

From the Headteacher

Author Visit



We were delighted to have the author Steve Cole spend the afternoon in school with us on Wednesday. The children loved learning how to throw some imagination at something really boring! He shared that if you want to write a book then take something boring, like a piece of fruit, and let it spark an idea in your brain. Just be creative with your ideas, don't write for anyone but yourself, and let your ideas flow. He also taught us to merge words together and create extraordinary new words – like chonster (a chair monster that apparently bites teachers' bottoms when they sit down!) We were also grateful for the time he took talking to the children and signing their books at the end of the day.

Bird Watch

I am pleased to say that Mr and Mrs Turton will be in school on Friday 9th February to lead our school bird watch as part of The National Big Bird Watch. If you could support the initiative by supplying the school with some bird food, we would be very grateful. Children can bring in their binoculars from home if they want to as long as they are clearly named.



Old clothes/ Christmas jumpers



Now that the festive season is well and truly over the Eco-warriors ask that **children** and **adults** from our community donate any pre-loved Christmas jumpers/pyjamas/tee-shirts etc to school for a sale. This is great for the environment as not only does it reduce waste and encourage reuse/recycling, it also means that the money raised by the sale can be used to fund eco-warrior projects.

If you are starting to spring clean your wardrobe then please do save any unwanted clothing or soft furnishings. We will be collecting unwanted clothing and other items for a Bags 2 School collection on Wednesday 6th March at 9am. This is a good fundraiser for us so if you are planning a clear out over the next few weeks please bag up your items for school if you can.



Smart Watches



We have noticed an increase in the number of children who have Smart Watches. In general, the use of Smart Watches is not appropriate in primary schools due to risks of loss and damage as well as the risk of misuse. Smart Watches without independent connectivity and cameras may be worn providing they are being used as normal watches and for no other function beyond telling the time. If a child has a Smart Watch with camera facilities and independent access to the internet then these will need to be switched off and handed to the teacher and they will not be allowed to be used during school hours. They will be returned to the parent or carer at the end of the day. Our devices policy is on the school website.

Sponsored Walk

Don't forget that it is our sponsored walk next Tuesday raising money for Sobell House Hospice and the OxTrail project. The children will walk in their PE kits and either wellies or walking boots. The children will need a coat, snack, water bottle and bag to sit on. We will be walking as a whole school for most of the walk with added distance for KS1 and KS2. Any additional adults who are able to walk with us would be very welcome.



Kind regards

Mrs France



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Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week Hedgehog class have been thinking about our school value of trust through a focus on friendship. We trust each other to be kind and helpful at all times. We have been giving out fuzzy wuzzy's (pom poms!) when a friend has been kind to us, we aim to fill our bucket by the end of term. In Literacy we read "A thing called snow" by Yuval Zommer. It's a wonderful story full of adjectives to describe snow while the main characters try to find it. This week we are learning the structure in order to make our own version about Spring. In Topic we have been exploring the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy. We then used natural objects to make our own tree pictures outside.



Squirrel Class

We started a new book this week titled 'Bob: Man on the Moon' and the children have LOVED it! In fact, it tied in brilliantly with our school author visit from Steve Cole, as his books often feature aliens in space! The class have created role on the wall character insights and predicted what they think will happen in the story. Next week we will take on the role of Bob and become tour guides on the moon! In maths this week Y1 have finished off place value to 20 with ordering and comparing numbers. Y2 have also finished off their money unit by calculating money and finding change. We move onto addition and subtraction for Y1 next week and multiplication and division for Y2. We have also assigned roles and costumes for our KS1 performance and practised the songs this week. In art we will be constructing our spacecraft for Beegu next week which is very exciting! Well done Squirrel for another fantastic week!



Fox Class

I have been thrilled by the writing this week. We looked at paragraphs on Monday and throughout the rest of the week, children have been demonstrating their understanding and put their new knowledge into practice. In addition, they were able to include amazing verbs, fronted adverbials and conjunctions! A teacher's dream! We also enacted one of the scenes from our class book which helped us understand what to write. In Maths, Year 3 have started to work with metres, centimetres and millimetres whilst Year 4 have enjoyed correspondence problems and short division. In our History, we studied the social structure of the Shang Dynasty enabling us to understand what being a slave was like compared to being a noble person or the emperor. Our Science was another team effort where each group created a poster demonstrating what their investigation was, what they found including graphs and photos. Each group earned themselves a star in the jar! We thoroughly enjoyed Steve Cole's visit on Wednesday. He was so enthusiastic about using your imagination and it was great to see so many children engaged with what he was saying. Who knows, he may have inspired a future author! In Art, we spent time last week honing our sewing skills whilst this week we painted our scene in preparation for the sewing next week. As usual, non-stop learning in Fox!



Owl Class

Owl Class have been extremely persuasive this week, as they completed their Big Write of recruitment leaflets for Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Antarctic Expedition. Many of you will have seen these leaflets handed out in our Collective Worship assembly today, and few brave souls were so persuaded, you even signed up! Bon voyage to you; do pack warm. There has been a real buzz about writing this week, particularly after Steve Cole's visit, which really set the imaginations of our children alight. I had several children inform me about their intent to start writing poems and stories straight away, which is truly heartwarming to hear. In fact, many of our Owls have also begun to do more extra-curricular activities, in the shape of our Big Science investigations. These are independent of our Science lessons and have been formulated by the children themselves. We perform and record these at lunch and the ideas and solutions that are sparking back between the children are fantastic. They have thought about variables, fair-testing, and the best way to record their findings-true scientists! In Maths, Year 5 have been finding fractions of amounts, using counters, bar models and finally the algorithmic method to solve a range of problems, and Year 6 have been using their algebra skills to take part in a 'Tekken' themed substitution activity. This slight competitive edge really bought out the mathematicians in our class. Out on the playground, they worked on their netball skills, and working in small groups and teams to support each other, practising long passing and short passing. We also finally were able to finish our block printing in our art to create our Sami-inspired Polar Art, the colours and patterns produced were so bright and vibrant. Well done on another excellent week, Owl Class.

