



CHARLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
Term 1



Friday 23rd October -
Inset day

Tuesday 3rd November -
Term begins

Tuesday 1st December -
Flu Immunisations

Friday 18th December -
End of term

Finish times:
Year 2 – 12.05pm
Year 3 – 12.05pm
Year 4 – 12.05pm
Year 5 – 12.05pm

Foundation – 11.50am
Year 1 – 11.50am
Year 6 – 11.50am



Dear Parents,

It has certainly been a busy few weeks and it is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our first term of this academic year.

It has been wonderful to see the children back and so engaged with their learning after, what has been for some, a very long time out of the classroom. You will have seen, from the letter sent out on October 9th, we are working to improve our remote learning offer should we be required to implement it.

We have all worked hard to adapt to a new way of life in school. Learning and social time look quite different presently, but we have introduced new ways to manage the restrictions that are currently in place. These changes include coming to school in PE kit, which has increased the amount of learning time for this lesson and having some amazing remote assemblies, where we have 'beamed' to the children in classes.

On Wednesday the 9th October the school positively glowed, as children and staff sifted through their wardrobes to find a shade of yellow! This was to promote awareness and raise some funds for Young Minds. The response to this was staggering, and when I last looked, our school community raised an amazing £348. The fundraising page will stay 'live' until the end of the half-term break, if you haven't donated but would still like to.

Miss Evans has made the decision, and I know it has been a difficult one for her, to leave her role here, at Charlton. She has decided that she needs to relocate with her partner and daughter, to be closer to her family. This means that she will continue to work with us up until the end of Term 2. It will be really sad to see Miss Evans go as she has played a role in so many children's lives here; moving year groups and also providing release support for staff across both key stages. Although she is not saying goodbye just yet, we wish her all the very best.

I hope you all have a lovely half-term and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 3rd November.

Mrs Rooke – Head of School

Foundation



We welcomed new children into our Foundation Stage at the beginning of September. It has been wonderful to watch how quickly they have settled in. The children have been busy learning new routines and are now getting to know all about our school values; be happy, be kind, be responsible.

Our theme for the term has been 'Magical Me' and we have enjoyed getting to know all about the children and their families. They have also been learning all about their bodies and how we can keep fit and healthy.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to all our parents, for supporting the children (and us!) during a very different start to the new school year. You have done an amazing job and so have the children!



Year 1



They have really enjoyed looking at Paul Klee's artwork this term. We have been busy creating some of our own pieces, inspired by his techniques. One was a line drawing with lots of different types of lines, and another is a picture created using 2D shapes. Children have also been learning about homes and buildings, they have enjoyed looking at some of the buildings on the school grounds and sharing all about their own homes.

Years 1s have quickly settled back into the swing of things and have enjoyed being back in school with their friends. Thanks to the lovely weather, we have managed to make good use of our outside area and get the creativity flowing.



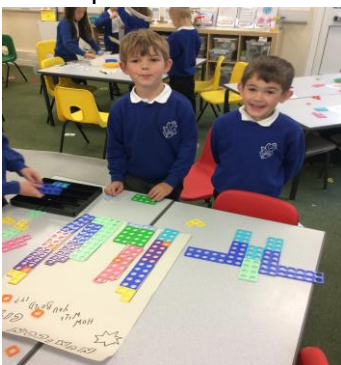
Year 2



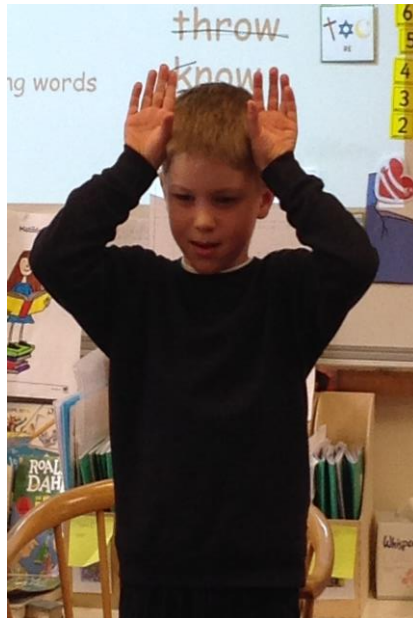
We have had a super start to Year 2. The children have settled in to a new routine and are constantly demonstrating the school values: Be Happy, Be Kind, Be Responsible. These are recognised through our 'recognition board' in the classrooms, as well as the 'Wows' coming in from home. The children are thoroughly enjoying our topic 'Superheroes', where they have explored the qualities of fictional and real heroes and looked closely at the life work of Florence Nightingale.

