

Shillington Lower Bulletin

www.shillingtonlower.co.uk



Our value of the month is: Self Control

FRIDAY 9TH MARCH 2018

Parents Phonics Workshop

Many thanks to those parents who were able to attend the phonics coffee morning this week. It was an opportunity to find out about how we teach phonics and an insight into how your child learns to read at school. Parents were introduced to learning the letter sounds and then how we teach the children to blend sounds to read words. Most UK schools follow a synthetic phonics programme which teach children to pronounce letters using pure sounds. We follow the Letters and Sounds publication.

Terminology:

A phoneme is a speech sound

A grapheme is a written representation of one sound

Segmenting is breaking words into sounds

Blending is the joining of sounds together to read words.

We also teach 'tricky words'; words which do not follow phonic patterns, 'high frequency' words; common words that appear often in written texts and 'alien' words; words that make no sense but encourage children to use their phonological knowledge.

The phonics screening test takes place in June of year 1, those not meeting the required pass level will retake the test in year 2. The words in the test are a mixture of real and alien words and the children are required to sound them out and blend them correctly.

To help your children at home the most important thing to do is read every night with them. Learn to say the sounds yourself, practice blending them, talk about spelling rules and check that what has been read makes sense.

Useful websites are;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ_ZEBh1Bk

www.phonicsplay.com

www.phonicshero.com

World Book Day

The day began with an assembly and a look at all the children's amazing costumes! Thank you to everybody for making a superb effort. Children and many staff looked incredible! I was pleased to receive feedback also that quite a few parents appreciated the easier option of bed time clothes to fit with the sharing stories theme. Following assembly, the children had a day fully immersed in books and stories. They were able to experience different classrooms and different teachers and learn about stories written by C.S.Lewis, Michael Bond, Julia Donaldson, Nick Sharratt and Roald Dahl. What a fantastic day!

Please see our class pages for details of what happened in each classroom.

Pixie News

We have started our new topic 'Growing'. We all brought in a baby photo and we discussed how we have changed. We have made a lovely display with these photos in our classroom. We are very excited for our Mother's Day Stay and Play. Pixie's have been busy practising two special songs. Book of the week is 'Oliver's Vegetables'. We have been recognizing and ordering numbers to 10.



Unicorns News

For World Book Day Unicorn Class focused on the author Nick Sharratt. We read the stories Shark in the Park and Shark in the Dark. Much fun was then had designing and making our own sharks! In Maths we have continued to practise our measuring and recording skills. Our team work for this has been fantastic!



Rainbows News

In the Rainbows classroom for World Book Day we focused on Julia Donaldson. We looked at a range of her books and enjoyed sharing these with other children. Our main focus was The Gruffalo.

In Maths following on from our week on doubling we have been learning about halving numbers.

In our more creative time we have been planting small plants and learning about life cycles.

Dragons News

In the Year 2 classroom for World Book Day we were looking at Roald Dahl, with a focus on The Twits. We read the description of Mr Twit and his revolting beard. We then made our own collage beards, complete with bits of food—yuck! For those of us who were feeling brave, we had the chance to find worms in a bowl of 'wormy' spaghetti, which is featured in the story of The Twits.



Diary Dates;

9th March—Rainbows Stay & Play 2.45pm

26th – 28th March—Year 4 residential visit to Caythorpe Court

Term Dates; Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 3rd Jan – Thursday 29th March 2018

Summer Term 2018

Tuesday 17th Apr – Friday 20th Jul

(Half term 28th May – 1st June)

May Day – 7th May 2018 – sch closed

Please note our school is open on the 4th June (some surrounding schools are closed)

Shillington Superstars

Rainbows

Chester

Unicorns

Hallie-Paige

Dragons

Finley

Centaurs

Joe

Phoenix

The whole class!

General Reminders

Please remember that dogs are not allowed anywhere on site at any time for the safety and consideration of our pupils and other parents.

School Day Timings

Pixie class afternoon session ends at 3.15pm, Rainbows end at 3.20pm and the rest of the school finish at 3.30pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly at their relevant finish time as it does cause them distress when left uncollected and wondering where their parent is! Any expected delays can be reported to the school office via the telephone.

Phoenix News

Our author for World Book Day was C. S. Lewis. He wrote the Chronicles of Narnia. The book we focused on was 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' we were fortunate enough that nature provided us with our own real snow scene. The children had great fun making their own magical wardrobes leading to some fantastic destinations. Each child contributed to our collage of Aslan.



Centaurs News

For book day in Centaur class we investigated Michael Bonds Paddington Bear stories. We made our own suitcase. The children added what they would include in their suitcase and then had to create a label and design the case. In maths we have been doing multiplication and division by 10 and 100, then looking at the inverse. We have also been reading poetry by Robert Lewis Stevenson and having a go at writing a poem using rhyming couplets.