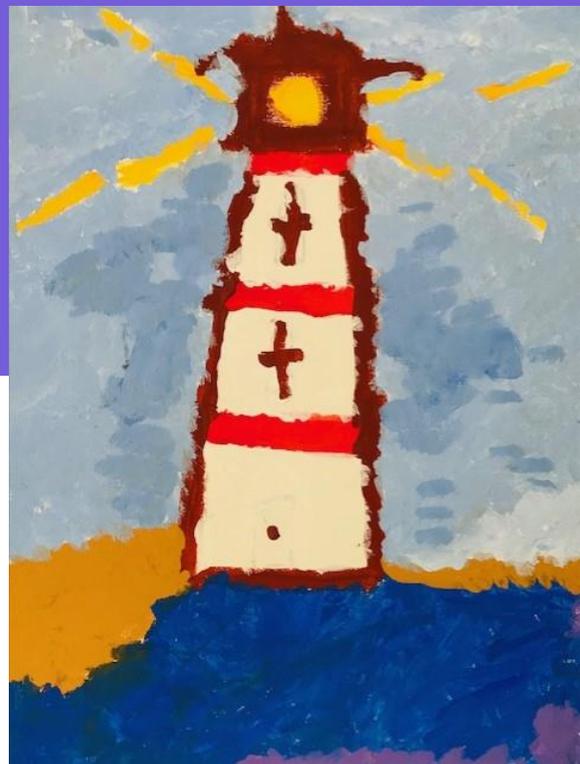


Crowmarsh Primary School News

“Let Your Light Shine...”

20/11/2020



Community Tree of Hope...

Thinking outside of the box...

This year we wanted to go big – I think that this has now made me realise that whatever crazy idea I have, it really is possible! Watch out!

As we are all in ‘bubbles’ and not moving around school as normal, we are going to transform our massive pine at the front of the school into a ‘Christmas Tree of Hope’ for our community. Over the next week, you will see a post-box appear, where we are asking the community to post their ‘Hopes for the Future’ – the children will then write these hopes onto decorations to hang on our living tree.

The children, in the next few weeks, will be creating a ‘Paper Chain of Hope’, with their hopes for the future, that will become a part of the church Christmas Advent Trail, which will be displayed on Christmas Eve at the church, so make sure to go by and see it!

Fleecy Fridays and Advent Calendar

Fleecy Fridays seem to be a bit hit with both children and staff! We will continue this until the end of term.

Don't forget, next Friday November 27th, I will pull the raffle ticket for the Lego Advent Calendar during our online Zoom assembly. Make sure to get your raffle tickets in before then for a chance to have your own Harry Potter advent calendar.

Assemblies

It has been fantastic to see so many parents and grandparents on our Zoom assemblies on a Friday afternoon.

We have been trying to prepare things from each class to share with you, however, some weeks you may just have to put up with my usual assembly to the children and staff, but you are all always welcome to join us.

This week it has been anti-bullying week and classes across school have been discussing different themes around this. On Wednesday we highlighted our differences by wearing ‘Odd Socks’ to celebrate what makes us unique.

So much has been going on in school and it will only get busier up until Christmas!

Lazy Cat

This exercise releases muscle tension.

Pretend you are a lazy cat that just woke up from a lovely long nap.

- Have a big yawn.
- And a meow.
- Now stretch out your arms, legs and back – slowly like a cat – and relax.



Class Spotlights

Class 4 Spotlight.....

Class 4 have had a busy start to Term 2. In our whole class reading, we have started reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. We have been developing our understanding of the story and the characters through the use of literal and inference questions. We are also using summarising skills by writing a brief outline of what has happened on a post-it note every time we read. Our English work also links closely to the book. So far this term, we have started to identify and use adverbs as well as continuing to develop our use of sentence of 3. We are currently preparing to write a letter from the main character to her father.

In maths this term, we have been rounding 4 digit numbers to the nearest 1000, counting forwards and backwards in 25's and we are now learning about negative numbers.

This term we have continued with our history topic on the Ancient Maya Civilisation. Throughout this topic we are thinking about 'What was the greatest achievement of the Maya?' This question has taken us through a range of learning including farming methods, the game of pok-a-tok, trading and the Maya's love of chocolate! Over the next few weeks we will be learning about architecture and their number system before we finish with a reflection on the achievements of the Maya.

We are just coming to the end of our first science topic about living things and their habitats. Throughout this topic we have learnt about the life processes that all animals need to be able to stay alive and how to compare animals using scientific vocabulary. We have also found out how to use and create a classification key and the impact that habitat change can have on animals. We will soon be starting our new science topic which is all about states of matter.

Class 4 have been amazing since we returned to school in September, they have adapted to changes really well and are all trying to be the best Purple Learners that they can be.

