

AUCKLAND PREP NEWSLETTER



Key Dates

- Mon 28th Feb - Term starts
- Thurs 3rd March - World Book Day
- Tues 8th March - International Women's Day
- Fri 11th March - Spring Report Cards
- Mon 14th March - Pi Day
- Fri 18th March - Holi Festival
- Fri 18th March - Comic Relief
- Mon 21st March - World Poetry Day
- Fri 1st April - Ramadan Starts
- Sat 2nd April - Autism Awareness Day

Half Way There

At this time of year it is common to reflect on the past 3 half terms and realise that so much time has passed in the year so far, and that time is passing quickly. It will be only 5 months until the end of the academic year, but that is still a lot of time and there is a lot of learning and fun still to have. So, we hope you all take a little time to relax and have a great break this half term holiday

School Report Cards

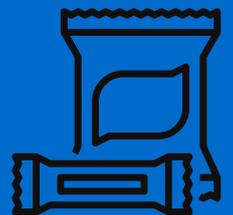
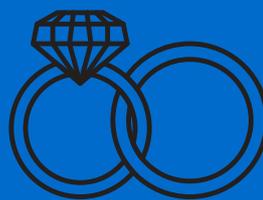
In a few weeks, you will receive your child's school report card for the spring term. A lot of thought and care goes into completing these, but please remember if you have any questions about what is in the report cards to contact your class or subject teacher and discuss this in person. They are the best person to give you a full explanation of the contents. However, we will also be having a series of Parents' Evenings from the middle of March, but more details on how this will happen will follow shortly.

Parents' evening dates:

Year 1 - Mon 14th and Tues 15th March

Years 2, 3 and 4 - Wed 16th and Thurs 17th March

Years 5 and 6 - Mon 21st and Tues 22nd March



Important Notices

School Snacks

There has been an increase in school snacks that are not appropriate to bring into school such as; large chocolate bars, sweets, fizzy drinks and fast food. Can you please ensure that the snacks that you send your children into school with are healthy and fill your children up with goodness.

Jewellery

Please note students MUST NOT come to school wearing jewellery including: rings, bracelets, necklaces and watches connected to the Internet. A simple watch and small earrings are the only permitted jewellery.

Year 1

Year 1 have had a busy time this half term. They have had lots of fun learning about the Great Fire of London, which culminated in an amazing visit from Merseyside Fire Service. They experienced hands on, how time consuming and how hard it would have been to put out a fire using only a bucket and some water. They also got to see how the fire service we have today keeps us safe, which is wonderful for young minds to feel reassured.

As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations, we held a Chinese New Year workshop. Children acted out the story of the Chinese Zodiac and we also prepared and cooked some traditional Chinese food which could be smelt around school. We enjoyed learning some Chinese greetings and created some lanterns and dragons during craft activities.

Year 1 have also been learning about everyday materials and their properties. They have explored the properties of materials and have conducted experiments following a set of instructions to find materials that are fit for different purposes.

In Maths, year 1 have been comparing number sentences, counting forwards and backwards within 50, finding different ways to represent numbers to 50 and they have also been counting in 2s and 5s.

In English, year 1 have looked at identifying the difference between fiction and non-fiction books. They focussed particularly on shark books and even created their own shark class book, which they all enjoy reading. The children have also been looking at poems about the senses and have composed their own senses poem, describing the things that they like to touch, smell, taste, feel, hear and see. This will be another wonderful class book for the library.

We hope everyone has a fabulous half term break and we look forward to seeing you after the holidays.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a great half term, learning new skills, all about new topics and having lots of fun!

In English, we have been engaging with a variety of texts and media. We have explored the seven seas with our Pirate friends, travelled across the world with Flat Stanley and even took a trip to outer Space with blue aliens. Using plenty of descriptive language and a range of punctuation, we have been able to write a message in a bottle, a descriptive text and even a postcard!

In Maths, the children have been learning how to multiply and divide by 2, 5 and 10. The children have enjoyed using TTRockstars to support this learning, and we have had many certificates given out for the children's great work on this online platform. Well done Year 2, keep this fantastic effort up! At the end of this half term, the children have also enjoyed our topic on statistics, learning how to collect data, present it using tables, tally charts, pictograms and block diagrams, and asking and answering questions about the data. The children have enjoyed our topic on Explorers, learning all about who Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong were and why they are remembered today.

In Art, we have explored and recreated the abstract pieces created by the famous artist, Henri Matisse.

