



SCHOOL *NEWS*

February 2024

Message from Senior Leadership Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy month has passed. Our lovely students really enjoyed a visit from Choccy the PAT (Pets as Therapy) dog.

We also launched signing choir that students can join on Mondays. There are plans for more events to invite parents to Riverwalk- details have just appeared on our facebook page.

Wishing you a lovely half-term.
Lukasz Rumanowski
Academy Head



Important dates for your diary

*Spring half term:
Monday 19 February 2024
to
Friday 23 February 2024*

Special Events/Activities/News/Focus
The focus of this month's issue is reading and phonics.

Riverwalk now has a new website that reflects our move to Consortium Trust. You can find it here:
<https://www.riverwalk.org.uk/>

and our facebook page here:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Riverwalk-School/61553648642586/>



Makaton NEWS

February 2024



Message from Steph Taylor Dave Bloomfield

Makaton signing and choir with Music Dave and Signing Steph started on Monday. We sang and signed Celebration by Kool and the Gang, the Transport Song by Singing Walrus and Mr Blue Sky by ELO. All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves and already looking forward to next week.





Family Support **NEWS**

February 2024

Useful Numbers

Activities Unlimited

01473 260026

Customer First 0808

800 4005

SEND Local Offer Line

0345 606 1490

Suffolk ●●●
Family Carers

Living Fuller Lives





Bears



NEWS

February 2024



In the last month Bears have had fun learning all about different animals. Our favourite experience was meeting Choocy the therapy dog.

We have enjoyed two animal themed sensory stories where we love being able to use all of our senses. We have also enjoyed lots of animal based messy tray experiences where the toy animals play around in edible, mud, hay, grass, snow etc

We hope that you will all be able to join us again in school next half term to take part in some activities with your children, date coming soon.

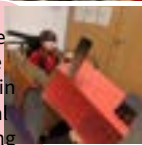


Bumblebee NEWS

February 2024



Bumblebee phonics : we have been trying to tell the difference between sounds in the environment like animal noises. We have been making different sounds with instruments. We love to explore the different sensory aspects to stories and make our own stories on the whiteboard.



Do you like our tractor? Some Bumblebees liked to be farmers and others were great librarians.



Butterflies NEWS

February 2024

Butterflies' Class have had a busy time learning about farms and the animals that live there.

In messy play we have looked at farm animals' homes.

We have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes.

How amazing was it to meet Choccy the Therapy Dog! We were proud of the way the children interacted with her.

Each week we get to enjoy a rickshaw ride.

Have a lovely half-term.



Please don't forget...

It has been very wet and muddy in both playgrounds.

It would be great if you could send the children in with wellington boots as they all love exploring the muddy puddles.

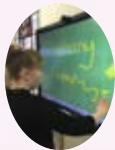


College **Post 16** *NEWS*

February 2024

In college we have been exploring letters and sound, we have been looking and recognising the letter for our names, as well as the names of our peers in class.

We have also been exploring the Interactive White Board and all the additional programmes available.



Please remember to keep an eye out in the home school books for dates your child will be going shopping.



Eagles



NEWS

February 2024

We have been very busy over the past month. We have been doing lots of reading and using our phonic knowledge to decode new words we come across. Some of us have been identifying sounds in CVC words and others have been blending sounds that are found in larger words. We have been enjoying our science lessons this month where we have looked at fizzing colours, explored a very interesting slime and experimented with dancing noodles. In art we have made dream catchers and butterflies. This month we cooked some lovely dishes such as sausage rolls, beans on toast and biscuits. Our music lessons have been so much fun where we have been percussion instruments along to songs.



Reminders;

Please do keep sending in snacks for our Eagles to eat at snack time. Its wonderful to hear how our students have been doing at home so please keep updating us in the home school books. If your child likes to play outside in all weathers then please do send in some spare clothes so we can keep them warm and dry.