Mrs Corrigan

Hi, I'm Mrs Corrigan. I've been teaching at Crowmarsh for nearly 15 years. I have been in Year 4 for the last 7 years, having taught Year 5 before that. I love teaching Year 4, my purpose is to provide a classroom environment where the children feel safe and supported whilst also engaging the children in their learning and developing independence. I have been involved in the school computing and E-safety for many years and I am excited by plans that we have to develop these areas this year.



I have a 7 year old son who keeps me pretty busy outside of school. I love spending time with my family, we enjoy bike rides and days out exploring new and favourite places. With family in Somerset, we like to get to the coast whenever we visit.

I recently read 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant' by Nizrana Farook. I really enjoyed the book so I'm now reading it to Class 4! My son is a Harry Potter fan so I am working my way through reading the books to him.

Mrs Le Roy

Hello, my name is Mrs Le Roy and I have recently been lucky enough to join Crowmarsh School as year 4's TA.

In the short time I have been at the school, seeing and helping the children grow academically and emotionally is proving to be every bit, if not more, as rewarding as I had hoped. I am looking forward to continuing to support and encourage the children in this challenging year.



Outside of school I run fitness classes and work at a boxing club which keeps me busy and has the added advantage of keeping me fit enough to match the children's energy in class! I live in Wallingford with my two sons, who in their turn attended Crowmarsh School.

I am currently reading Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari

Class 5 Spotlight....

Mr Morton

Hello, my name is Mr Morton and I have been working in education for the last 7 years and teaching at Crowmarsh for the last three years. Most of my experience has been based in years 4, 5 and 6, however I have taught across all year groups (from nursery to Year 6) during a spell of supply teaching in various schools. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have worked in a variety of different settings and alongside some fantastic teachers. This has had a great influence on me and helped to shape my own approach to teaching and getting the best out of each child. My purpose in school is to inspire the children to do their best and try new things

I have a big passion for sports and fitness. I follow several different sports such as football, boxing and Formula 1. I am also an avid Manchester United fan.

In my spare time, I enjoy exercising, painting, drawing and learning about history. I have recently finished reading the Stormlight Archive series by Brandon Sanderson and I am now moving onto The Saxon Stories by Bernard Cornwell (both of which are not appropriate for children to read).

The return to school was always going to be a shock to the system after such a long time out of school, however the children have come back in a very positive manner and have really tried their best in all that we have done so far. At the start of this half term, the children have continued to challenge and extend themselves and are beginning to think, act and look like a mature and hardworking Year 5 class.

During first couple of weeks back after half term, Class 5 have been delving into a myriad of poems with a specific focus on the key elements of descriptive poetry. We are slowly building up our skills and have so far studied various vocabulary, adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors and their applications. We will soon be moving onto personification. I have been thoroughly impressed with their poetry work to date and the amount of hard work and effort the children are bringing to their learning. A lot of the class have taken to writing their own poetry at home based around a variety of differing themes, which has been excellent to see.

Throughout our maths sessions, the children have been continuing to improve their fluency skills such as their rapid recall of number facts and multiplication facts. We are continually improving with our mental and formal strategies for all operations and will soon be ready to bring these skills to a range of complex problem-solving questions. In our concept sessions, the children have been looking at multiplying and dividing by powers of 10 and how that skill will help us to calculate more complex problems.

The whole class have shown a lot of enthusiasm for our science topics this term. They are very keen to ask questions to understand the world around them. We have moved onto properties of materials this half term and have begun to identify different materials and their uses for building objects in the school grounds. Our most recent sessions have revolved around identifying why certain materials were chosen for their purposes and how their properties made them a suitable material for the job.

Our sport this half term is hockey. The children have really hit the ground running and have demonstrated a good level of skill at the basics of hockey. We have been able to play a variety of games and have begun to work as a team offering lots of support and encouragement to those taking part.

Class 2's display for Anti-Bullying Week we celebrated the week of November 16th, 2020.





Primary Parenting Online! Don't Miss This!

No matter what kind of parent you are, parenthood brings with it so much joy, but it can also feel like you're pulled in every direction. You navigate through colic, toddler tantrums, growth spurts, peer impact, pre-teen tantrums and ... you get the idea. No doubt you'll be trying to work through something right now!

Join us for *Primary Parenting*, a light-hearted event about the ups and downs of raising under twelves. Rob Parsons and Katharine Hill will present insights and top tips gathered from their combined experience of working alongside thousands of parents for over thirty years. You may laugh, you may cry, but we hope to leave you feeling uplifted and inspired.

Click Here to Register:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online-2/primary-parenting>

Planning Christmas...

We don't know what Christmas will look like so check out these 22 virtual Christmas Party ideas for the whole family!

<https://museumhack.com/virtual-christmas-party/> **Start Planning Now!**

12 Zoom Games to play with kids:

<https://parade.com/1025105/stephanieosmaski/zoom-games-for-kids/>

Have the kids set up the virtual quiz with questions and answers:

<http://questionsgems.com/christmas-quiz-questions/>