



Leamore Primary School

An aspiring journey to a bright future

Autumn 1 Newsletter 2020 - 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We understand that this is an unsettling time with your children returning to school despite the announcement of a second lockdown but we wanted you to know that we are so impressed with the resilience and positive attitude your children have shown in school over the first half-term. We wanted to reassure you that we are continually reviewing our Risk Assessment and are committed to keeping your children, our staff and all of you safe whilst following the Government guidelines. Your children are enjoying school and the following pupil voice lets us see how important school is for our children:

Year 6 pupil: "I was nervous but I'm so glad to be back - I really missed my friends and it has made my brain happier being able to speak to them again!"

Year 4 pupil: "I am feeling happy now I am back at school. I was a little nervous about coming back because of the changes but being with my teachers helped me." or, "I am really happy to be back. I was very excited to come back to school and now I am back, I feel even more happy. I think school is great and very safe."



Despite the tragic circumstances, School Council have still managed to lead a fantastic fund-raising event to support the Macmillan Cancer support Charity.

Each class took it in turns to visit the hall for the cake sale that was held. The children had the opportunity to not only choose scrumptious cakes but also to participate in different games such as 'Name the Bear', 'Guess the amount of Jellybeans' and an exciting 'Raffle'. The event was very successful, raising over £300, and each class was very respectful of the COVID rules. Thank you to all who contributed.





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Visitors & Trips

Pharoe 'Dan'



This half-term, the children of Year 4 welcomed a visitor in school to explore the lives of Ancient Egyptians.

The children had the opportunity to ask questions, watch videos, engage with artifacts and, one of the pupils was even turned into a mummy to further their learning! What a fantastic day it was!

Conkers

Year 1 visited Conkers in Derbyshire as part of their 'Into The Woods' topic. The children enjoyed exploring the different parts of the 120 acres of outdoor areas, identifying a range of different features.

The children really enjoyed taking part in an exciting bug hunt activity, working in teams to find different minibeasts. They also created their own bug hotels out of the natural materials they could find. It was a magical, memorable day!



Cap'n Dan



The landlubbers of Year 2 got more acquainted with seafaring pirates when they were visited by Captain Dan this half-term.

They learned a lot about Pirates when they were shown artefacts, taught about the different types of pirate ships and unique flags of different pirates.

Captain Dan also shared some of his favourite stories from pirate history. It was a fabulous day!

Air Raid Shelter

Year 6 had the opportunity to explore a part of school that they had never had the chance to visit before. As part of their World War 2 topic, with the help of Mr Farrington, the children went deep underneath the school playground into a cold, damp hole hidden under a cover that the children run across each day. At the bottom of the ladder is the old air-raid shelter that was built to protect staff, pupils and local families from the planes of the Luftwaffe.

The shelter stretches from the nursery building all the way to the football pitch and allowed pupils to think about how people would have felt having to go underneath the school for hours at a time while air raid sirens blared out.

It made for a lasting experience.





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Every year, here at Leamore, we make sure National Poetry Day is celebrated. Usually, we share our favourite poems and listen to poems shared by our teachers before choosing and performing a special example.

This year we got our hands dirty and actually wrote our own poems around this year's theme - vision. Mr Dwyer was so impressed, he selected examples to create a National Poetry Day display in the Year 5 / Year 6 Corridor.

British Food Fortnight

The first British Food Fortnight was held in 2001 and was born out of a desire to get the public motivated to buy British food. The foundation state, *'The aim then, as it is now, is to use the fun of a national celebration to encourage people to actively seek out British food when they are shopping and eating out. If they enjoy doing so during British Food Fortnight then hopefully they will make a conscious effort to buy British year-round.'*

This year, the fortnight was between 21st September and 2nd October and was quite the celebration in school! Each class was provided with a British Food Hamper and had to research and prepare a list of possible dishes. Once decided, pupils made a special dish using the ingredients and this was tasted and scored by Mrs Barker! The winning dish came from Y6, a delicious dish of Bombay potatoes!



Roald Dahl Day

Roald Dahl is an author beloved by generations of readers. To share the work of this amazing writer, pupils across school listened to stories from Roald Dahl and completed activities to celebrate his birthday and to promote a love of Reading.





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B:M2020

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Black History Month

October is Black History Month and, in light of the Black Lives Matter movement, we have ensured that every year group in school has raised awareness for equality and for Black History.

Reception looked at the story of Rosa Parks and discussed how unkind it was to not let her sit next to her friends on the bus because she was black (reception friendly). We used this to celebrate our similarities and differences showing different doesn't mean bad.

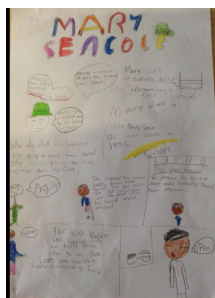


In Year 1, children spoke about influential black people, focusing on Jacob Lawrence. Jacob Lawrence is one of the best known 20th century artists and has painted some amazing pieces of work. The children looked at some of his work and focused on his use of primary colours.

As part of their pirate topic, Year 2 looked into the different cultures that pirates could come from. They focused on the slave trade and the way black slaves were brought and sold. After all, many black pirates joined pirate ships to escape the harsh realities of slavery on land. Some, such as Black Caesar (a famous African pirate), have legendary stories.



In Year 3, Black History Month was celebrated by looking at one iconic black figure - Walter Tull - a famous black soldier during the First World War (current topic). Year 3 loved learning about him due to his football and army achievements and frequently brought him back up during the remainder of the term.



In Year 4 pupils looked at slavery dating back to the Ancient Egyptian times. Did you know pharaohs would have had slaves? Pupils also learned about the mistreatment and imbalance of equal rights of people at the time and linked this to today.

