

20th January 2023

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Our Christian value this Half Term is **Perseverance**

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Calendar of Events

20th January Elm Bake Sale	10th February – end of term
7th February – Internet Safety Day	13th – 17th February – Half Term
9th February – Friends of Weeting Valentine's Disco	2nd March World Book Day
9 th February – Weeting Uniform Swap Shop	21st and 22nd March Parents' Meetings
10th February – Think Pink or Red. Valentine's dress down day.	23rd March World Maths Day

Throughout school this week I have seen children embracing our Christian and school value of "Perseverance". The concentration in all classes has been very obvious to see and the children are eager to share what they have been learning. It has been very clear that they are not only enjoying learning new skills and knowledge, but are also make some great links to previous learning, particularly in many of our Primary Knowledge Curriculum subjects like Science, Geography and History.

Thank you for all the support you are giving your children with the homework challenges. All the staff area noticing a real difference in confidence, ability and knowledge, particularly in English and Maths. I appreciate that you will all having differing commitments in the evenings and at weekends and that juggling homework into this can be tricky.

The expectations for homework completion are high, especially as children move through the school and we continue to boost missed learning time from lockdown, but please be reassured that whatever amount you are able to do together it will go a long way to making a big difference.

God and the Big Bang

This week, Oak Class had a visit from a group called "God and the Big Bang". The session provided the children with an exciting opportunity to discover, discuss and debate the compatibility of science and faith. Lola and Olivia have written a very detailed report for the newsletter about the session.

"This morning 3 scientists (Michael, Tom and Sarah) came to our school to help us explore the overlapping perspectives of how science and faith can come together to create different possibilities.



The 3 scientists wanted us to explore the following questions:
Where do you come from?
Where are we going?
What is our place in the universe?

They encouraged us by teaching us a saying discover, discuss, debate.

Michael went on to explain that those questions were from an underground lab in Cern, Switzerland and how that laboratory was using sub atomic particles in a Hadron Collider to create a Big Bang. Not only is Michael a scientist, but he is also a Christian who believes God and the Big Bang connect.

Then we were asked questions about God and The Big Bang; if we agreed we stood by the windows, if we disagreed we went over to the whiteboard and if we were unsure we stood in the middle. For example, one of the questions was; can or will science be able to explain everything? I disagreed with the statement because who knows what's out there, for all we know we might of only explored 20 percent of the universe.

The last activity was to guess what was in a can. We used something Tom recommended to us, this was called eyes, brain and feet. We used our eyes to see, our brain to think and our feet to touch.



Lastly we learnt that you get a strand of DNA from you mum and one from your dad. Tom taught us this. You might even get strands of DNA from your family members”.

Healthy Eating

Thank you for supporting us in promoting healthy eating at breaktimes. There have been a lot of discussions about favourite snacks and polls taking place to find out which is the most popular snack of the day!

We would suggest the following as possible options:

- *Fruit eg melon, a banana, strawberries, a tangerine, a pear, a peach, a plum, an apple*
- *Vegetables eg tomatoes, celery, carrot and cucumber sticks, sliced peppers, sugar snap peas.*
- *Dried fruits eg raisins, cranberries*
- *Bread sticks*
- *Plain popcorn*
- *Plain rice cakes*

Uniform

The cold spell this week has given us a sharp reminder about the need to be dressed warmly for winter as well as providing us with the opportunity to revisit our school uniform policy. Further information on this is included in the parents’ section of our website.

School Uniform

- Green or white polo shirt.
- Black or grey, skirt or trousers. We would ask that skirts are knee length to encourage a smart appearance as well as keeping warm.
- Green jumper or cardigan (with or without school logo).
- Shoes – black shoes (no trainers) or winter boots.

