

Be the best you can be!

Half-termly Newsletter

22nd December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic half term we have had! There has been so much going on and there's plenty for you to read about in this edition of the newsletter. I have been so impressed with the determination and resilience that the children have been showing as they have been approaching their learning. It is good to see their confidence grow. I am sure you will agree that the support, care and nurture the pupils received from the staff in school has scaffolded their development this term.

As a school, we have really enjoyed the opportunities to have you in to see the children with their learning and to support us with fundraising events, as well as to watch our festive performances. Please look out for further information for future events taking place in school next term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful, peaceful and safe Christmas. I hope that you are able to spend time with those you love and make some wonderful festive memories.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Thursday 4th January 2024!

Thank you,
Mrs Cowell-Clark

Contacting us:

Calls can be made to school Monday to Thursday from 8:30am – 4.30pm and Friday 8.30am - 4pm on **01777 708065** Please note the office will be closed from Monday 25th December 2023 to Thursday 4th January 2024.

Enquiries about admissions, school dinners and any other query should be directed to office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk

Finance queries should be directed to: finance@clarborough.notts.sch.uk



Booking in Lunches, Breakfast Club and Wraparound Club

Parentmail is now open for you to book your child’s lunches, Breakfast club and Wraparound places for the Spring Term 1. Please note, these must be booked one week in advance to allow us to ensure correct staffing and meals etc.

Please also note that Breakfast club starts from 7.45am and children will not be allowed into school before this time. Thank you.

Merit and Courtesy Awards: Autumn Term 2023

Congratulations to this term’s recipients:

- Y1 Merit: Alice
- Y2 Merit: David
- Y3 Merit: Edward
- Y4 Merit: Georgie
- Y5 Merit: Henry
- Y6 Merit: Mason



- Y1 Courtesy: Chester
- Y2 Courtesy: Seb
- Y3 Courtesy: Ollie
- Y4 Courtesy: Lucy
- Y5 Courtesy: Elsie
- Y6 Courtesy: Stan



Well done everyone!

Always, Always Tea Party

Mrs Cowell-Clark was joined by this half-term’s ‘Always, Always’ pupils for a treat or two and a chat. Congratulations to Jack MW, Elliott C, Joe H, Ernie B, Georgie M, Bess H and Mason A.

Donation of Garden hanging baskets

We had a wonderful donation of hanging baskets and plants from Notts Bid. Some of our wonderful Year 6 pupils had a lot of fun planting them with pansies and crocus bulbs.

Thank you so much!



Christmas Fair

What an amazing turn out it was this year for our Christmas Fair! We had so many lovely stall holders attend. We had stalls full of fun and games, crafts, face painting, toys, as well as a very special visit from Santa!!

We raised an amazing £558.30!!! Thank you to everybody who came along. It was fantastic to see so many of you come and join in the fun and support local small businesses and the school. Merry Christmas!



Intra House PE Competitions have started!



Our Intra house PE competitions started this term. Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 took part in a Ninja Warrior competition and, Year 5 and 6 took part in a Volleyball tournament - There was certainly a lot of competition between teams!

The final scores were as follows...

1st place: Hawking (Yellow) 61 points

Joint 2nd place: Attenborough (Blue) and Pankhurst (Red) with 47 points

4th Place: Wilberforce (Green) 33 Points

The next intra house competition will held in the last week of Spring Term 1.

Well done to everyone!



Hawking



Attenborough



Pankhurst



Wilberforce

Year 6 Christingle

On Friday 8th December, our Year 6 pupils attended Clarbrough Church for a Christingle service hosted by Rev Mark Cantrill. The children made their own Christingles and found out about what each part represents. They also sang the song "Sing Christingle" – it was such a fantastic morning!





KS1 Nativity

On Thursday 14th December and Friday 15th December our wonderful Key Stage 1 classes (Year 1 and 2) performed their Nativity, 'Bethlehem Ballroom'. On Thursday 14th the children all walked to Clarborough Church wearing their new high vis jackets. The children put on a fantastic show to all their parents and family members, who filled the church to leave standing room only!! There were some very catchy songs and amazing costumes. The children did such a great job and it was clear to see all the hard work and effort that had been put in by all of them.