Elephants NEWS

February 2024

Last month Elephants have begun to explore sounds including letter sounds in Phonics. Children have been listening to instrumental sounds. Others have been working on recognising and saying letters with a focus on 's' and 'a'. We have also explored different ways of learning how to form these letters correctly. In reading we have started to identify the letters we worked on by highlighting initial letters and simple words! Well done Elephants!



We had a fantastic time celebrating Chinese New Year! Elephants made masks for a Dragon Dance and had fun tasting noodles, rice and prawn crackers!





Emus



NEWS

February 2024



This month in Emus class we have enjoyed making and decorating cakes, yummy. We have also made lots of noise with musical instruments and had fun with flour in sensory play





Giraffes



NEWS

February 2024

All Giraffes have had a busy time, Cooking, cutting, painting and exploring our new Sensory Circuit room.

During our daily reading routine, we have been really good at choosing a book, turning pages, looking and pointing at pictures and some of us attempted to repeat words using own voices. We have also been playing and listening to different instruments and working really hard on trying to identify the correct sound.



Have a lovely half term!



Grasshoppers NEWS

February 2024

Grasshopper Class have had a very busy month in February and have really enjoyed the different activities we have been doing in class. We have found out lots of facts about different animals from around the world and have been working hard on our phonics and writing skills. We have also started a new Tai Chi session each afternoon which has gone down very well with both children and staff alike! Well done Grasshopper class, have a wonderful half term holiday!



Reminders

Grasshoppers are really looking forward to going swimming next half term. We will be going on Thursday mornings each week until the easter holidays



Kangaroos NEWS

February 2024

Kangaroos have had a busy February! We have celebrated pancake day and Valentines Day and completed lots of fun art activities for both celebrations.

We have enjoyed writing a range of themed words in our letter formation sessions as well as learning the twinkl phonics level 2 sounds songs. We have been practicing the actions as a class.

In science we have been exploring smell and taste and have bravely been trying new foods.

We have also enjoyed being kind and caring around a range of animals including horses, cats and dogs.

We hope you have a wonderful half term!



Please remember horseriding continues after half term and will stop at Easter.



Koalas



NEWS

February 2024

Koalas have had a great few weeks exploring a range of different animals and their environments, listening to class stories in literacy and creating lots of animals using different textures in art. In maths we've been exploring colours and patterns as well as ordering numbers up to 20. In Koalas we've also introduced having a continuous sensory activity on the tuff tray in class for the students to explore and engage with, including gardening and treasure hunts which students have thoroughly enjoyed.



Have a good half term :)



Ladybirds NEWS

February 2024

Ladybirds class have really enjoyed going to and spending time in the library exploring all of the books. We have been choosing our favourite stories to sit and listen to with adults and peers. Ladybirds engaged well in our sensory story Farmyard Hullabaloo, and liked finding and matching the farmyard animals.



A little reminder to send spare clothes/waterproofs and wellies in if the weather is going to be wet

Have a lovely half term



Leopards NEWS

February 2024

Leopards class have had fun cooking and trying a range of items during our cookery lessons. We have been practising skills such as cutting, grating and spreading.

We all enjoyed a visit from 'Choccy' the therapy dog. the children were all so gentle when stroking her and there were lots of smiles!

We have been getting creative in our messy play and Art sessions. We have made and manipulated playdough, painted onto clingfilm and painted a range of characters to link with our topic.



We will be completing our last swim for this year on Thursday 15th February. The children have really enjoyed exploring and gaining confidence in the water.



Lions



NEWS

February 2024

In Lions class we have been trying to listen to different sounds, finding ones we like and don't like. Lots of us liked hearing sounds to match the toys we play with, smiling when the dinosaur stamped his feet, the dog barked or daddy pig snored! Some of us could match everyday sounds like a telephone or washing machine to the right picture, and lots of us really didn't like the noisy Hoover! Try listening to sounds at home or when you are out and about. What about making some sounds too, try banging pots and pans!



