

The Bliss Charity School

Issue: 2

Wednesday 29th September 2021



Term 1



Hello everybody,

The academic year has started really well. The children have settled into their classrooms superbly and I am very pleased that all the new procedures that have been put in place are working effectively. It has been so lovely to watch the children mixing beyond their year group on the playground and in the lunch hall, and being able to hold school assemblies again has been fantastic!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the short survey regarding the format of parents' evenings – we hope to be able to share our plan for parents' evenings in the coming days.

Next week, the children will all take part in special gymnastics sessions. These 'showcase lessons' are a professional development opportunity for our staff as we have a look to enhance our PE curriculum further – please could all pupils have their PE kit in school on both Monday and Tuesday so they can participate on one of these days. PE days will return to normal from Wednesday onward.

Finally, I received some great news on Friday evening from Northamptonshire Music & Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT). To recognise Bliss' commitment to a broad and balanced music curriculum and the value that our school places on music, NMPAT nominated us to be a Music Mark School for the 2021/22 academic year! This is a fantastic accolade and a super achievement for everyone involved in music at Bliss over a number of years – well done all!



Mr. Carter

Harvest at Hope

This autumn we will be supporting the Hope Centre's harvest appeal. The number of people Hope is supporting has increased 4-fold in the last 18 months and they now distribute around 150 food parcels each week to the hungry of Northampton as well as continuing their vital support and food provision for the homeless community. Every item that you donate during harvest will be used to ensure that we reduce hunger in Northampton.

If you would like to support this fantastic charity, please send your donation into school with your child by Friday 8th October 2021. If you're unsure about what to donate, the Hope Centre has produced a [shopping list](#) of the most-needed items. Thank you for your support.





Term 1 Topics



Class 6

The children of Class 6 have been having a hoot learning all about birds of prey this term. In literacy, they have created some amazing writing based upon the text 'White Owl, Barn Owl' and they are enjoying the text 'Eagle Warrior' in guided reading. In science, the children are examining the scientific evidence from birds of prey that has been gathered to support the theory of evolution. In geography, Class 6 are researching the impact our growing population is having on the number of birds of prey in the UK. As well as this, they've produced lots of wonderful birds of prey art based upon the work of Andrew Ellis. Some of our feathered friends even came to visit the school!



Class 5

Class 5 have had a super start to their Great Outdoors topic. They have identified human and physical geographical features of the British Isles using atlases and research at home; used Ordnance Survey maps to locate features in Nether Heyford and give their 6-digit grid references, and spotted these on a walk around the village. Children compared the canal and river, spotting their similarities and differences ... and they also learnt about native and invasive crayfish. In our linked science lessons, children have planned and carried out habitats investigations in the outdoor classroom and used identification sheets to determine the species of trees on the village green. They are now moving on to learn about Earth's biomes.



Class 4

Class 4 have made a super start to the year and their new topic! They have enjoyed visiting the outdoor classroom for our storytelling activities and have listened to lots of traditional tales from India. They are now using these stories as inspiration for writing their own fables. In geography lessons, pupils have used their map skills to locate India on a map of the world and understand its location in relation to surrounding countries and oceans. They have also learnt about some of the human and physical geographical features of this fascinating country. The class had lots of fun creating Indian elephants using pastels and collage techniques. They also enjoyed learning about peacocks and their significance in India before creating some lovely observational drawings of peacock feathers. Class 4 are now looking forward to retelling their own fables to some of the younger children at school and taking part in some Indian dancing and cooking before the end of the term!



Class 3

Class 3 have made a super start to the term with their Under the Sea topic. They have experimented with water, looking at why objects sink and float and made their own Cartesian divers too. In literacy, children have been enjoying the story Dolphin Boy by Michael Morpurgo. They have used drama to retell the story and to get into role as the characters, exploring their thoughts and feelings. In topic, we have been really impressed with their atlas skills; pupils have used these to locate the 5 main oceans of the world. Next we will be researching the similarities and differences between these oceans, thinking about their location and the climate in different parts of the world. Class 3 are also looking forward to their trip to the Sea Life Centre before the end of term!



Class 2

Class 2 had a fantastic start to their 'Dungeons and Dragons' topic by designing and creating shields and armour ready for their very own medieval battle! They have also had the opportunity to write a dragon book which will be placed in the library for all to read. During topic lessons, the children have been learning about the features of a castle and they have been investigating materials that could be used to create a drawbridge. In literacy, the class have been surprised by the arrival of a special visitor – Drogon the Dragon! The children have been helping to teach him to fly by writing instructions and they have been motivating him by using exclamation sentences. We had a visit from Reverend Stephen last week to discuss special books and the children have made a start on their animation project by getting to grips with a new computer programme called Zu3D.



Class 1

Class 1 have had a fantastic start to the year. We started our topic by making two resident scarecrows – Harry and Betty. Through this, the children explored a scarecrow's main body parts and helped write wedding invitations, design scarecrow hats and outfits, and build church structures. We had great fun exploring our senses. We did this through a sensory walk with our feet through the outdoor classroom, smelling and tasting hidden foods, and listening to nature. I was very impressed with the children's teamwork skills when creating a class collage of a scarecrow and yummy scarecrow wedding cakes! In maths, the children have been focusing on place value, including counting, sorting objects, talking about more/less and comparing numbers. We are looking forward to reading 'Funnybones' next, where we will look more closely at the bones of the body and retelling stories.



Class Reception

Class R have had a super start to 'big school'. The children are settling so well into the routines of being at school and have already had so many 'firsts'! From staying for lunch to using the big apparatus in the hall for PE, the children have shown real enthusiasm for their new adventures. It has been amazing to see how many children have been brave, just like Kevin the koala from our class book gift, and brought in pictures and photographs of things they have done over the summer to show how brave they have been.

Now the children are all in together, they have started their learning journey at Bliss. We have been learning all about ourselves and have investigated our bodies, naming different parts and counting how many they have of each. The children have also created self-portraits. We have introduced our first letter sounds, numeral 1 and 2 and started practising letter writing using big actions.

Over the next few weeks, we will be investigating our senses and how we use them, learning about Nether Heyford and the children's houses, including who lives in them. We will also be finding out about the children's favourite toys.



Cauliflower Cards

It's that time of year again and the children have already completed their artwork ready to be sent away to be turned into Christmas cards, labels, mugs, wrapping paper and A5 spiral bound books! This is a great fundraiser for the school and each year we have had a really positive response from parents and carers. Artwork has already been sent home with a strict return deadline of **Friday 1st October**. Orders are to be placed directly with Cauliflower Cards before the artwork is returned to school – staff cannot accept cash. Thank you again for your support.



Secondary School Applications



The closing date for secondary school applications for pupils who are currently in Year 6 is **5:00 pm on 31st October 2021**. A late application will mean that the chance of getting one of your preferred schools is greatly reduced.

Apply online at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/school-admissions/school-application>.



Coats

Please ensure your child comes to school every day with a warm, waterproof coat. The children do go outside when it is cold and break/lunch times are only moved indoors when it is very wet on the playground.



Water Bottles

Please ensure your child comes to school with a full, named water bottle every day. Water bottles need to go home each day so they can be washed and refilled. Please reuse water bottles.



Phonics

Recently, Miss Churms and Mrs. Anderson provided phonics information and resources to parents/carers with children in Class 1 and Class 2. Both presentations have been added to the relevant class pages of the school website. Please visit www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/class-1 and www.bliss.northants.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/class-2.

