

# The Bliss Charity School

Issue: 14

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Term 5



Hello everybody,

Thank you so much for supporting our 'Easter Reading Challenge' – we had an amazing 102 children taking part with lots winning prizes! Reading every day with your child at home is incredibly important for maintaining their reading enthusiasm and fluency, and it has a massive impact across the curriculum. Home-reading also compliments the work that teachers and teaching assistants do in guided reading, giving children the opportunity to consolidate the phonetic knowledge and comprehension skills taught in school.

As you will see in this newsletter, it has been a great start to Term 5! After a very long wait 'Young Voices' took place on Tuesday – I hear they are needing to repair the roof of the arena after it was blown off with pure enthusiasm! It was great to hear how the children gave it their all and had such a great time singing with so many others. There have been lots of other experiences and trips this term which have enhanced the learning going on in classrooms and there are still more to come. We are also looking forward to celebrating the jubilee at the end of term – it will be lovely for classes to mix once again as they take part in lots of different regal activities and work towards a whole-school tea party!

We also had the good news last week that we will be welcoming Mrs. White to Bliss in September as our new head teacher. We look forward to getting to know her over the coming weeks!

*Miss Thompson*

## The Queen's Jubilee!

From Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, children will be taking part in a range of activities to mark the Queen's jubilee. We will be starting with a Queen-themed read-aloud!

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May, we will be holding a whole school 'tea party'. Children are invited to wear party clothes/ red, white and blue on this day for a voluntary contribution of £1.

We would also like to invite you to join us at our 'tea party' (weather permitting) on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 2:30pm onwards. Please see the separate letter which came home on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May which contains more details and a slip to return if you are able to attend.



# E-Safety: Stop, Think and Talk

The best way to keep your child safe online is to be vigilant around what they are accessing online. There is always the risk that children may come across unsuitable content. A good rule to share with your children is '**Stop, Think and Talk**':

- **Stop** what you are doing online if you access something that frightens or worries you, close the device down or put the tablet or phone to one side.
- Encourage and reassure children not to over **think** what they have seen, they are safe and what they have seen is not going to harm them.
- Make sure children **talk** about what they have seen online with a trusted adult, and don't share what they have seen with friends online or in What's App groups.



## The Family Review



The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, would love to hear from children and their families. She wants to know what you think about family and how you feel about family life.

The family review will seek to understand the composition of the modern family. It will explore whether the needs of children are understood in the provision of services to families, and how we can improve children's outcomes by developing the way public services understand the needs of families as a unit. Capturing children's voices is key to this review.

Throughout the Review, the Children's Commissioner will be asking children, families and professionals a series of questions about family life, updating the questions regularly. This month, the questions are for children (6 years old and over) about family, what they think about family and how they describe family life.

If you would like to take part in the survey, please follow this link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/OCC-family-review/>



# Term 5 Topics



## Class 6

The children of Class 6 have been working extremely hard this term as they prepare for their Year 6 SATs. We are all very proud of them and know that they will all try their best. There are lots of ways that you can help your child during SATs week:



- Talk to your child about any stress and listen to them.
- Have a SATs reward dinner during the week of testing.
- Help your child with their revision and remind them how proud you are of them.
- Find ways to help your child relax and make the weekend before SATs stress-free.
- Encourage your child to exercise and get plenty of sleep.
- Remain positive around your child.

## Class 5



Class 5 have been exploring Shakespeare and delving into his famous story of murder and madness: Macbeth. The children have read and studied the playscript as well as acting out different scenes and explored the story through different characters' perspectives. Fantastic preparation for their trip to the Globe Theatre in London later this term, which we are all very much looking forward to.

In topic, the class have been learning about the famous Tudor monarchs and will be presenting their learning in eye-catching and informative PowerPoints in ICT. The children will also be creating a range of Tudor inspired art and DT projects in the coming weeks, including designing their own Tudor roses, creating a portrait of themselves in the Tudor style and designing and creating a Tudor purse.

