

Clarendon Cottage Preparatory School



Newsletter

February 2023

Miss E Bagnall's Corner

The end of another fantastic half term here at Clarendon Cottage Prep School—we cannot believe that it has come round so fast again! The children have all worked incredibly hard over the last few months and it has been a delight seeing them discover new topics and find new confidence. Our youngest children across Prep 1 and 2 are all so well settled at school and they are all showing their personalities more and more each day.

We enjoyed a wonderful Music Concert this morning led by Mrs Johnson and all of the children showed off what they have been learning in their private music tuition. I was most impressed by the range of instruments played and how well all of the children have progressed since taking up their instruments. I am sure all of the parents who attended were incredibly proud. If you are interested in your child taking up a musical instrument please do enquire with the school office.

We have an exciting, but short, half term ahead of us before Easter—make sure that you check the dates for diaries in this Newsletter and keep them somewhere safe. The children from Prep 1—4 will be working in earnest on their Spring Productions when we return after half term and we are all very excited to see them brought to life—I have heard rumour of a heroic penguin, some wiggly caterpillars, beautiful butterflies, hedgehogs waking from their hibernation and sunflowers in soup!

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the parking situation around school. It is a very busy area with lots of nurseries and schools and the parking can sometimes be fraught. Everyone needs to ensure that they are keeping children's safety at the forefront of their minds when parking at school as it is a community effort to look after our pupils as they travel into school. Please ensure that you are parking your cars legally during drop off times and being mindful of all road markings. Likewise, the carpark over the road from school is not a public space and shouldn't be utilised during drop off and collection periods. There is always ample parking available on Victoria Crescent and along Half Edge Lane near the Masonic Hall. There is also some availability on Belgrave Crescent. If you are feeling like taking some fresh air and doing your bit for the environment there is also the possibility of 'Park and Stride' with lots of parking available throughout Ellesmere Park.

I am delighted that our School Council has now been elected and I look forward to working with both them and the Eco Council on projects over the rest of the year—if you have any ideas that you would like raising please do speak to one of your new representatives—your voice matters! Thank you as always—we hope that you a wonderful half term break!



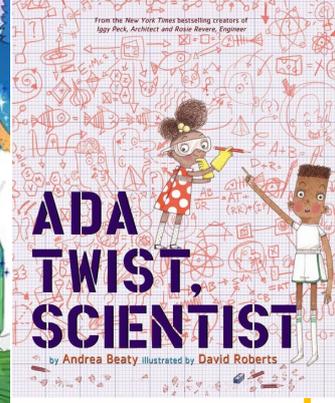
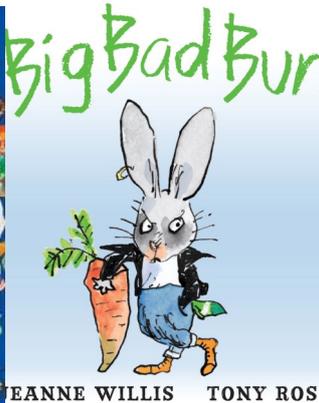
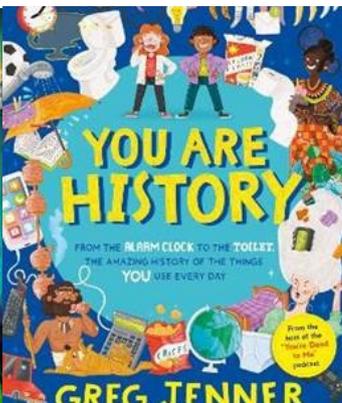
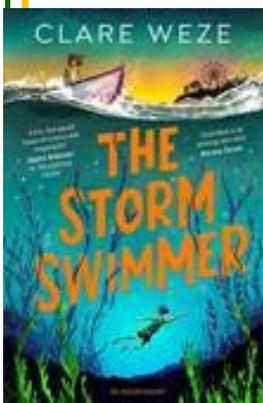
Clarendon's Top Reads!