In English, the children have been super writers, where they have been very busy writing their own version of our class text 'Eliot Midnight Superhero'. They have written an urgent email to the Mayor and used urgent language to persuade Eliot to arrive to the scene of the crime quickly!

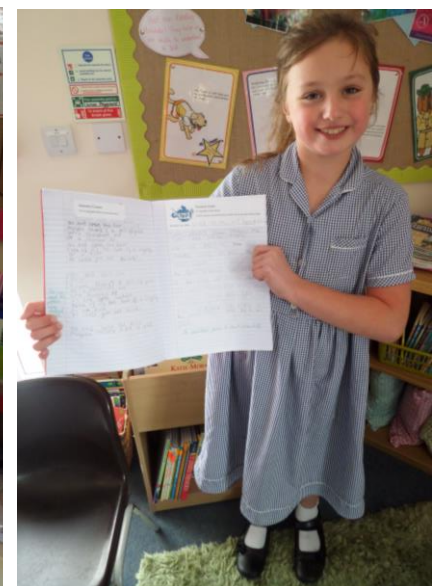
In Science, the children have designed vehicles which require a push, pull or twist force to get it to move – they were very exciting with some good engineering designs. We have also enjoyed a trip down to Forest School where children dipped in the pond, explored habitats around them and enjoyed a good cup of hot chocolate.



Year 3



On Thursday 8th October, as a celebration of 3 week's worth of work on Poetry, Year 3 held their very own Poetry Slam! This involved the children finding a poem to rehearse and then perform in front of their class. We heard a range of poems from limericks and haikus, through to rhyming and free verse. The children did very well reading in front of their peers and some of them knew their poems off by heart and even added their own actions, much to the amazement of Miss Smith and Mrs Gillam. We are very proud of the children and would like to thank parents for helping their children to choose and rehearse their poems at home. Well done!



Year 4



In Year 4, we have been learning about the Ancient Greeks. In art, we have studied Greek pots and recreated some ourselves using clay. We tried both a coil and then a pinch method, below are some examples of the lovely creations made.

In Maple class, we have also been making tree goblins with foliage from the field and creating tree goblin charms from clay, linked to the story 'The Impossibly Possible Bookshop'.

In maths, children have been using Base 10 equipment to help to learn about the value of digits and both classes had a very enjoyable session at Forest School!

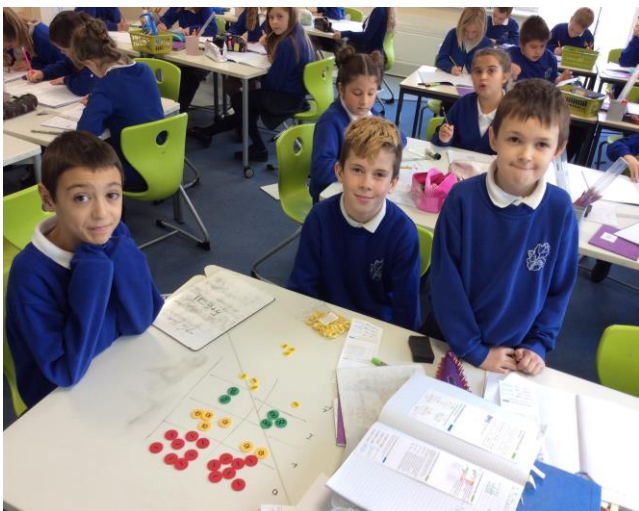


Year 5



This term, Year 5 have enjoyed learning about plants and the role they play in pollination. Children looked at different types of seeds and how they were dispersed. They all worked hard and really enjoyed dissecting their flowers! One activity involved the children carefully separating and naming all of the different parts, they found this fascinating!

In maths we used place value counters to make exchanges shown in the photo below.



Year 6



Each Friday morning this term, a group of Year 6 enthusiasts come together to work in small teams to analyse the race circuit, adjust the engine settings of their individual cars and tweak the speeds through the various track features. The aim is to complete a practice lap with a fast time and so secure a good grid position for the actual race.

This is the first race of the season and is held at Sochi in Russia. The circuit has a good mix of straight sections and bends, and parts of the track have an uneven surface. Our young engineers use plenty of maths skills, calculating percentages, measuring angles, converting units of length and estimating fuel consumption. Hopefully, everyone will be ready to race soon! We will be tackling a range of different circuits over the coming months.

This is the second year Charlton has used the Maths in Motion software. Last year's group thoroughly enjoyed the thrill of racing, with at least one of them determined to become a professional racing driver in the future. Watch out Lewis Hamilton.....

Take a look at the website: www.mathschallenge.org.uk



During one of our recent science lessons we made our own digestive system using a banana, some crackers, orange juice and a pair of old tights... it got pretty gross!

