

# Clarendon Cottage



## Newsletter

*Small school. Big expectations*

**February 2018**

### Mrs Hartley's Corner

Welcome back after what I hope was a very relaxing half term break.

This term we have a lot of exciting events planned for the children.

On Thursday, the children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character to celebrate World Book Day. On Monday, we will be receiving 10 chick eggs and an incubator. We will be able to watch as the chicks hatch and we will keep them for two weeks to enable us to see how they grow.

Lots of other events are listed in our 'Dates for Diary' below.

This week and next week, Prep's 4-8 will take part in creative writing workshops and hopefully we will be shortlisted to take part in the National Young Writers Award 2018!

Mrs Hartley

### School Events

During the WC 12th February, the children had a very exciting week celebrating lots of different events. They celebrated Shrove Tuesday on the 13th and enjoyed making their own pancakes.

On Wednesday 14th the school was filled with love! Some of our Prep 1 children went to our local supermarket and bought roses and gave them out to all of the teachers and their friends and Prep 3 had their own Valentines dates.

On Friday 16th, the juniors enjoyed their Retro disco! They had lots of fun dancing, eating and playing lots of games.

### Dates for Diary

Thursday 1st March— World Book Day—Come to school dressed as your favourite book character

Monday 5th March—Living eggs arrive (Chicks)

Thursday 8th March—Infant trip to Blackpool Zoo

Friday 9th March—Junior Trip to the Halle Orchestra

Monday 12th March— Moments with Mums—4-5pm in the school hall (All female relations welcome)

WC 12th March—Test Week (Prep 3-8)

Thursday 15th March— Own clothes day for an Easter chocolate donation

Friday 16th March—Prep 1 trip to Smithills farm

WC 19th March—Book Fair in all week

Friday 23rd March—Infant Cinema night

WC 26th March—Easter Concert (Songs from the movies) Monday 26th Prep 1 & 4,

Tuesday 27th Prep 2 & 7/8 and Wednesday 28th Prep 3 & 5/6

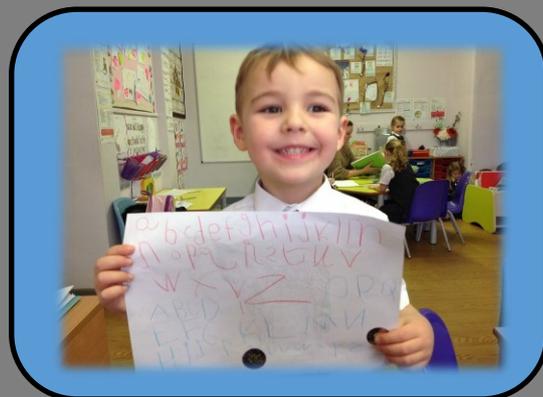
Half Term begins Friday 30th March until Tuesday 17th April. Holiday Club and Prep 1 will be open except on Good Friday and Easter Monday

## Prep 1

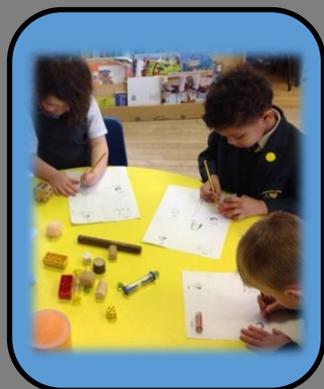
Prep 1 have continued to work very hard this month, we have been sharing our favourite stories and enjoying writing about these in our writing books. We are becoming really confident in our letter formation and are willing to try this independently both in our work books and during our play. Some of us are able to copy from the white board and remember finger spaces and full stops when writing.

We have enjoyed some small trips into our local community. On Valentine's Day some of us went for a walk to Morrisons and bought their friends and teachers some roses to celebrate. Last week some children visited the library and opened a library account for Prep 1, we borrowed some books and brought them back to read in class. We are looking forward to more of these visits to allow us to explore our local area and broaden our learning experiences.

Prep 1 are looking forward to our trip to Smithills Farm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, please remember the children will need a packed lunch in a backpack so that they can carry it while holding hands. They will also need to wear their school uniforms but can wear wellingtons as the farm may be a little muddy.



I just wanted to also mention that the children of prep 2 seem to be inspired by my ever growing tummy and decided that they liked this look too...