Friday the 15th December saw the children perform in the school hall. Once again, we were blown away to see all the people who turned up to support them. We are all so proud of them. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Mrs Williams, Mrs Green, Mrs Deakin, Mrs Stocks and Mrs Beswarick for putting on a great show for us all, and a huge 'thank you' to each and every one of the children who took part. You were all AMAZING!!



Nursery and 30hrs:

It is hard to express how far our Nursery children have come since they joined us. At the beginning of the term, many were very reliant on the adults to help them to play, get dressed for outside play, manage their milk and share the resources and yet here we are, just a few weeks on, and they were able to put on the most amazing show where they had to manage their props, the songs and dances, and all in front of an audience! We are so proud.

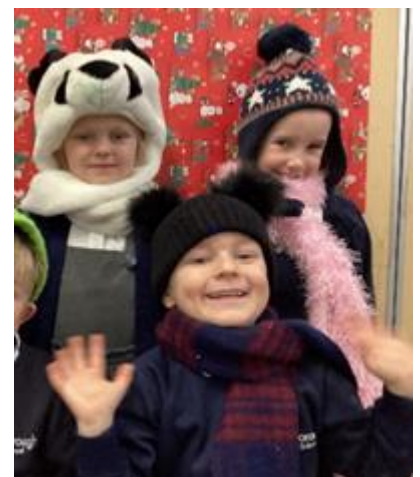
The Autumn Term also offers a lot of opportunities to talk about the seasons and different festivals. The children have spent time outside, observing how the trees change as well as inside, playing in the Hindu Mandir, hairdressers, magical dressing up Palace to name but a few! The best thing about school is learning to work alongside others, to cope with not being the only one and developing the skills to help them succeed in their onward journeys. Their independence and resilience have really grown - we can't wait to see what they can achieve next year! Happy Christmas everyone!



Reception:

What a busy few weeks it has been in Chris Packham class! We began by learning about the festival of Diwali, what it's about and how it's celebrated: We had a mandir in the classroom and decorated our hands with mehndi patterns. We also learnt all about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies in November. Then we spent lots of time thinking about fairy tales. We made and tasted porridge after reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears, built bridges for The Three Billy Goats Gruff and drew pictures in the style of Bethan Woollvin for Little Red Riding Hood. We also designed shoes for The Elves and the Shoemaker, and wrote speech bubbles for The Gingerbread Man.

Finally, we learnt about the story of The Nativity and why Christians celebrate Christmas, before performing our Christmas Recipe show brilliantly for our grown-ups!





Year 1:

Maths: This term, Class 1 have worked on their addition and subtraction within 10. They have worked on part and part whole models, counting forwards and backwards within 10, and adding two numbers together within 10. The children have also learnt about the addition symbol.

English: This term class 1 have enjoyed reading our class book 'Hotel Flamingo.' The children LOVED the film unit – caterpillar shoes and remembered interesting facts about them. They have been learning to write sentences using capital letters and full stops. We have also been learning to use conjunctions such as 'and' or 'but' in sentences. The children also enjoyed finding facts about hedgehogs and could retell a familiar story. In Phonics, the children have been learning the alphabet chant and are enjoying it at the beginning of each lesson.

Clarbrough Curriculum:

History - We completed our 'Show me what you know' all about the Gunpowder plot. Children in Year 1 enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and learning about his secret plan to blow up King James in the Houses of Parliament with gunpowder.

Geography- The children have been busy labelling countries in the UK and learning their capital cities. They have been discussing human and physical features and even enjoyed making flags!

Science/Art/Computing/French:

Computing - We have been learning all about the internet and how to keep safe. The children in Class 1 are aware that they must not share personal information with people they can't trust.

Art – Year 1 have enjoyed this term's Art lessons with Mrs Gulsever and have been exploring lines and mark making to show texture. They loved drawing a Christmas tree using long strokes with wax crayons. They are very proud of their art work and it looked fabulous!



Science- This half term, Year 1 have been learning about the four seasons. They have enjoyed listening to the seasons of the year song and know which months fall into each season.

Next Term (Brief overview):

In Maths, we will look at place value within 20 as well as more addition and subtraction and in Clarborough Curriculum, Year 1 will be learning about Florence Nightingale and who she was. We will also have a visit from a nurse.