- Prep 1— Rhyme Crime by Jon Burgerman
- Prep 2—Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty
- Prep 3 —Big Bad Bun by Jeanne Willis
- Prep 4— Secret Beast Club; The Unicorns of Silver Street by Robin Birch
- Prep 5 & 6—Your Are History by Greg Jenner
- Prep 7 & 8—The Storm Swimmer by Clare Weze

Jon Burgerman

oo
Rhyme
Crime

'Hahahahahaha!' Max, aged 4



Dates for Diaries

Friday 17th February—Break up for half term.

Tuesday 21st February—Pancake Day

Monday 27th February—Return to school & Prep 8 Crucial Crew

Tuesday 28th February—Prep 2—4 school trip Liverpool World Museum (in school at 8:30am)

Wednesday 1st March— St David's Day.

Thursday 2nd March—World Book Day—all children are invited to attend school dressed as their favourite book character. Brownie points for bringing the book too!

Tuesday 7th March—U11s Netball High 5 ISA Tournament

Wednesday 8th March—International Women's Day.

Thursday 9th March—Prep 1 Trip—Smithills Open Farm

Monday 13th—Friday 18th—British Science Week

Thursday 16th March—Purim—children will

Thursday 16h March—Global Recycling Day—Eco Council lead presentations to other year groups.

Friday 17th March—St Patrick's Day & Red Nose Day—all children to come to school dressed as 'red from top to toe' £2 donation to Comic Relief.

Monday 20th March—Holi & Moments with Mums sessions in school.9:15—10:30 am.

Monday 20th—Friday 24th March—Scholastic Book Fair—help us raise valuable funds for school by picking up a good read or two!

Tuesday 21st March —UNESCO World Poetry Day & Junior School Trip to Turton Tower

Wednesday 22nd March—Shakespeare Day for World Shakespeare Week

Thursday 23rd March—PTFA Cinema Night—5:00—7:00pm.

Monday 27th March—WWF Earth Hour

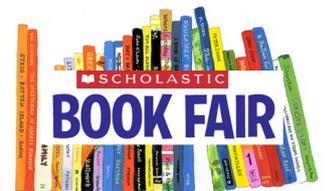
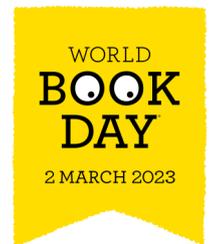
Tuesday 28th March—Prep 3 Spring Play—doors open at 2:00pm for a 2:30pm start.

Wednesday 29th March—Prep 1 & Prep 4 Spring Plays—doors open at 2:00pm for a 2:30pm start

Thursday 30th March—Prep 1 and Prep 2 Spring Plays—doors open at 2:00pm for a 2:30pm start.

Friday 31st March—Break up for Easter Holidays. Wear a Hat Day—£2 donation to Brain Tumour Research.

Monday 17th April—Return to school for Summer Term— wear Summer Uniform.



Prep 1—Miss Taylor

Wow! The time certainly has flown this half term!

What fun we have had exploring Winter, learning about each others families, being introduced to life cycles and enjoying activities to develop our literacy and maths skills too! We are thoroughly enjoying our nature curriculum too and really getting up and close with nature. We are working hard on developing our gross and fine motor skills and really enjoy dough disco, most definitely one of our firm favourites! We have been very excited to explore colours more recently and are already remembering what colours the prime colours make when mixed together! We are blowing our teachers minds! We are excited to welcome another new friend to our class too after the half term and we are very excited for our Spring term trip to the farm in March! After the half term we will move onto a topic of animals, in particular farm animals at first to link with our trip. We are keen to learn more about how animals grow and change! Of course we will also be working on our independence too more with changing for our gym sessions! So many exciting things to come.

Have a lovely half term. Miss Taylor and Mrs Chapman.



Prep 1—Miss Wozniel

How quickly this half term has passed! We just came back and we do have another week to rest! Miss Wozniel's Prep 1 was super busy this past weeks! We were exploring a world of creatures! We started with those little creepy crawlies and travelled through deep jungles, hot and dry savannahs and we literally landed in English gardens learning all about British birds. We had a brief look at habitats, climate, animals within and we will continue our journey in that direction! To make it even more interesting, shortly after half term we will have a Farm trip!

