



Little Claremont News

Claremont Fan Court School

Issue 5 2020-21 - Friday 22 January 2021

A note from Mr Williams

This is a very busy time for everyone connected with the Pre prep. Our Pre Nursery and Nursery are open whilst Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are working remotely. Unlike the last Lockdown, even the weather is against us! The cold and shorter days create a further obstacle to overcome at a time when exercise and activity are more important than ever. Despite the many challenges, both old and new, if we pause to look, there are reasons for optimism and hope. First and foremost of course, is that there is now a vaccine and members of our community are beginning to receive their first jabs. This uplifting news promises a better year ahead for us all and the hope that we might not need to lock down again. Secondly, I feel lucky that technology is on our side: our young learners all have sufficient access to devices at home, our online provision withstands the pressures placed on it and we all better understand its strengths and limitations. And finally, our community spirit continues to thrive and shine through: Our PTA is as active and imaginative as ever, our teachers are working the same long hours determined to provide the very best for the children - but with the added difficulty of being home alone, or home with busy families; and our young learners continue to light the way with their resilience, energy and enthusiasm. There are countless examples of this – from the smiling faces in story time to the music and dancing emailed in for our celebration assemblies. As a parent of young children I am as concerned as everyone else about the effect and impact of these last 12 months. However, I also find myself overwhelmed with both surprise and pride at just how strong children are showing themselves to be. This gives me optimism not just for the weeks ahead but for the future in general. Children are, indeed, a gift!

Pets and Vets

In Pre-Nursery we have had lots of fun welcoming in some new friends and teachers, all of whom have settled in quickly. We have also started learning all about animals. The children have been exploring the stories, 'My cat likes to Hide in Boxes' and 'Peculiar Pets' through a range of activities and games. They have particularly enjoyed playing hide and seek with the cat and looking after the animals in the vets role play area. The children have also been developing their craft skills by making their birds for the rhyme, 'Two Little Dickie Birds.' It is lovely to see the progress they are all making and the fun they are having playing together, something for which we all feel very fortunate to be enjoying at the moment!

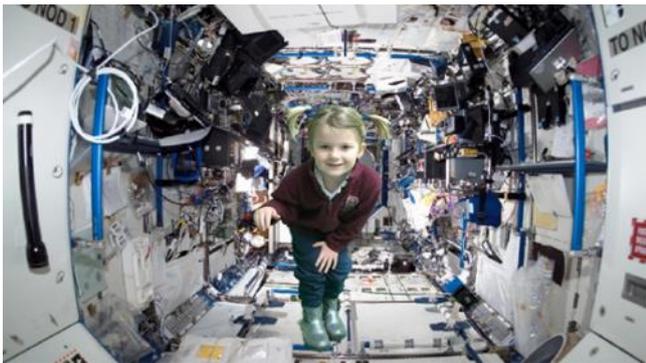
Mrs Watson and Mrs Moor



Nursery in Space

We have been learning all about Space in Nursery. They are absolutely loving the 'Space' role play area and have enjoyed making their own planets and rockets, both through junk modelling and through using Numicon shapes. The children have been learning different facts about Space and learning new words (such as, galaxy and gravity) and different planet names. They now know that Earth is the special planet we live on and were amazed to zoom in from space all the way to Esher to our school mansion by using the 'Google Earth' software. We have also been able to enhance the children's imagination of pretending to go to Space through using the 'green-screening' technology. They are all proud of their realistic images. We are delighted to be able to have the children back in classrooms and are working hard to ensure we are keeping them as safe as possible in school.

Mrs Williams and Miss Westbrook



Fairy Tale Fun in Reception

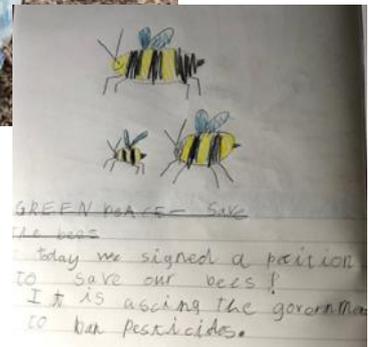
Reception have kicked off the Spring Term with our unit on Fairy Tales. We have begun by focusing on the familiar stories The Three Little Pigs and we will be continuing with The Three Billy Goats Gruff as our Talk4Writing texts. The children have really taken home learning in their stride and got stuck into tasks such as story maps, retelling with actions and innovating the story with new characters. In maths this half term we will focus on addition, time and subtraction. We have been so impressed with the children's resilience and positivity while learning at home. We also wanted to thank you for all your patience and support, especially in the use of Tapestry. It has been absolutely wonderful to see how the children are engaging with the work and what they are up to. It is an invaluable resource for us to be able to see how to help move your child's learning on albeit virtually. We hope you are staying safe at this time and hope to see you all in person again soon, Harri and Bonnie are missing the children very much!