Year 2:

Maths: This term, Year 2 have looked at fact families, number bonds to 100, adding three 1-digit numbers and, adding and subtracting numbers. The children have been learning about statistics with Mrs Green in Maths and they have learnt to construct and interpret tally charts, tables, block diagrams and pictograms.

English: We have studied a short film clip this half term called 'snack attack' and based our learning around this. We have used expanded noun phrases and conjunctions. We have also worked on past and present tense and using possessive apostrophe. Finally, the children wrote questions relating to the film clip and wrote a recount from the different character perspectives.

Clarborough Curriculum: This term, our topic was 'The Great Fire of London'. We have completed our learning on this by looking at what happened in and around London after the Fire, how London was re-built and what changed. We also had a very successful exhibition to share our learning with parents and grandparents. Thank you again to all who attended.

We also explored hot and cold places. We looked at the different animals that live in hot and cold places and how they have adapted to live there. We concluded this area of learning by thinking about what we would need to pack and take with us on hot and cold holidays.

Science/Art/Computing/French:

Science: Our science topic this half term has covered 'uses of everyday materials'. The children have learnt how to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. They also learnt how to find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

French: In French, the children have learnt how to count to 10 and the names of some colours.

Next Term (Brief overview):

In Clarborough Curriculum, the children will be learning about Neil Armstrong and, continents and oceans. In Maths, we will continue to work on addition and subtraction problems, as well as multiplication and division. The children will be learning about shapes in Maths with Mrs Green and learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. In Science our topic will be 'animals including humans – life cycles.'

Our French topic is 'Under the sea' and the children will learn the names of 7 sea creatures.



Year 3:

Maths: In Maths, the children in Year 3 have been learning about multiplication and division. They focused on using their knowledge of the 2, 5, 10, 3 and 4 times tables to answer a range of questions. They began by recapping what different symbols meant, making equal groups by sharing and grouping and then used this knowledge to answer questions. They have also been learning how to measure using cm, mm and m. They used these units to measure, compare, add and subtract. Further, the children learnt what 'perimeter' means and how to measure and calculate this.

English: The children enjoyed using an animated clip called 'Ride of passage' as part of their learning. They created storyboards, developed sentences into paragraphs and wrote setting descriptions. They also identified various clauses/ sentence types and wrote a conversation between two characters. Towards the end of the term, the children enjoyed reading a range of limericks and had great fun when creating their own. They planned their limerick by thinking of a subject and found words that rhyme before putting this together with a specific structure.



Clarborough Curriculum: Our Clarborough Curriculum focus for this half term was 'Food and farming'. Children were amazed to see where our food comes from before it arrives at the supermarket. They had fun finding out that the UK buys and sells food from around the world and looked carefully at a range of packaging labels to see what other information they could find out. The children learnt about Fairtrade and what this means before designing their own lunch box and what they would include. Using a world map, they located a range of countries when finding out where certain food comes from.



Science/ Art/ Computing/ French:

Science: In Science, the children began by learning about the formation and properties of igneous rocks. They particularly enjoyed watching what happened when melted chocolate came into contact with ice to show the process. They then explored the formation and properties of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. The children also looked into weathering and sustainability of rocks for different purposes when designing their own plaque for school. The children particularly enjoyed learning about how fossils are formed and Mrs Pressley brought some in for the children to explore. They concluded their learning with exploring different types of soils.



Art: During our Art lessons, the children looked at a range of artists and asked and answered questions about their work as well as using their style to create their own pieces. There was also plenty of Christmas crafts towards the end of term!

Computing: In Computing, the children used a music creation program to create ascending and descending scales, added their own chords evenly across the scales, added their own arpeggios and melodies, a steady and even rhythm as well as using sample sounds to create an effective mix.



Next Term:

Maths: Multiplication and Division/ Fractions

English: The Iron Man by Ted Hughes

Clarborough Curriculum: 'Come fly with me' During the first half term, children will learn about Ancient Egyptians

Science: Plants

Art/DT: Digital world – wearable technology

PSHE: Diverse Britain (living in the wider world)



Smashers: Belle and Isabella.