Additionally to our busy schedule we were learning all about our emotions and feelings- to help little minds to understand what is hiding in their hearths, souls and brains in celebration of Children's Mental Health.

As the weather was very kind to us- we had amazing opportunities to explore winter, spend quality time outside- enhancing our outdoors and cooperating with it in our daily timetable and task.

Next half term will bring more animal exploration- we need to dive deep into the waters of Earth, we need to explore closer to us- learning about farms and we will have a close look at our homes- learning about pets! Exciting part to come as well- Spring productions- keep your eyes open for new rising stars!



Prep 2 —Miss Rook

What a busy term this one has been for Prep 2!

In Maths, we have been exploring number bonds to 5 and 10 using numicon, counters and part whole methods. We are all continuing to working hard on our formation of numbers. We have just begun work on mass and using scales to see if things are heavier, lighter or equal.

In English, we have explored the Three Little Pigs story. We have been using it as a prompt for writing letters to say sorry, character descriptions and even our own stories! We have enjoyed taking on the roles using masks and enjoy retelling the story putting on lots of voices.

In Topic, we have sunk our teeth into our dinosaur topic and have been loving it so far! We have been describing dinosaurs by their distinctive features, exploring non-fiction texts to find facts, making our own salt dough fossils, looking back onto timelines, making clay dinosaur eyes as well as learning about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. The children have engaged well in Science learning all about materials, their properties and have been carrying out their own experiments on bendy and not bendy and waterproof and non-waterproof materials. The children are loving our outdoor learning particularly on Fridays and love being creative in nature exploring activities with ice, mud, birds and even worms!

We are busy preparing for our second performance of the year with our own version of 'There's a Sunflower in my Supper!'. If you need any help or ideas with your child's costume, please ask!

The children and us are very much looking forward to our trip to the Liverpool World Museum after the holidays and cannot wait to see the real dinosaur skeletons and fossils!

Well done for a super productive half term Prep 2! We wish you all a lovely restful half term break!



Prep 3—Miss Westby & Miss Smith

Well done Prep 3 for a great start to the new term. The children came back from their Christmas holidays ready and raring to learn and have been able to get through lots of our new curriculum this half term. In Maths we have secured our knowledge on number, looking at addition and subtraction and place value up to 50 and above. The children have been eager to understand new concepts and use strategies that have been introduced to help them with their calculations. Next half term we will be focussing on measurement within our Maths lessons which is something that we haven't looked at before and should be very exciting. In English, we have completed a unit on 'The Queens Hat'. The children loved looking at this adventure story and threw themselves into their writing, I was amazed by what was produced, we certainly have some excellent little writers. They have finished this unit by writing their own stories called 'Miss Bagnall's Scarf'. As you can probably imagine we all had lots of fun thinking about what might happen and where her scarf may venture to. In Topic, we have explored our new unit 'We are Britain' and have done lots of work regarding British Values and The Four Nations. Next half term we will go on to look at where we can visit within Britain, focussing on Seasides, Mountains, Rivers and Castles. Overall, an excellent start to the Spring term and lots more to look forward to going into the next half term. I hope that you all have a good rest over the holidays ready to go again. Miss Westby and Miss Smith.



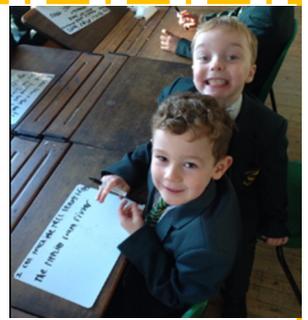
Prep 4—Miss Beekman

What a very productive few weeks Prep 4 have had for our first term of 2023, from learning about a cheeky wolf in Little Red Reading Hood to how times have changed over the years in our topic lessons. This half term has seen many different learning styles from outdoor maths, to creating our own radio podcast from our amazing English work, using new techniques creating pictures for Chinese New Year and learning how to fairly vote for our School Council!