## Prep 2

Prep 2 are enjoying their whole class teaching sessions and are very active learners. We have been working hard on our 'super' sentences and we are becoming wonderful writers! Our letter formation has certainly developed with all our practice! I am very proud of all of the children with their reading skills too, they are all progressing very well and working their way through the Oxford Reading Tree stages. Thank you to their wonderful parents who continue to support their children at home with this too! It truly is making a difference. We have been busy learning about the explorer, Marco Polo, we have even made our own treasure maps and have been discussing what equipment explorers need for different places too. In maths, wow, we truly are amazing! Not only have we mastered our number recognition, counting and ordering, we have moved onto adding, subtracting, doubling and now halving! We are working on our 3D shape recognition and talking about their properties too and seeing which every day objects look like a 3D shape! We are comparing the size and weight of objects too through weighing and measuring! Such a busy class! We are really looking forward to our trip to Blackpool Zoo next week and cannot wait to explore all the different animals.

### Prep 3

Prep 3 have had a big focus on multiplication, subtraction and addition lately. The children have got much quicker at answering mental arithmetic questions and have really enjoyed their Friday challenge. Some of the children in Prep 3 have taken part in Mrs Jennings' maths club, and have been using the Numicon to make large numbers. All of the children throughout the infants will be invited to join the maths club at some point during the spring term.

Prep 3 have been learning all about growing crops and have started the process of growing potatoes (chipping) on the 6<sup>th</sup> March we will be planting the potato seeds. Once the potatoes are ready to harvest the children will be measuring and weighing the potatoes. They have even entered into a potato growing competition!



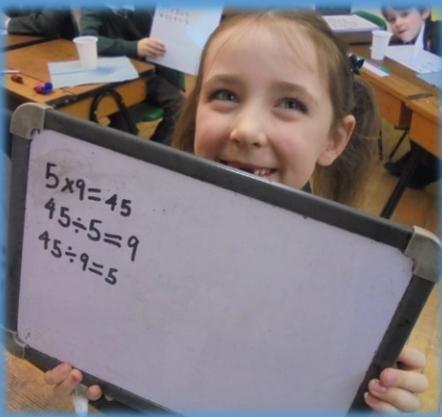
### Prep 4

February has flown by and the children in Prep 4 are definitely becoming more fluent in their 3 and 6 times tables (with the help of a few songs). The main focus in maths has been multiplication and division and solving problem using these operations. We have had a huge focus on telling the time to five minute intervals and the children are making fabulous progress with this.

In English the children have been focussing on newspaper reports and diary extracts. Learning about Captain Cook has certainly been entertaining and the children were very interested to learn about all of the things he discovered, not to mention the nasty end he came to in Hawaii!

Reasoning has been a strong focus and the class are getting to grips with how to solve the verbal and non-verbal problems and how to crack codes.

The class have worked incredibly hard and are very much looking forward to the Easter Review!



## Prep 5/6

This month I wanted to focus on the amazing writing the children have been doing. We have based our focused writing on the book 'Float' by Daniel Miyares. This book has only pictures which has given the children the opportunity to use their expansive vocabulary to tell their version of the story. They have risen to this project with creative, descriptive and imaginative language. I am immensely proud of what they have achieved so far and am looking forward to where our next book will take us.

History has taken us to visit the Vikings. The children have enjoyed researching how the Vikings first came to our shores and converting this knowledge into newspaper articles from the point of view of the residents of Holy Island.

*The friendly seagull admired longingly while the paper boat made its first journey towards the unknown. In the local puddle, roofs reflected, windows waved, doorways drifted. Spring by spring. Leap by leap. Bounce by bounce. Eventually, he eyed a frosty stream.*

*His honey-yellow coat was as bright as a sapphire. He couldn't see his boat anywhere. The boys' eyes are searching up and down the street. The boys' neck turned to try and find his beautiful treasured possession. The boys' limbs are bending and stretching as fast as they could running down the road.*

*"Stop!" bellowed the upset boy crying his eyes out.*

*His paper boat slipped down the hungry drain. Energetically, clutching down between the bars, the stressed boy tried to get the water-logged boat. The curious ducks, who glided past, observed the innocent boy looking defeated.*



## Prep 7/8

Prep 7 and 8 have been focussing on their creative writing this term and have loved reading "A Monster Calls." They have been developing success criteria and picking out the key features of a text before using these to create their own writing.

In Maths they have been facing new concepts such as ratio and proportion and algebra which they have done fantastically well with!

In Topic we have been conducting research into Sir Francis Drake and the children have thoroughly enjoyed finding out information and presenting it in different ways. They have also created 8 and 16 point compass which are now on display along with their lines of latitude maps.

Also Prep 8's are waiting on their school places results which they are equally nervous and excited for! Good luck to all!