Miss Bollen and Mrs Mohsin



Year 1 Eco Warriors

It has been a busy start to the half term in Year 1 and it has been absolutely fantastic to see how hard all the children have been working whilst having school at home. Hopefully we will all be able to be together again very soon. In the mean time the children have been showing us how inspired they have been by our topic 'Our Country, Our World' and particularly their exploration of the work carried out by Greenpeace ad Greta Thunberg. Over the last two weeks they have become passionate eco warriors, determined to make our world a better place by reducing pollution, saving endangered animals and stopping deforestation. Not only have they learnt about the challenges facing our world and how we can all help, they have used actions as well as words to inspire both us and their friends. From collecting litter whilst out on their walks, to encouraging others to reduce, reuse and recycle, to signing a petition to ban pesticides, it has been wonderful to see all of their efforts and passion for this topic.

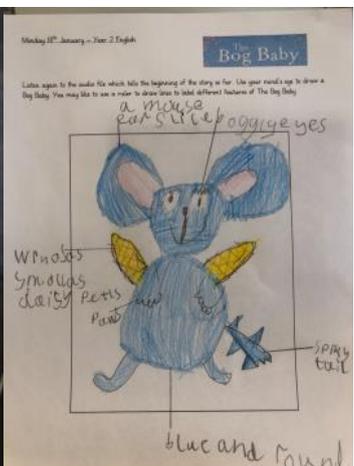


Mrs Ennis and Miss Bridges

Messy times in Year 2

Although this wasn't the start to the spring term we expected, we are very proud of how hard the children have worked and their resilience when it comes to our second experience of home learning in less than a year! The children have been exploring the world of Horrid Henry and making their own Glop recipes, which contained ingredients such as ketchup, flour and even dog food! Some children enjoyed making their imaginative Glop recipes become a reality and some even braver parents were convinced to try the recipes, some I believe tasting better than others. We are beginning our work on 'The Bog Baby' which our science topic of habitats will link well with and we are looking forward to discovering what happens in the story. We would like to thank you again for your support during this unusual time and hope you all stay safe and well.

Mrs Saville and Mrs Emerson



Save the Children

A message from Save the Children:

"We wanted to personally reach out to say thank you so much to staff and students at Claremont Fan Court School for signing up to support Christmas Jumper Day 2020 for Save the Children and for raising such a fantastic amount. To put £2,836 (total on your JustGiving page) into context for you that could provide 94 low income families in the UK with vouchers to help them buy household essentials, or could provide over 200 children in Yemen with a 'school in a bag' kit to make sure they don't miss out on their education.

As I'm sure you can imagine COVID-19 has had a negative impact on our income over the past year, with pretty much all of our fundraising events cancelled, but thank goodness Christmas Jumper Day could still go ahead! Your support really will make all the difference and will help ensure we can continue to reach some of the world's most vulnerable, and deserving children.

Thank you again for your fantastic support."



Welcome

Mrs Heslop and Mrs Higgins to the Pre-Nursery team from January.



After graduating from university, I spent many years working for a large recruitment company. Since then, I have had 3 children, William, Mia & Freya (now aged 10, 8 and 5) and have embarked on a new adventure in 'the classroom'. Following 12 months volunteering in a school setting, I enrolled on a Level 3 Teaching Assistant Course which I completed last year. In my spare time, I love keeping fit, especially running, open water swimming and generally spending time outdoors with my family. *Mrs Heslop*

I am super excited to be joining the Pre-Nursery team as a nursery/early years assistant. I bring with me many years of childcare experience and a love of working with early years children. I was previously working in a nursery in Esher where I have been for the past 6 years. I am passionate about enhancing learning, especially in a fun, informative and caring way. I have lived in the area for just over 20 years and both my sons attend a local high school. I love keeping fit, walking our dog and spending time with my wonderful family. This new chapter is the start of an exciting time for me. *Mrs. Higgins*



Science Question of the month – December

It was so lovely again to see children of all year groups taking part in our monthly science experiments. In December the children were all tasked to experiment with different materials to find out which ones are waterproof or not. Most of the children used the dinosaur templates provided, however we were particularly interested in seeing Alex and Ben's experiments as they were brave enough to see if their own coats were waterproof whilst using the hose pipe!



Cake making at Claremont

It is clear to see from the many posts on Tapestry that we have some very enthusiastic bakers among the Pre-Prep children. Chocolate seems to be a key ingredient in these bakes! It is lovely to see that even though we cannot visit family at the moment, Daniel still celebrated his Aunties birthday and made her a special cake, which he then got to eat! Rory has also been extremely kind as he has been baking cookies for the A&E staff at Kingston Hospital as well as helping to create care packages that are being sent to NHS staff that are currently off sick.