Thank you for remembering to send snacks and drinks into school. Our little lions are always on the go, and do get very hungry. If it helps, please send in a bottle of squash and we can keep it in school. Thank you





Meerkats



NEWS

February 2024

Meerkats had a busy month. Children have been working on phonics and practising initial sounds of words through games, songs and board games. Children have been practising their writing using a variety of media and enjoying being creative in Art lessons.

Meerkats enjoy their science lessons and to experiment with a variety of materials. We all had fun on the dancing colours experiment.

We have been celebrating special dates like Chinese New Year, Pancake day and Valentines day.

We got some really good feedback from parents about some of the food we cooked in our cooking lessons.

Well done Meerkats.



Reminder:

Our PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and swimming on thursdays (please send PE and swimming kits)

Thank you for sending a healthy snack or your child to have a snack time.



Octopus



NEWS

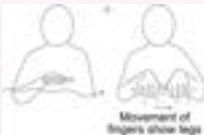
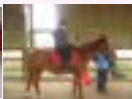
February 2024

It has been a busy month for Octopus Class. The children have been working hard on their phonics through songs, flashcards and board games. We have also been comparing and contrasting past and present in History, and experimenting with properties of materials in Science. We have been working on sequencing and number bonds in Maths.

Everyone has enjoyed horse riding. The children have learned how to care for the horses by grooming them and feeding them.

Tramplining is also still a big hit. The children have also been making music about space with Music Dave, linking into our topic of Doctor Who. Mel has been focussing on linking Doctor Who to Art and Drama as well. The children have really enjoyed this.

The most exciting part of the half term for lots of us was our trip to Moyse's Hall museum. We learned about the history of Bury St Edmunds and were able to handle some artefacts. The children were interested and engaged throughout. Well done Octopus class!



Movement of fingers when legs

Thank you everyone for sending in your children with drinks and snacks



Orcas



NEWS

February 2024

In the last month Orcas have had an amazing new experience meeting Choccy the therapy dog. Students engaged with curiosity and some, with fascination as they had never met a dog before. We look forward to seeing her more regularly.

We have continued our exploration of The Colour Monster and have used our senses creating bright collages to match up with each colour; the red one will be used for a beautiful Valentines' day card!



Thank you for all sending in *another* set of consent forms for the therapy dog! Please remember to send in top up pads and milk for those who need it after half term.



Owls



NEWS

February 2024

Owls have been busy working on our potions and mixing topic this month. We have been having regular science lessons exploring lots of different reactions. We have made some dancing noodles, colour blending, fizzy colours and made some very interesting slime! This slime is a solid when you apply pressure and liquid when you apply no pressure. This was our favorite science experiment of the month!



We have been really creative in our art and cooking lessons this month. We have made some dream catchers, butterflies and flowers. We have been enjoying looking at our dream catchers hang in our classroom. We have cooked sausage rolls, beans on toast and some yummy biscuits!



We have also been working on our phonics skills. We have been introduced to blending letters together in 2 and 3 letter words. We are working very hard on this and will continue to do so! We are also really good at recognising sounds from our environment.

PE has been one of our favourite activities of the week at the moment. We have been enjoying lots of dancing with our friends and the sports leaders!



Please can we remind parents and carers that we are a nutfree school due to allergies within the school. Unfortunately nut products can't be given to students when sent in by mistake



Pandas



NEWS

February 2024

In Panda's class we have been busy in January welcoming a new boy to our class, we have been excited to play football with him outside.

We are enjoying music time with Sophia and exploring our mud kitchen outside.

In February we are planning to celebrate Chinese New Year, learn about St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, prepare wonderful crafts for mother's day and prepare for Easter.



Pandas' children have started to look at phonics and learning what begins with certain letters.

We have been playing game, reading and writing. Beginning to feel more confident in some of the letters.

Please remember to send me photographs on Sunday or Monday morning, from your weekend, ready for our Weekend News on Monday. at 11.30am lesson.
The children love seeing themselves on the big screen!



Rabbits NEWS

February 2024

In January we have been carrying out farm animal themed adult led focus activities. We started looking at early phonics, the children learn in a playful way to listen out for sounds and patterns and try and copy them. These sessions are fun and the children engage well.