## Class 3



Class 3 have made a super start to Term 5. We began our Local Area topic by enjoying a walk around the village. Pupils looked for human and physical features, collecting data along the way. Back in class, we learnt to use grid references to locate these features on a map. In pairs, children created pictures and writing to develop a class display of our local area. Later on, the class planned a route for our walk to Flore Farm Park. They used ordnance survey symbols to identify specific features. The class had a fantastic time at the farm and used their knowledge of the local area to answer questions along the route. Bottle feeding the lambs was one of the many highlights from our trip. This week, children have been working hard on their spring poems, developing their use of description and a range of poetry techniques. In science, pupils have been busy learning about the function of different parts of a plant ready to explore wild flowers in our local area.

## Class 4

Class 4 have made a really enthusiastic start to their 'Rainforests' topic. The term began with learning about the location and names of different areas of tropical rainforest.



Children were then lucky enough to enjoy an amazing visit from the 'Rainforest Roadshow' where they had the opportunity to see (and handle) a selection of rainforest objects and creepy crawlies!

Science lessons are also helping children to understand the vast variety of species living in the rainforest as they investigate animals and living processes. In music this term, children are learning to play the ukulele and have already made such fantastic progress with their rhythm, notation and chords.

## Class 2

Class 2 have been waiting all year for our chocolate topic and it's finally here! They started off being chocolate researchers using their 5 senses to describe 7 different chocolate bars. Then they looked at the packaging in preparation for the children designing their own chocolate wrappers later this term. The trip to Cadbury World was something children have been looking forward to and it was a great success. The children enjoyed learning about the history of chocolate, how chocolate is made and they enjoyed exploring the wonders of the Cadbury World tour. In science, they have been learning about what plants need to survive and grow and children are conducting their own experiment. In maths, children have been recapping 2D and 3D shapes. A busy term!



## Class 1

We started off the term looking at the story of 'The Tiny Seed' where children created their own collaged flower illustrations inspired by Eric Carle. This was a great hook into planting our own mystery seeds in tins, which they can't wait to bring home! We have looked at all the different parts of a plant and we look forward to sketching some in the outdoor classroom. The children loved exploring the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' story through puppets and role play. They got to plant their own beans in different places (the cupboard, the fridge and window) to see which will grow into the tallest beanstalk. Children have just finished creating their amazing beanstalk models (thank you for the tubes and shoe boxes). After designing, making and evaluating their ideas, they all managed to create a working pulley to move Jack up the beanstalk to the castle. For the rest of the term, we will be moving on to the story of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and thinking about where our food comes from.



## Class R

Our 'Stories' topic has been thoroughly enjoyed by children in Class Reception so far this term. We started the term with a 'Stickman' day where the children listened to the story in the outdoor classroom. They then searched for parts of the story and worked together to order and retell it. Children were set the task of creating their own Stickman using a 'fork' and straight stick, adding eyes and items of clothing such as a hat, gloves or scarf. In the afternoon, children toasted marshmallows around the firepit. Children have also found out about many other books written by the amazing author Julia Donaldson. The class focussed on 'The Gruffalo' and 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. In literacy, children have written lists of things that Stickman was used for and have developed their rhyming skills by writing sentences about the items that the giant gave to needy animals. In maths, Class R have measured using non-standard measure and recalling pairs of numbers that make 5 linked to a story called 'Little Quack'. In more creative work, they have made Gruffalo bags and created a very 'smart' giant. Children are looking forward to learning about some traditional tales such as 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'The Gingerbread Man', 'Goldilocks and the Three bears' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. Children will be engaging with simple story writing, character descriptions, measuring porridge and investigating Africa when focussing on the story 'Handa's Surprise'. We have shared a number of children's favourite stories so far and we are looking forward to continuing to listen to their book choices over the next few weeks.



# Young Voices 2022!



On Tuesday, children from Bliss travelled to Birmingham to finally take part in Young Voices. The wait was worth it! 6,000 children learnt to beatbox with *The Beatbox Collective* (world champions of beatboxing in 2015)! They had a full afternoon of rehearsals before parents arrived for the big show. And what a show it was! Enjoyment was had by all – the smiles the next day said it all even despite the tiredness. Children behaved impeccably, sang their hearts out and did Bliss proud! Well done everyone and thank you to Mrs. Griffiths for all her hard work during rehearsals as well as Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Jenkinson for their support on the big day. Children had a day they will remember for a very long time!

# Netball at Campion



Last week, a team of year 6s attended a cluster netball competition at Campion. It was great to be back playing inter-school sport. The team played really well and showed great sportsmanship!