Next half term, in English, we will be writing instructional texts, creating our own stories and character descriptions based on our wonderful new class books and media clips; The Colour Monster, Cottonwool and Zahra. In Maths, we will explore the topics of Shape and Fractions. The children will learn about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, as well as learn how to recognise and count in fractions.

We want to thank you for your continued support and look forward to next half term, where we will continue to ensure that the children progress across the curriculum.



Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic half term! Throughout this time, the children have been studying The Romans. We have learned how to create playscripts and Roman poetry.

In Art, we have focused on different artists and reflected on why they chose to draw such wonderful images. We have studied the Roman diet and different oils in Science. The children have been resilient in their learning and the support from parents has been superb. We have been trying hard on online programmes, such as Mathletics and TTRS and some of us have even achieved a certificate! In topic, we studied The Romans and now know about the lives of the rich and poor.

In Mathematics, Year 3 have been doing a terrific job of understanding fractions and adding different amounts of money to give change. Once again, I cannot thank the parents enough and I look forward to continuing our work together to ensure that our Year 3 learners progress across the curriculum. I am excited to teach the topic of 'Extreme earth' next half term.



Year 4

This spring term has been excellent! Year 4 have tried so hard and completed some fabulous pieces of work.

The children were incredibly engaged throughout our English topic this term; they loved hot seating as characters from *The Chocolate Tree*. *The Hero Twins* was a tricky story to remember, but year 4 were so determined and have done so well writing their recount of this story!

Maths this term has been extremely busy, covering 3 different topics: multiplication and division, area, and fractions. All children have worked through the difficult questions and used their problem-solving skills to do their absolute best.

Year 4 have been studying the Mayan Civilisation in Geography. We have tasted Mayan foods, used atlases to discover where the Mayan Civilisation first started, as well as creating Mayan masks.

Our topic after half term is *The Victorians*, and I am sure the children will enjoy the activities! In English we will be focusing on poetry.



Year 5

The children have loved celebrating events this half term such as Chinese New Year and Children's Mental Health Week.

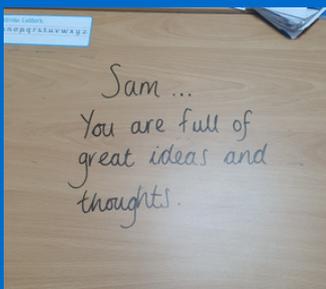
Year 5 Red have shared photos of their pets with the class and baby photos to talk about 'growing together', which has been the theme of children's mental health this year. This has united the class and it has created excitement and curiosity as the children have played a guessing game of the baby photos.

Year 5 Yellow made hot air balloon pictures that show who is in their support network; the people that help us to grow. As part of this week, us teachers wrote words of affirmation on their desks as a surprise for when they came into school, it really made them smile!

The children have become a lot more confident working with fractions in maths and have thoroughly enjoyed the Rebuilding Britain topic in our history lessons. They have produced some amazing stories in their English lessons and have also produced lots of WOW work within science, learning about scientists and inventors.

Year 5 have also really enjoyed creating their own computer games using coding skills on Scratch.

We cannot wait to begin the next half term!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a wonderful term so far! In Maths we have been focusing on decimals, percentages and algebra and the children have worked fantastically in class recently trying to work out different formulae and missing numbers. Next half term we will be looking at converting measures, area and perimeter, and ratio and proportion. In preparation for SATs, we are completing mental maths tests each week and we are also encouraging the use of online websites such as CGP 10 minute SATs tests to help with preparation for May.

Science this half term has been filled with lots of work about adaptation, evolution and inheritance. The children have seen the types of features that we can inherit from parents, how different animals have evolved and the ways in which animals adapt to their climate.

In History, we have been learning all about The Victorians – from the Workhouses to Victorian Schools, with the children planning and creating some fantastic Victorian school houses of their own! We will start our exciting new Geography topic of the 'Changing World' after half term.

In English, the children have been reading the novel 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. They have created character profiles, completed freeze frame activities and used their wonderful creative brains to continue the story of Jim, Emily and Lizzie. In preparation for the SATs in May, we continue to recap comprehension and SPaG topics in class. The children have also completed some practice SATs papers and we have seen some good progress!

The Year 6 team are very grateful for the continued support from parents throughout this term and we are excited about what the upcoming months will bring for the children. We can't wait to get started on our new topics after half term.

