



# Brackenbury Curriculum News

## Core Subjects – Spring Term

### Reading

We have been busy becoming bookworms this term! Spring term really has been full of fantastic reading opportunities for the children to get involved in and become inspired by. For example, children in EYFS have been busy 'growing' their love of reading, using the books 'You'll soon grow into them Titch', 'Funny Bones' and 'Jasper's Beanstalk' to inspire their writing. In March, we celebrated World Book Day with a kaleidoscope of exciting activities! KS2 children took part in a Shakespeare workshop; each class acted out a scene from Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', and at the end of the day recreated the entire play by performing them to each other. The children loved the opportunity to read and speak Shakespeare's words, and the performances showed just how much the children had learnt, not just about the play itself, but about their acting skills as well! On Thursday 7th March, Brackenbury celebrated World Book Day itself, one of our favourite days of the year! It was wonderful to see the vast array of book characters that walked down our famous World Book Day catwalk! The teachers were all challenged to complete the reading relay – quickly racing between classes to read a different story to each class! We hope that everyone enjoyed celebrating reading, and continue to be inspired by their favourite books and authors. Also, well done to the winners of the book fair poster competition; we were so impressed with your artistic talents and they really helped to make the book fair a success! We ran our first parent workshop in Spring term, focusing on supporting reading at home. Thank you to those parents who attended; we hope that it was helpful and has made an impact on reading with your children. Resources from this workshop can be found on the school website.

### Writing

The children at Brackenbury have had another amazing term with their writing! The 'Writer of the Week' is now fully embedded, and children across all key stages really look forward to seeing who will get the certificate each week. The winning piece is even read out in Celebration Assembly to inspire everyone with ideas to use in their own writing. The children are all challenging themselves to use new vocabulary and varied sentence structures and the result has led to some really thoughtful and detailed work. I am looking forward to seeing the writing that is produced in our final term.

I have also been very impressed by some of our youngest writers. The reception classes have been using their writing across a variety of topics, including writing recipes for delicious fruit salads, and writing up their experiments as part of Science week. It has been fantastic to see these children so enthusiastic about their writing as they become more confident.

Writing about a variety of topics has been seen across the rest of the school, where the children are now using their writing skills in a range of lessons. Year 2 wrote some fantastic diary entries in role as Neil Armstrong as part of their History topic 'The Man and the Moon' and Year 6 wrote some excellent stories about the founding of Buddhism in RE.

The Spring term also saw the beginning of an after school writers club 'All Write Now', where the children have been creating a collaborative adventure story loosely based on Hansel and Gretel. Mrs McGovern has been very impressed with how creative the children have been in describing the defeated sea witch.

Looking ahead to next term, there will be a writing workshop for parents, where you can find out how writing is taught at Brackenbury and find out ways to support your child with their writing at home. This will take place **on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 9am and 6pm**. In school, we will be focusing on handwriting and enabling some children to achieve their first pen licenses! I am sure that it will be another very exciting term!

## Maths

We have had another successful term of maths and are delighted with the curiosity and enthusiasm that the children at Brackenbury show when it comes to their learning in this subject. There has been a variety of topics taught in the Spring term, including fractions, shape, measures and money and the children have been able to use their knowledge of calculation from the first term and apply it to these different areas of maths. It has been fantastic to see that children in KS1 and KS2 have really embraced the A.P.E model of problem solving (Answer, Prove, Explain), and have been able to apply this when justifying their reasoning in a range of mathematical questions and problems.

In Year 1 this term, children spent some time learning about measuring height and length. They were able to continue using concrete resources to support them, such as rulers and meter sticks and did some fantastic practical lessons, such as measuring the heights of the children in the class, and even putting them in order from the tallest to the shortest. It was great to see the children embrace their learning in such a practical way. The theme of practical learning in maths has threaded throughout the school, from Nursery all the way up to Year 6. During their fractions topic, children in Year 4 raced in groups to place fractions into the correct order from largest to smallest, a task that was made more challenging as some fractions even had different denominators! All of the children worked amazingly well in teams, and were able to demonstrate their knowledge of comparing fractions in the process. Alongside this, some of the youngest children in our school have also demonstrated some superb maths learning, focusing on calculation. Children in Reception wrote their own addition stories based on the book 'How many legs?' and some children even challenged themselves to complete word problems using a number line.

We are continuing to work on learning multiplication tables in KS1 and KS2, and we have been delighted with the effort and hard work that the children are continuing to put in, especially through their use of the multiplication quiz on Mathletics. This has been reflected in our weekly 'Maths Star' award, where teachers have been able to select from a huge choice of children who have made improvements to their multiplication tables recall. We look forward to seeing this continue through to the summer term.

## Science

We have all been extremely busy with our Science learning at Brackenbury this term and have lots of news to share with you. In February, the whole of the school embarked on an incredibly fun and busy Science Week. The theme was "Working Scientifically" so the children donned their (metaphorical) lab coats and spent the week observing, predicting, and performing fair tests across a range of different topics. Year 5 conducted an experiment on shadows and created solar system mobiles whilst also linking their learning to English by writing newspaper articles about landing on the moon. Even our smallest budding scientists got involved, with Nursery using 'Weather' as their theme. They made rain gauges, used ribbon to investigate how fast wind blows inside and out and kept a weather diary for that week (we think they may have predicted snow!). The whole school was lucky enough to be visited by a real life scientist, Professor Bubbleworks. He put on an energetic assembly for Early Years, KS1 and Year 3 investigating forces, using lots of different equipment including a hairdryer! He then ran workshops with the rest of KS2 which involved many different kinds of experiments, including one using a bottle of coke and alka seltzer- this particular experiment certainly caused a great deal of excitement! The children had a fantastic week and it was so positive to hear some of the conversations that the week provided. As we look towards the summer term, we can all enjoy the weather getting a bit warmer and the days getting longer. As we leave winter behind us, you will have noticed that the trees and flowers have started to blossom and bloom. Year 1 and 2 have already taken advantage of this change in seasons by visiting the Glasshouses in Ravenscourt Park. We look forward to more classes taking advantage of this natural habitat so close to school and taking a trip around our local environment next term.