PE

We are seeing an increase in the number of brightly coloured and branding clothing. On PE days we encourage the children to wear:

- White or green t-shirts
- Green or black sweatshirts and plain tracksuit bottoms.
- Trainers (preferably white or black)

The Weeting Uniform Swap Shop

We have recently had some very generous donations from several families who have asked that these are used to support to our school community. I am pleased to announce the launch of our new Weeting Uniform Swap Shop on **Thursday 9th February at 3.30pm**. This will be a half termly opportunity to bring any unwanted or outgrown uniform items and swap them for another piece of uniform. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the swap shop before then please drop them off at the office.

NEU Strike Action

You will all have received a separate letter about this earlier today. I am sure you will be aware from recent media reports that the NEU have declared strike action, which will take place on Wednesday 1 February, Wednesday 1 March, Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March.

While the planned action is as a result of a national dispute between the unions and the government, and not with either DEMAT or the school, it is important that we respond accordingly. As such, the senior leadership team at Weeting Primary School have been working closely with staff in order to plan for the days. We have looked at the school timetable for that day to ensure we can still manage the safe supervision of our pupils while minimising the impact on learning with reduced staffing levels in place.

Therefore, if the strike action goes ahead, our school can remain open and we will put the following arrangements in place:

- Existing internal cover arrangements for classes will be used if required.
- Arrangements for school lunches, both sandwiches and hot meals will continue.

Dr Hardie

What is happening at Weeting?

The children have been very busy this week. Here's what's been happening in your child's class:

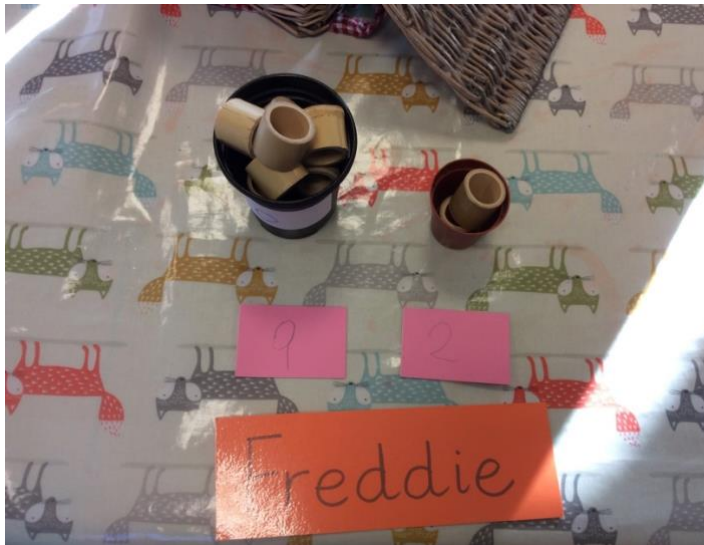
Chestnut

We have continued our space exploration theme this week, with a focus on astronauts, in particular Tim Peake and Mae Jemison. We learnt that an astronaut is a scientist who explores space. We found out what an astronaut needs to wear when they go into space and produced some very detailed paintings and astronaut handbooks, writing most of our instructions ourselves. The best part of our learning was trying out astronaut space food! The space apples and pears looked very different from the ones we have at snack time and the space ice cream tasted delicious!

