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As November is nearly over and we look forward to the ending of 'lockdown' next week we realise that there are only three weeks left of this term. On one hand, we still have a lot to do and to fit into this small amount of time and, on the other hand, it is a long term and both adults and children are feeling the strain that comes with tiredness and uncertainty. I know many of us miss the wider social interactions and emotional release that comes with being able to visit places, family and friends freely. School is so valuable in giving children that chance to see friends, play and learn.

To help the children, and as part of our PSHE work, we welcomed Laura Miller back in to school to work with our key stage 2 children. This has been an opportunity for the children to reflect on their different feelings and how to manage them.

The staff are doing a tremendous job of making school as 'normal' as possible and to arrange nice and exciting things for the children (such as Commando Joe's, outdoor learning experiences, a range of after school clubs and also fun activities to celebrate Christmas). We are hopeful that life will begin to return to normal as soon as possible in 2021 and we can resume our normal rhythms and practices at some point! In the meantime, thank you to everyone who is supporting and encouraging us and to all the staff who are working so hard.

Rebecca

Eco-Schools News

This week for Eco-Schools we have explored the concept of climate change, using a power-point explaining the burning of fossil fuels which make gases which heat up our world. In collective worship we started to talk about why this might be a bad thing and what we can do to help, such as using renewable energy like wind, sun and water, and turn appliances off when we can. (Topics: Waste and Energy)

We are beginning to explore the concept of poverty and third world countries, making shoeboxes for children who will not get any Christmas presents like us and talking about how some people don't have basic things like water to drink. (Topics: Global Citizenship)

In Eco-Schools club made some orange peel bird feeders using peanut butter and bird seed. We hung them on the trees outside and watched the birds come to have a snack.

We also read an excellent book called 'The Great Realisation' (Tomos Roberts) which explained what the world could look like post-COVID if we are able to continue using our cars less, making less waste and being kind to each other.

Next week we will look at some of the UN's Global Goals for 2030.

Just a reminder that we still have the toy swap box, crisp packet monster, battery recycling box and clothing bank. We also still have a little space in the shoeboxes for some hygiene items e.g. flannels etc.

Thanks,

Miss Easten



This week in nursery

This week in Nursery we have explored animal patterns and matched them to the correct animal. We also read Percy the Park Keeper and talked about some of Percy's animals and where they live. We even watched the animation of Badgers Bath which was very funny! Next we made some lovely orange peel bird feeders using peanut butter and bird seed. We hung them on the trees outside and watched the birds come to have a snack. For our own snack we made some delicious rice pudding which the children loved and we ate it all!

Next week our topic will be Winter Trees.



Spellings

- Year 1:** Plurals—adding 'es' to words
Eg catches, matches, witches, watches, kitchens
- Year 2:** Adding 'es' to nouns and verbs ending in 'y'. The 'y' is changed to 'i' before 'es' is added.
Eg flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries
- Year 3:** Suffix exceptions
If the root word ends with 'le', the 'le' is changed to 'ly'.
Eg gently, simply, humbly, nobly
- Year 4:** the suffix 'ous' rule 4
If there is an 'i' sound before the 'ous', it is usually spelt as 'i' but some words have 'e'
Eg serious, obvious, hideous, spontaneous

Forest school fun

The children looked like they really enjoyed their forest school session this week. Next week's forest school will be class 1 and nursery only (the children should come to school in warm outdoor clothes please).



Christmas dinner

Please note that we will be having our Christmas dinner on Thursday 10th December. This will be on the attached menu sheet for you to fill in for your child.



Advent Windows Trail

Starting on Dec 1st there will be a new Trail around Berwick. It is a real time 'Advent Calendar' and is called the Advent Windows Trail. Each day, until Christmas, a different specially decorated window will 'open' illustrating a Christmas carol or song. Within the decoration will be a link to Berwick, such as a swan, a bridge etc. There will be a competition for children to spot the Berwick link in all the windows, with prizes for the winners.

Several schools are involved in decorating windows, so you may have heard about this already.

Further information about the Trail can be found from the end of November at www.Facebook.com/BerwickAdventwindows and on other Berwick websites.

We hope you enjoy it.

Nativity plans – rehearsals and filming outdoors

The children are practising for our nativity this year. We are going to be filming in stages the various scenes, mostly outdoors and some of them 'on location'. We hope that the finished result will show you how much effort is going into this project by both staff and pupils. The songs are very catchy this year and you might already be hearing some of them at home as the children prepare for their performance.



Topics for the next terms

In January we will be beginning a new theme of 'Fantastic Creatures'. We will follow this up in the second half of the spring term with a look at poetry and tales from around the world. In RE we will be following the Understanding Christianity scheme and learning about the Gospels, and then about Easter.