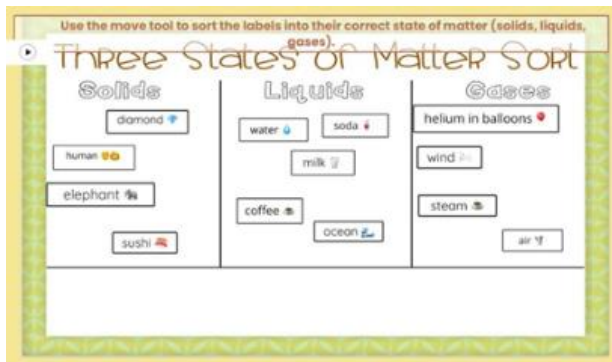
Bookworms: Joe, Belle, Esme, Jacob and Monty

Year 4:

Maths: This term, we have been learning all about multiplication and division: learning our times tables and corresponding division facts and, solving multiplication and division problems. By the end of Year 4, all children are required to complete the Multiplication Check, which tests their knowledge of their time tables. The expectation is that by the end of Year 4, all pupils know their times tables facts up to 12x12. In addition to our learning this half-term, pupils also use TT Rockstars booklets daily to support their learning. There is also a link to TT Rockstars on the Seesaw Choice Board and we would encourage all pupils to access this regularly at home to improve and support their automaticity in times tables recall.

English: As part of our Romans topic, pupils have completed two pieces of independent writing this half-term. The first was a Roman conquest story based on a story we read together called Marcus's Misfortune. Pupils analysed the features of a conquest story before planning, writing and editing their own stories. Continuing the Romans theme, we then examined a non-fiction, instruction text about how Roman roads were built; again, analyzing features of instructional texts before writing our own set of instructions. I have been very impressed with the developing independent writing skills that Year 4 are showing as they work hard to think about the reader and how to improve their writing for the relevant audience.

Clarbrough Curriculum: With a focus on Romans, pupils have been learning about who the Romans were and how they built the Roman Empire, how the Empire expanded into Britain, who Boudicca was and about Roman roads and houses. I have been surprised by the knowledge of some pupils and they have been interested and engaged in their learning. This was evident in their 'Show Me What You Know' activity.



Science: Our Science learning this half-term has focused on learning about states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. Pupils have learned to compare and group materials according to whether they are solids, liquids and gases; observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled; learn about the water cycle and identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Art/DT: Pupils have learned to develop a variety of skills and techniques using a range of media. They have created digital roman mosaics, sketched a Roman soldier and designed and made a Roman shield. Linked to our RE learning, they have also designed and made a Christmas tree decoration showing one of the symbols from the Nativity story.

Computing: Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed our eBooks unit, using Book Creator to combine background, images, text and sound to create a virtual bookshelf and book reviews based on texts they have read. It has been fun to see their individual book designs and read their reviews. I know many children have enjoyed using the website at home too!

RE: Our enquiry question for RE was: What is the most significant part of the Christmas Story for Christians today? Throughout this enquiry, pupils have learned why some everyday symbols are used, explain what Christmas symbols might refer to the Christian story of Jesus' birth; explain what parts of the Nativity story might be meaningful to some Christians; explain the symbolism within a Christingle and describe some of the symbolism of Christmas. Finally, they chose which symbol is most important to them and designed and made a Christmas tree decoration.

Next term: Our exciting topic for next half-term is 'Invaders' with a curriculum focus on resilience. We will learn about the Anglo Saxons and Scots and link some of the work in English to this period in history. In Maths, we will continue to develop our multiplication and division skills as well as learning about perimeter. Sound is our Science focus, we will learn about mixed media in Art, learn to use Scratch to program in computing and learn how to say 'I am able to...' and 'I know how to...' in French. Our RE enquiry will be: Can the Buddha's teachings make the world a better place? I am looking forward to seeing how pupils continue to develop their resilience towards learning and behavior.



Smashers: Unfortunately, there are no Smashers in Year 4

I would like to remind parents of the importance of your child reading regularly at home (at least 15 mins) to develop their fluency, decoding and comprehension skills. I have noticed a recent decline in the number of pupils with their planners signed each week. Pupils collect beads for their necklaces and although many are becoming full, there are a number who are not collecting beads as regularly as they could.

**The more that you read,
The more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
The more places you'll go.
-Dr. Seuss**

Year 5:

Maths: This term we have covered addition and subtraction where children looked at adding and subtracting whole numbers with more than four digits, rounding to check answers and solving multi-step problems. We also covered fractions, learning how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers, compare fractions less than, add and subtract fractions.