Thank you for continuing to send in healthy snacks for your children!



Raise



NEWS

February 2024



Students have had a good month in Raise, making progress in completing their AQA outcomes. In DT students have been cutting out and sanding down their viking shields.

For exploring, students have been developing their understanding of receiving and giving first aid. Applying bandages and plasters.

Students have been planting parsnips and other vegetables, transferring to bigger pots, preparing to be planted in garden after half term.

Students have done well practicing their road safety and communicating preferences on community access walks.

Cooking lessons next half-term students will be making vegetable stir fry in the food tech room.

If Parents would like to contribute egg noodles, frozen mixed vegetables, onions, soy sauce, sweet chilli sauce, cheese, eggs, salsa, tomatoe puree, pepperoni, tortilla chips then that would be greatly appreciated. Please make sure food items do not contain nuts, or sesame seeds.





Sharks NEWS

February 2024

Sharks have been working on phonics and practising initial sounds of words. We have been reading and writing to consolidate this and most children are becoming really confident with this. We are doing well in all the areas of the curriculum, working very well alongside peers and making lots of good choices too. Shopping trips have been a hit and we are really proud of everyone's independence and pro-social behaviours when out in the community.

Well done Sharks, we are proud of you. Have a look at some pictures of our work and interactions. Have a great half term



Thumb moves
up/down to
touch palm

shark

Reminders from the team

PE kits will be sent home for half term, please send them back in for Monday 26th. Some children will be horse riding after half term on Tuesday afternoon, please send in appropriate clothing for the weather.



Tigers NEWS

February 2024

Tigers have worked hard developing their gross motor skills this month!!! We have enjoyed going outside in the tennis courts on Friday mornings - riding on the large bikes and scooters - showing fantastic balance and negotiating pathways in a controlled way!

In phonics we have been using our listening skills to identify different sounds. We have also enjoyed practising our blending skills, listening to Debbie the Robot as she slowly says each phoneme, then blending them together to identify an object "find the c.....a.....t" We have all really loved our weekly library session and have enjoyed sharing books with our friends. Great work Tigers!!!



So much learning takes place each morning during snack time - communication, turn taking, sharing. A mid morning snack also helps keep children calm and regulated. Please could you make sure you send your child with a snack and a drink each day..

Thank you



Wolves NEWS

February 2024

During our daily reading activities we choose a book and focus on being able to turn the pages one at a time and looking at the pictures on the page. During the story we try to identify the images to help us understand what the story is about. When learning about sounds, our phonics work includes listening to sounds around us and trying to identify where the sound is coming from. This may include matching a sound we hear to an object or image.



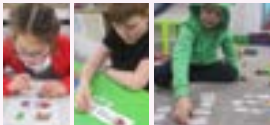
Wishing everyone a good half term break.



Zebras NEWS

February 2024

Zebras have been loving the story of Brown Bear. Some children have been matching parts of the animal and saying or signing the colour and name. Some children have been finding the words and putting them together and some have used their phonic knowledge to spell out many of the story words. We've listened to animal sounds and tried to work out which is which. We've also had success with yoga. Students have enjoyed feeling the stretch and trying out poses together.



Swimming is over now for this year. We have PE after half term so please send kit in if you haven't already done so.



Music Dave

NEWS

February 2024

We've had a great response to our Signing Choir on Mondays! We have started to learn the Transportation Song, Celebration (who doesn't live a bit of Kool & The Gang!), and Mr Blue Sky.

It's been great to see such a variety of ages and to see their enthusiasm and enjoyment.

After the half term holiday we are going to have 3 assemblies each week, each one for a different age group. We are going to celebrate pupils' achievements, sing together and think about a topic each week with a religious or celebratory theme. It will be a great opportunity for pupils to mix with different classes and to see their work and progress.

Classes continue to amaze me with their musical skills; many classes have also developed their sharing, waiting and anticipation skills brilliantly. Importantly, we all have fun!