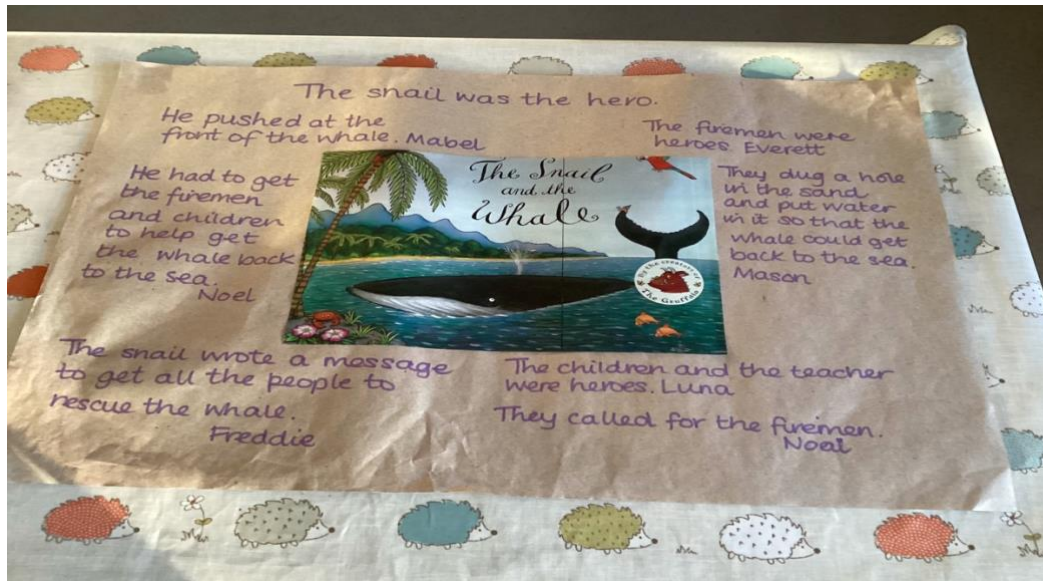




In Maths we have been exploring capacity and weighing. The children have been using their great understanding of place value to explain their reasoning as they compared the capacity of different containers. “The biggest pot will hold more because there is more space in it. 9 is bigger than 2 and 2 is less than 9. The pot with 2 is smaller”.



In RE we are exploring what makes someone a hero. We decided that a hero is “someone who helps people who need helping”. We listened to the story “The Snail and the Whale” and identified that the tiny snail was the hero. We made a list of all the things the snail did to help the whale.



Beech

Beech Class are working well as their learning continues to challenge them. In English, we have been learning the story of 'Pandora's Box' by drawing pictures from each part and then verbally retelling to a partner.

During Maths sessions we have been learning different ways to multiply and divide, using terms such as; times, lots of, groups of and shared between. We have shared objects into groups and written number sentences for arrays.

We have been filling in our class weather chart this week which has been interesting because each day has been different! The children have also been exploring tools that can be used to monitor weather conditions. We can explain when and why we use thermometers, rain gauges and wind vanes.

In computing this week, we have been looking at writing algorithms for a character. We will be using vocabulary like forwards, backwards, left, right and quarter turn.

We continued using our line drawing skills in Art to draw Westminster Abbey. The children used their knowledge of shape to draw an outline then used more pressure with the pencil to create darker lines and add in the detail.

Elm

The children have worked hard this week and have demonstrated a solid ability to use similes to compare things to paint a picture for the reader as well as using expanded noun phrases to create effective description of characters and settings. They have progressed well with their reading of "Odysseus and Iliad" and have discovered what the Greeks believed in as well as how to pronounce the Greek islands, gods and names correctly.

In Maths this week Elm have demonstrated good perseverance towards measuring and measurements. They have used rulers effectively to determine the size of an object and record their findings. The children learnt a great deal about converting between the measurements such as millimetres, centimetres, grams, kilograms, millilitres and litres. They have been using all four operations to help them solve two step worded problems and have really worked well in talking partners to solve these problematic questions.

In Art this week the children have been discovering how the sphinx was built and what features it had, before moving on to use clay to create their own sphinxes. They used many different creative approaches; some children used layers on layer, others created body parts then moulded them together. The children then used tools to add the finer details to show where time had affected it as well as the facial details, groves and dents.



Oak

On Tuesday morning, we welcomed some special visitors who carried out some work on God and the Big Bang with the children. A write up by Lola and Olivia on this activity is also included in this week's newsletter.

In Maths sessions, we have continued to work on area, with the year 6 children using given formulae to calculate the area of different quadrilaterals. An example question can be found below.

The formula for the area of a rectangle is given by $A = pq$

If A is 48 cm^2 and p is 4 cm , what will the perimeter of the rectangle be?

In English this week, we have completed our biographies about Polly Ho-Yen by editing and producing a finished version. We have now moved on to balanced arguments and are identifying the purpose, key features and format of the text.