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Before lockdown, Dawson Landscape Services came and helped to transform part of our playing field into a wonderful 'Storytelling Garden'. Sustainable Wantage very kindly crafted a throne style chair and we were donated some brilliant log seats from Logs Unlimited, to enable a whole class to take part in a magical story telling experience.

The local 'Wantage Rocks' group also put their artistic talents to good use and created some fantastic story stones (pictured below), children can use these to spark their imagination or read along with one of their favourite books!

This whole project wouldn't have been possible without vital PTA funding, raised with the support of our amazing school community. We are now going to task the newly elected school council with finding a suitable name for this area and look forward to sharing future updates with you.



Information for parents

Charlton Primary School now has an ELSA!

Under the SEND umbrella, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Amos is currently undertaking training to become an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. The course has been developed by Educational Psychologists and will enable Mrs Amos to plan and deliver sessions that give children emotional support. For more information, please click on the link to find our ELSA page on our website.

<https://charltonprimary.com/emotional-literacy-support-at-charlton/>



[Emotional Literacy Support at Charlton](https://charltonprimary.com/emotional-literacy-support-at-charlton/)

Charlton Primary School now has an ELSA! What is an ELSA? ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. We know that there will always be children and young people in school, facing life challenges that detract from their skills to engage in learning. Some children will need more help from those around them to understand...

charltonprimary.com

School uniform –

We will be continuing to open top windows in classrooms during the winter months to allow adequate ventilation, please ensure pupils come to school with warm layers to ensure they are comfortable. Pupils should still be wearing the correct clothing for PE, a navy or black sweatshirt with tracksuit bottoms and a white t-shirt.

<https://charltonprimary.com/uniform/>

Drop off and collection arrangements–

We would like to remind families that we need to keep numbers on site as reduced as possible, please ensure only one adult per family attends during collection and pick up times. Face coverings can be worn should you feel more comfortable in doing so and enquires should be directed to office@charlton.vale-academy.org or tel: 01235 762861 as much as possible.

STEM Specialist Teacher –

We are pleased to announce that Cat Boaz has been successfully appointed to the new position of STEM Specialist Teacher. A key part of this role is to engage and foster a love for the subject in pupils. The Computing curriculum will strive to have a clear progression of skills, knowledge and content.

Pupil Premium

What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools so that they can support specific groups of pupils who may be at risk of underachievement.

Who is eligible for the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium is allocated to schools for pupils who are known to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) or who have been eligible at any point in the past 6 years. It is also allocated for children who have been looked after by the local authority continuously for more than 6 months as well as children who have been adopted.

A smaller grant is also allocated for children whose parents serve in the armed forces. Nationally, this group of children is not under-achieving compared to their peers but the premium enables schools to provide extra support including pastoral support where required. Children whose parents have left the Services since April 2011 (when the Premium was first introduced) will still be eligible, up to a maximum of six years.

Who is entitled to Free School Meals?

Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, if you are entitled to receive any of the following: If your child is eligible for free school meals, it is worth registering them even if they're not going to have the school lunch. It will have a direct impact on the funding and will maximize the support we can provide.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service) under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit.

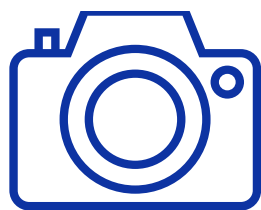
How do I apply?

Contact the school office by emailing: office@charlton.vale-academy.org or tel: 01235 762861 for an application form. The applications can be filled out at any time should your personal circumstances change.

Forest School



With COVID-19 restrictions in place we have started to look for alternative enrichment opportunities. This term, each class enjoyed an additional Forest School session to help support them with their long awaited return to school. Pupils utilised their extra time at Forest School to the max, making every minute count during their engagement with nature in familiar, safe surroundings. Taking time & space to follow their own interests, exploring with friends, and sometimes alone. Taking great pride in showing their teachers, their own special something, which is their best bit when they come to Forest school.



PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



Thank you to everyone who took part in our #HelloYellow day, To date we have raised an impressive £348.00 for YoungMinds! Many fun activities took place throughout the day such as treasure hunts and we talked about the importance of protecting our mental health.

Every Friday morning we hold a remote assembly across the school, our values and pupils achievements are recognised and celebrated. Pupils are back on the hunt for merits with a view to achieving 10,000 for the whole school totaliser!

To help boost reading for pleasure at Charlton, we are planning to revitalise the Charlton Primary Storytelling YouTube channel that we began during lockdown following lots of positive feedback. We will be providing further details on our website soon.