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7

Photo Diary of the Week





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Whole School Topic - Spring Term: Home is Where the Heart is.

Values: Trust

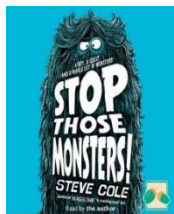
Our theme this week in Collective Worship this week was knowing that our friends will support us. There are some wise words in the Book of Ecclesiastes that say: 'Two people are better than one...If one person falls, the others can reach out and help.' We have spent the week thinking about what it means to be somebody trustworthy, who can be relied upon to not let others down.

Climate Warriors Challenge

What do you think about digital technology – do you think it's incredible? You might not even be able to remember a time without it. Today we're able to stay connected to our family and friends despite being miles away from them; we can learn about almost anything at our fingertips; play 'live' interactive games and be part of a virtual team. Have you ever thought about the energy needed to power the cloud, stream a film, or play a video game – and that's on top of the energy needed to manufacture the devices in the first place? Our increasing use of digital technology is having an increasing impact on climate change (nearly a greater impact than aviation). Do you think that because energy used by our devices seems almost 'invisible' makes it easier to waste?

Your challenge this week is to get outside and away from your screens, reducing your carbon emissions. Getting outside into nature is good fun, and good for our wellbeing. Kick a football around, how many 'keepie-uppies' can you manage? Set up a family obstacle track around the park? Take a thermos of hot chocolate to drink under a tree? Try spotting some animal prints in the mud? Let us know what you do.

Book Review Stop Those Monsters by Steve Cole, recommended by Mr Manning.



Inspired by our incredible visit from Steve Cole, I've chosen one of his books that I've read to my own boys, and one that they've also read several times on their own, called 'Stop Those Monsters!' It's a hugely entertaining romp through Monsterland, a land which lurks far below us. The monsters fear only one thing: humans. Unfortunately for the monsters, a human boy named Bob has just become trapped in Monsterland. This book has everything that a child (young or old like me) would like in adventure: chases on foot, car chases, bus chases and tank chases. As well as all that, there's a giant hamster called Verity who does king fu, Alfie Crudzilla failed monster stand-up comedian, and a friendly gorgon named Zola. This is a fun and surprisingly touching story for everyone to enjoy.

Happiness Calendar: Friendly February

This month let's focus on reaching out to connect with others and doing our best to be a good friend. Our acts of kindness and connection ripple out and impact so many more people than we realise. In stressful times people around us may be feeling the strain, so let's try to keep calm, take time to listen and show compassion. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance - This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	73%	0%	27%
Squirrel Class	90%	3%	7%
Fox Class	83%	0%	17%
Owl Class	89%	0%	11%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	106	294
Eden	101	269
Galilee	113	293
Jerusalem	108	279

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
02-02-24	Email	All	Office	PTA Glo party & more
02-02-24	Email	All	Office	Half term activities/camps
31-01-24	Email	All	Office	Sponsored walk
29-01-24	Email	All	Office	PTA minutes – 24 th January
29-01-24	Email	All	Office	Author visit and book sale

February	
5 th – 9 th February	Children's Mental Health Week inc:
Tuesday 6 th	Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 6 th	Sponsored Walk
Wednesday 7 th	Qi Gong
Monday 19 th	PC Ben talk KSI
Wednesday 21 st	VR headset experiences for each class (topic based)
Friday 23rd	Dance Club resumes
Friday 23rd	PTA Glo party disco
March	
Tuesday 5 th	Cross Country Run event
Wednesday 6 th	World Book Day (not Thursday to avoid PE) Bags2school
11 th – 15 th March	National Science Week
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day 2:30 Last Celebration Assembly (stage up after – volunteers welcomed)
Tues 19 th Wed 20 th	Parents' Evenings
Friday 22 nd	Year 5 cycling starts. (future dates April 19 th , 26 th . May 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th . June 14 th , 21 st , 28 th (test day) 2:30pm Book look with cake sale for Save the Children
Mon 25 th Tues 26 th	KSI Performance 'A Big Green Adventure'
Wed 27 th	Full Governing Body Meeting
Thurs 28 th	9:15am Spring Service in church
April	
Monday 15 th	Summer Term starts
Friday 19 th	9am PTA meeting – school hall Year 5 cycling (future dates April, 26 th . May 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th . June 14 th , 21 st , 28 th (test day)

Academic Year Calendar 2023-24

Autumn 23	
Tues 5 th Sept – Thurs 19 th Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 23 rd – Fri 27 th October	HALF TERM
Mon 30 th Oct – Wed 20 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 24	
Tue 9 th Jan – Fri 9 th Feb	Spring Term (1)
Monday 12 th – Fri 16 th February	HALF TERM
Mon 19 th Feb – Thurs 28 th March	Spring Term (2)
Summer 24	
Mon 15 th April - Thu 24 th May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 27 th May – Fri 31 st May	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd June – Wed 24 th July	Summer Term (2)

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