisitive scientists in the making.

Mrs Johnston and Mrs Istok have been particularly impressed with how well the children rose to the challenge of planning and writing their News Reports. We had lots of fabulous ideas during our planning sessions. RE has also been lovely to be a part of, as the children have thought about the importance of treating others with kindness and their own self-worth, a real must in times like these.

Year 4

Year 4 have had an excellent term during both remote learning and key worker provision in school. In our English sessions, we have been writing quest tales with a focus on grammatical features such as embedded clauses and expanded noun phrases. The children have been engaged and responsive during these lessons, producing some fantastic, independent quest tales at the end of the unit. As their teachers, we've been blown away by their stories that have been sent to us and that we have read in school.

We have been particularly impressed with their questioning skills, especially in their Science lessons. The topic has included experiments, which, in 'normal times' would have been done in school and in small groups. Obviously, this has not been able to happen, but the children have, as always, risen to the challenge, sourced equipment and completed these at home.

We really appreciate the children's participation in lessons and have been most impressed with their behaviour. It has been a new way of teaching for us, but we must not forget it has also been a new way of learning for them.

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Year 5

Year 5 have been super impressed with the level of independence. So many of the children are able to set up their learning space, Zoom and access the website independently. We are so excited about their learning and progress and look forward to them bringing back their newly developed skills when we return to classroom learning.

The children that have been in school have been working extremely hard since the start of the year. In particular, we have been really strengthening our key skills of reading and interpreting and learning about different types of fractions in maths. Very topically, we have all been learning about how Great Britain trades with other countries, historically and currently. In English and through our Science we have been learning about Space and our Solar System, looking in detail at the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission – writing some excellent diary entries detailing the events. The attitude and resilience of the children both at home and in school has been nothing short of outstanding – well done!!

A note from Miss Harris…

Proud is a word that I have found myself using repeatedly over the last year, more so than any other year. But I am. I am so proud to work at Mawsley School and be part of a community that has pulled together and risen to the challenges in the way that it has. I know each house has faced their own set of challenges this term, I know that everyone has given their best, their best to ensure that each day is a success for their family , no more can be asked.

The Importance of Trying

Life's not a competition,

You don't have to beat the rest.

No, the only thing that matters,

Is you do your very best.

From first to last, to failed or passed,

It matters not a jot.

You can hold your head up,

If you gave it all you've got.

(Bk: Big thoughts for little thinkers by Daniel Thompson)

Year 6

The Year 6 staff have been blown away with our Year 6 home and school learners this term! Firstly, in every single online lesson, the staff have been amazed at the children's focus and ability to contribute to lessons throughout the last few weeks. A few highlights spring to mind: firstly conquering algebra over the last term, which is a tricky topic, but the children have smashed this topic both in lessons and on IXL; secondly their amazing knowledge and work on North America and earthquakes in topic, in particular the lessons about the Hoover Dam and Grand Canyon, as the staff learnt as much from the children as the children did from the staff and lastly in their English lessons, the children have produced great information texts and an excellent The Hobbit based mini write. All in all, the children all should be so proud of their effort this term, they have been a truly outstanding example of resilience, adaptability and what our oldest children should be: role models.

Some of our children have managed to smash through their Accelerated Reader targets this term, which has been so lovely to see and many others have been quizzing on books that they have read.

Children in school have formed a tight unit during this lockdown, helping to support and develop each other's ideas in discussions and have shown a great focus for learning, despite the change in circumstances. We have been so impressed by the way they have extended their writing skills recently, mastered our Algebra unit, and how they have set a new Year 6 record for the longest badminton rally

This experience of home learning has also made our children really independent, logging on and organising themselves so well. It has been lovely to see so many children working so hard.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child during this Covid-19 closure period, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). Contact details are available on our school website: https://www.mawsleyschool.co.uk/

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child during the Covid-19 closure period outside of school hours, please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 1000 (option 1) or e-mail them at MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, please contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning 999

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Mawsley School's Half Term Art Challenge!

Using loose parts in your home, can you create a masterpiece?

You could use towels and sheets for the backgrounds or roll them up and bend them in the direction you want them to go in, kitchen utensils, shoes, books, toys, fruit… anything you can move easily to build up your picture.

The **Theme** is 'EXPRESS YOURSELF'

Take a photo from above and email it to

anne.hollwey@mawsley.org.uk

There will be a winner from every year group and also a winner for best sibling collaboration too!

When many of the staff were younger they would watch this programme, ask your grownups about it, we are they they will have happy memories of Neil and his BIG art attacks!