

# Learning is exciting at Wheatfields Primary!

**Reception** A warm welcome back to all our lovely EYFS children. We have been so proud and impressed by how quickly they have settled back into routines, especially toward the end of the week as the tiredness has kicked in! We have launched our new topic about Space by reading and sequencing the story 'Aliens love underpants'. In Maths we have begun to learn about 3d shapes and have been shape detectives, hunting for 3d (solid) and 2d (flat) shapes around the environment.

**Year 1** Happy New Year! What an exciting start to the new year for Year 1. We have had the Raptor Foundation in to show the children different types of owls and eagles and how they fly! This has then inspired the children to write sentences that described how the birds flew and what they look like. The children have immersed themselves into Story Time Phonics to recap the sound 'ir', 'ur', 'er' and 'ear'. In maths this week the children have been looking and exploring how to find 1 more than and 1 less than from numbers to 20. The children have also made some fantastic clay pots in art.

**Year 2** We're back! After a very festive two weeks away the children of Year 2 have come back with a bang! This week we have started our new topic "Up, up and away" which focuses on Space and resulted in an Astronaut visiting us on Wednesday! In our writing/reading we have started a new focus book called "Goodnight Spaceman." We have read it, discussed the plot, identified the characters, made predictions, compared similarities/differences and written/punctuated questions correctly! We then posed our questions to Professor Gordon Challenger who visited us on Wednesday! He was very impressed with the level of thinking of the children and the way the questions were written! In Maths we have started to delve into the murky world of multiplication. The children have been "building" and "drawing" number sentences to consolidate their understanding of what a multiplication calculation is asking them. They have also begun to explain how they know their answers are correct by enhancing their reasoning skills! In our Topic lessons we have produced more questions of things that we would like to find out about Space and we explained to the teachers what we already knew! Roll on week 2.

**Year 3** Happy new year! We have had a great start back in Year 3 and have been very impressed with the way children have settled back in to school. We dived straight into our Light topic in Science, where the children have been learning about sources of light and discussing the difference between light and dark and the need for light to be able to see things. The children had fun guessing what was hidden in feely bags by feeling the objects and drawing them. When we let light into the bags, they were able to see what the objects actually were. Also, we have started learning about Myths and Legends and have enjoyed reading and listening to lots of different stories in Literacy and Guided reading sessions. Just a reminder, that P.E lessons are on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday** afternoon.

**Year 4** Happy New Year! Year 4 have had a really exciting science week exploring the different states of matter. We have looked at what makes a solid, liquid and gas and investigated the way the particles behave in different states. We have done lots of experiments to find out about the different stages of the water cycle and have really enjoyed getting hands on with science. The children came up with some fantastic questions and have used lots of scientific language to explain their thoughts and ideas. In maths we have revisited our work with the grid method for multiplication and some of us have even moved on to the column method. We have found that knowing our times tables really helps, so keep practising these at home. In PE we have started our new sport of tennis, we are doing PE outside and the children are allowed to wear tracksuit trousers and tops to help keep them a bit warmer. In literacy we have started reading our new class text 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman, the children have really enjoyed reading this very exciting story.

**Year 5** Rustling, drip, drip, drip, thunder crashing, the ground shakes, birds sing and squawk. Year 5 has turned into a rainforest! This term our topic is rainforests and we have travelled to Brazil to learn about the magic and wonders hidden in the Amazon rainforests. To help with our discoveries we will be reading a book: The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry. Already we have shared what we know about the rainforest and what we would like to know. In other parts of the curriculum we are learning about factors in maths. You could say we have gone factor mad! Next week, we look forward to reading The Great Kapok Tree and we are CARVING our way to becoming Magical Masters at Maths!

**Year 6** It's looking like another busy half term in Year 6! We have again, 'hit the ground running' and it certainly feels like we have been at school somewhat longer than a week. In Mathematics we have continued our work on fractions, looking at finding fractions of amounts and multiplying fractions less than 1 by a single digit. It sounds complicated but once we grasped the steps involved we then applied our understanding to help us tackle reasoning problems. We have just dipped our toes into our new Literacy text, 'The Watertower', having spent a lesson discussing the unusual book cover. Earth and Space is our Topic theme and we went outside to order the 8 planets from the sun and are already gathering information to produce a fact file on a planet. Agility, balance, coordination and speed, are the skills we having been working on in PE as we started our new unit, Tennis. Additionally some of us have been busy attending small group sessions to help fill gaps we might have in key areas of learning in Mathematics (calculations) and Reading.

**Music** We have had a busy week starting our new topics this term. In the half-centenary year of the Moon Landing Y6 are linking with their class topic and will be learning about Space Music. We will be focusing on Holst and his Planet Suite but will be investigating space music by other composers too. We will be composing our own space music towards the end of the term. In Y5 we have had our first lesson on the African djembe drums and are already playing and singing African songs and rhythms. In Y4 our new focus composer is Chopin and will be learning about his life and works alongside developing our keyboard skills. In Y3 we are learning about Reggae Music and have started learning Three Little Birds by Bob Marley.