In Maths, we have worked super efficiently this term completing not only a number of studies to gather information in our Statistics Unit to create and understand tables, charts and graphs work! But also looking at different aspects of length and height including measuring, comparing and ordering measurements! Next half term we will be looking at shapes and fractions, which the children have already told me, they are super excited to learn! In English, we have looked at our class book 'Little Red Reading Hood' that is a twist on the classical fairy-tale. The children have used new skills such as similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, complex sentences and dialogue to create their super sentences ready for their final story!

During the next half term, we are looking forward to see how transport, communication and toys and books has changed over the years. This is the next step if our 'Changes Within Living Memory' topic to consolidate the children's learning and understanding surrounding the unit.

We have all had so much fun learning new things and we cannot wait to continue expanding our current knowledge in our favourite topics!



Prep 5&6 —Mrs Moore

Prep 5&6 have been busy discovering the True Tale of the Three Little Pigs. They wrote their own version of the story, and we had some inventive conclusions, including a Granny who executed a jailbreak to save her precious grandson. We have more recently been writing a newspaper report about a poor, stranded unidentified creature. The children were completely immersed in the plight to save the organism from the tonnes of litter it had mistaken for food. They then applied their learning to write a newspaper report about the ruby robbery on the Egyptian express train.

In maths, the children put their times tables to good use as we developed formal methods for multiplication and division. They also improved their multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000 as they converted between units in length, mass and capacity. The children enjoyed using Lego to find shapes with the same perimeter during one of our STEM activities.

During our afternoon sessions, we have been learning to program a turtle to move around the screen and have introduced a new religion to Prep 5&6 as we learnt about the Islamic faith, and Ahad built a Kaaba out of Lego for us to display in class. In science, the children learnt about the different states of matter and created an indoor garden to show the water cycle in action. This linked perfectly with our topic as we have started to learn about how rivers are formed, and the children took part in an expedition up Mount Everest whilst learning about the great explorers such as Sir Edmund Hilary.



Prep 7&8—Mrs Waghorn & Miss Smith

As Valentine's Day approached, we put our mathematician heads on and grew our love for maths by investigating how to find the area and perimeter of a heart. Once we discovered that we could make a heart shape using a circle and a square, we used the formulae for finding the area of a square and the area of a circle to support us in finding the area of a heart, as well as using the circumference of the circle and the visible perimeter of the square (2 sides) to find the perimeter of the heart. To top this off even more, we created formulae for finding the area and perimeter of a heart to support anyone else who may be as interested as we are!

If you are as passionate as we are about our school, you will know we are all split into 3 houses: Brindley, Ellesmere and Bridgwater. Although we were aware of the house names and the colours we associate with them, we were very curious about the history behind these houses, so we decided to do some research on them to find out more. After uncovering so much interesting history behind each of the houses, we used this information and our incredible writing skills to write a detailed report on the history of the houses. Since this, our passion and understanding of our school has only grown!

We were made aware of an alien invasion that is occurring and decided we needed to do our own radio broadcast to support humanity (or what may be left of it!), however we couldn't do this thinking on our toes in a crisis like this. We had to plan what we were going to say to ensure it was uplifting, supportive, informative and sharing a positive message in these challenging times; so we worked together, used our knowledge on script writing and wrote scripts for our radio broadcasts to make us sound like professionals!

In Science this half term, we were shooting for the stars, learning more about Space! We discovered why we have different seasons, the different phases of the moon and why we have day and night. As scientists, we discussed a variety of theories surrounding the Earth, Sun and Moon including the Geocentric, Heliocentric, Flat Earth and Spherical Earth theories, using a variety of evidence to support these theories and come to a conclusion on which we believed to be true. We had a blast learning about the different planets too!

We learnt all about the Tudors in Topic this half term. We explored the life of King Henry VIII and his 6 wives, how he made vast changes in religion just to allow for divorces (and the constant changes that followed) and the monarchs that ruled in the Tudor period. We built on our artistic skills, recreating Tudor portraits of Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Anne of Cleves, as well as learning how to draw the Tudor rose (and the history behind it) and creating a coat of arms! We certainly would not like to dress in the same way as the Tudors did once we discovered how uncomfortable and heavy some of the clothing was!



Extra-Curricular