English: Within our 'Little Freak' unit, the children looked at creating effective setting descriptions using emotive language, symbolism and pathetic fallacy. When writing a persuasive letter, the children learned to portray thoughts and feelings of a character. During our poetry topic, we have been looking at 'Zombierella' by Joseph Coelho. Children looked at different ways to perform the poetry. They also looked at including personification, metaphors and repetition when writing their own verses.

Clarbrough Curriculum:

Geography – The children looked at preparing for an earthquake and what they could do in the event of an earthquake. We also discussed what it would be like to live near a volcano as well as the advantages/disadvantages of living nearby.

History - This term, the children studied the role of philosophers on Ancient Greece and what life looked like for children at that time. We also discussed the legacy that the Greeks left behind.

Music - We have enjoyed listening to the song 'Living on a Prayer'

PE - We have played volleyball and handball

PSHE - Think positive (health and wellbeing)

RE- We looked at the question, Is the Christmas story true?

Science/Art/Computing/French:

Science - We looked at the life cycle and gestation period of mammals. The children particularly enjoyed investigating the handspan of different aged children.

Art – The children designed and made their own doodlers.

Computing – Year 5 designed their own apps on Powerpoint and learned to change the background, slide size and created hyperlinks.

French – The children learned é, è, e, eux and eau sounds.

Next Term (Brief overview):

We will be starting topics on crime and punishment within History. In Geography Year 5 will look at rivers.

In Maths, the children will continue with multiplication, division and Fractions and in English, they will be looking at the book 'Beetle Boy' by M G Leonard. In Science, the children will investigate properties of materials and in RE, the children will look at Sikh stories and ask if they are important today?



Smashers: Paige, Rowan, Lydia, Bess, Henry, Sebastian, William, Oliver, Luca, Isla O, Amelia, Casey.

Year 6:

Maths: In Maths this term, Year 6 have been multiplying by 2 digits, working on long division, multiplying fractions and dividing fractions.

English: In English, the children read letters from WWII and poetry based on WWII. We also looked at 'reducing your carbon footprint' and the class wrote a non-chronological report using technical terms. The class have worked on relative clauses and recapped predicate, subject, subordination, coordination and subject verb agreement. We looked at the order of adjectives, fronted adverbials and semi colons too.

Clarbrough Curriculum

For our independent writing, the class wrote a recount about being in The Blitz. With our subject being WWII, we have learned about the Battle of Britain, The Blitz and evacuees, life on the Homefront, propaganda and The Women's Land Army.

Geography: We have studied Europe and looked into more depth about the country - Greece. We have researched the refuge/migrant crisis.

Science: For our Science topic this term, Year 6 have looked at light. We looked at and investigated how light travels. We looked at refraction along with the light and colour spectrum. We read about how Isaac Newton discovered how the light spectrum was formed.

Computing: The class worked on Graphic Design, we learnt about how to design and create different app icons. We used our skills to create gradient, transparency and rotation order. We also created our own App icon and suggested how it could be used.

Next Term:

In Maths, Year 6 will be working on fractions, ratio and decimals. In Science, we will look at animals including humans. In Geography we will research climate zones and in French we will learn about 'my home'. For our topic the class will learn about The Pilgrim Fathers.



Smashers: Penny, Winne, Emily and Mason.

Dates for your Diary....

Thursday 4th January – First day of Spring Term 1 - Children return back to school

Tuesday 9th January – Young Voices Concert

Tuesday 16th January – ELS Mobile Library

Tuesday 16th January – Year 6 DARE sessions start (Details to Follow)

Thursday 18th January – Census Lunch (Details to Follow)

Monday 22nd January & Tuesday 23rd January – Year 5 Group 1 Bikeability.

Monday 5th February & Tuesday 6th February – Year 5 Group 2 Bikeability.

Friday 9th February – Last day of term

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February - Half Term



Breakfast club, wraparound care, 30hours and lunches need to be booked in and paid for at least one week in advance on Parentmail. Breakfast is served daily until 8:20 am. If you have any questions or queries relating to Breakfast club, Wraparound and lunches please email Mrs Hardie on office@clarborough.notts.sch.uk