Within our history topic on the Industrial Revolution, we have looked at the cotton industry and how it was revolutionised by the inventions of people such as Richard Arkwright who first used water-power, then steam-power to run the machines in his factories.

In Geography we have looked at how the land use in East Anglia has changed since Roman times and how this was driven by the draining of the fens to turn it from mainly marshland to fertile arable land.

The Nest

We have had an exciting week in the Nest.

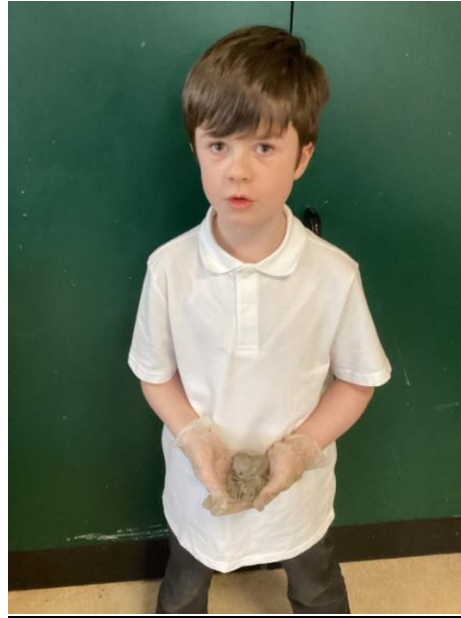
We enjoyed cooking. We made muffins and they tasted delicious. We carefully broke the eggs and did lots of measuring.



We have decided to start a running challenge. We enjoyed using trundle wheels to measure the distance around the field. We worked out that to run a mile, we need to run seven times around the field.

In English, we started to look at Greek Myths. We read the beginning of Pandora's Box and have painted and described different settings.

Some of us, have been thinking about what makes us special in PSHE and have used clay in Art.



Awards of the Week

The following children were particularly celebrated for their effort and achievement in class:

Tudor and Luna in Chestnut Class; Evie and Stella in Beech Class; Dolsie and Jacob in Elm Class; Hollie and Charlie in Oak Class; Terry in The Nest.

Well done to all the children for their hard work this week!

Attendance

School attendance is at 90.39%.

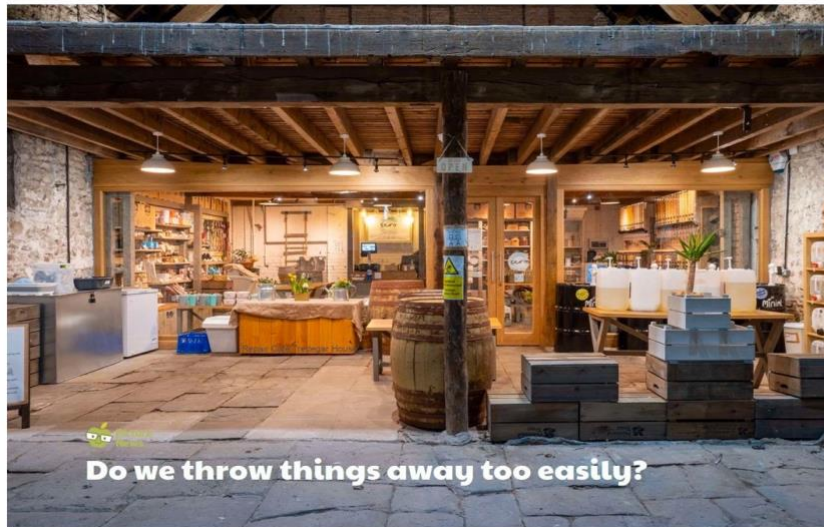
Below is the attendance for each class for the past week – the Government target for attendance across the country is 95%.

Chestnut 96.67% Beech 94.07% Elm 93.91% Oak 91.07% The Nest 50%

Well done to Chestnut class for having the best attendance this week.

Assembly Focus of the Week

In this week's Picture News assembly we focused on the following question.....



And **finally**...

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend, and as always, thank you for all the support you provide for the children and our school!