Year 5 pupils looked at Black role models and the way that they had changed the world for the better. They created awareness posters to help spread the good work that figures such as Marcus Rashford had achieved.



Year 6 pupils celebrated the efforts of black pilots during WW2 (current topic) appreciating their efforts as part of the allied campaigns against the horrific prejudices of the Nazis in WW2. Such as Robbie Clarke (Right) Britain's first black pilot born in 1914.



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World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day takes place on 10th October every year and this year's theme was 'mental health for all'. The day provided an opportunity to raise awareness of mental health and encouraged people to prioritise their mental wellbeing - something that is so, so important in the current situation.

At Leamore we celebrated World Mental Health day early on the 9th October 2020. As our theme was mental health for all, our focus in school was mindfulness. Classes took part in a range of different activities to support this.

School Improvement

Although school was closed for such a long period of time to many pupils, this gave the perfect opportunity to undertake work to improve the environment for all of our children on their return. Below are some photographs showing the work that has been completed.



Jeans for Genes Day

Jeans for Genes Day is the annual fundraising campaign for Genetic Disorders UK, the national charity that supports individuals and families affected by a genetic disorder. Monies raised on Jeans for Genes Day fund the work of the charity and provide grants to organisations for projects that aim to transform the lives of children with genetic disorders and, this year, Leamore managed to raise over £140 for the cause (despite being in a pandemic!) Well Done everyone!



International Day of Peace

Did you know that there was a Day of International Peace? No? Well, neither did many of our children. To learn about this important day pupils in all year groups found out that there is an International Day of Peace that celebrates global solidarity to try to build a peaceful and sustainable world. Year 1 also held a class assembly to learn all about peace.



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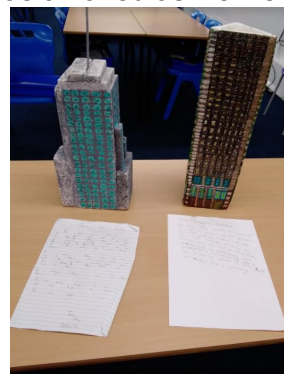
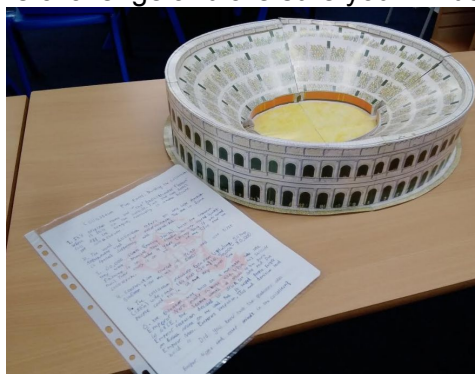
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Summer Challenges

The Summer challenge this year was reimagined to incorporate all of the amazing new strategies school had embedded over the past school year. Pupils from Early Years continued to change their books as part of the 1000 Stories programme. KS1 pupils continued their Super Sentence work and KS2 pupils were set a super maths challenge recognising the different 2d and 3d shapes that make up famous landmarks from around the world. Some even recreated models of the buildings they investigated.

Unlike previous years, school provided an incentive of a £5 voucher for any child who completed the weekly work that was set. In addition to this, a fantastic £50 overall winner voucher was also up for grabs.

Well done again to all that entered. We have included a few examples of the work submitted for the KS2 maths challenge and are sure you will be as amazed as we were.



Dates for your Diary

Autumn 1 Aspire	13/11/2020	- Live video link will be sent out to the parents of pupils who have been nominated.
Children In Need	13/11/2020	- Children to wear pyjamas to school. - Donations on Parent Pay.
Elf Day (Alzheimers Charity)	04/12/2020	- Children to dress in elf attire - Donations on parent pay - Further information to follow.
Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children)	11/12/2020	- Christmas jumpers to be worn. - Donations on Parent Pay.
Christmas Break Up	18/12/2020	- This will be the last day for children to attend this year.



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Messages

A message from Mr Dwyer

After such an unusual Summer Term, it was comforting to regain some normality when returning in September - something many of our children felt too! I have been impressed by how well the children have settled back into school life and I am proud of the resilience they have shown in this unusual period.

As lead for writing in school, I was blown away by the creativity shown by our children when developing their poems for National Poetry Day. Classes created haiku, shape poetry and free verse to share their take on Vision poetry.

Finally, well done to all of those children who have used Google Classroom to complete any remote learning that has been set. Please, if you are having any issues, contact school so that we can help you get connected.



A message from Miss Francis

I am so, so proud of how well the children have adapted to school life in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past half-term it has been amazing to see all of the catch-up activities taking place alongside our usual full curriculum offer in order to help our children regain the learning they missed. I know that the current pandemic is far short of ideal and I honestly thought, way back in March when all of this began, that we would be in a very different position come this end of the year. The Prime Minister's announcement of a second National Lockdown will undoubtedly bring worry and uncertainty but I wanted to assure you that we will be doing all that we can to keep you, your children and our staff safe.

We are constantly updating our risk assessment (on website) to follow the changing guidelines and are continually adding important updates to our website so make sure you visit the site regularly.

A message from the Chair of Governors

I would like to take this opportunity to give a massive thanks to all of the staff at Leamore who have worked tirelessly over the past few months to ensure our children receive a good, all round education.

These times are like none I have experienced in my 62 years but I am sure we will come through it! Governors have continued to meet throughout the pandemic and we have continued our focus on giving Leamore children a first class experience which will set them up for life.

Whilst school life is a little different with our class bubbles, it has not stopped children taking part in a multitude of activities (as you can see in this newsletter).

Thank you all for supporting our Leamore community.

