



Newsletter No. 4

Pride in ourselves, pride in our school, pride in our community.

Friday 30th September 2022



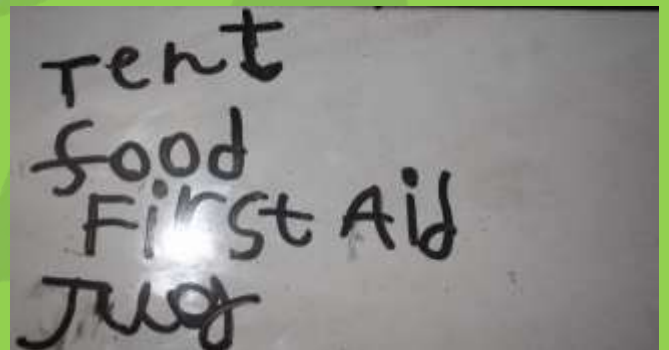
Well done Tristan

Tristan in Sycamore shared his remarkable map of Arlesey which he had drawn from memory. We always love to hear about pupils' achievements outside school.



Stranded on a desert island

In science this week, Year 2 were learning about what humans and animals need to survive. Unfortunately, Willow class became stranded on a desert island and Mrs Wells and Ms Tring didn't bring many supplies! The children had to choose which items were essential for survival. We then made posters to send to sea for anyone else finding themselves stranded!



Half term dates

Gothic Mede has different half term dates for the next half term. Our dates are Monday to Monday, returning on Tuesday 1st November but other CBC schools are Friday to Friday.

European Day of Languages

Gothic Mede went global this week as we threw ourselves into European Day of Languages with excitement and enthusiasm. Members of our school community came into classes to give the children a taste (literally in some cases!) of different languages and cultures. Our visitors taught us words and rhymes in a range of languages from Spanish to Gujarati, French to Philipino and Romanian to Turkish. It was lovely to see children reading greetings in different languages around the school and our beautiful flags from around the world made us all feel part of a global community. Here's what some of our children had to say:

Dexter, "We learnt words from different languages. This is good because when you go to a different place you can learn languages and talk to different people"

Siyana, "We got to try chocolate wafers from the Philippines. It was really interesting because you get to know about other people and about their countries."

Henry, "I really enjoyed the special visitors who came. Some of them gave us some yummy food. Now if we go to those countries we know what food we can eat. We had madeleines. I really want to learn French. I'm already quite good at it"



PHSE in Year 4

In PSHE this week, we have been considering the boundaries and expectations of friendships. We started considering how each person requires different amounts of personal space and then moved on to consider what rules of friendship we could put in place to help everyone get along. Year 4 were fantastic at generating ideas and having discussions in groups. Here is a list of rules that both classes help to create.

Year four friendship rules:

- Respect each other's personal space.
- Respect your differences.
- Respect each other's privacy.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Communicate calmly and clearly.
- Celebrate each other's differences.
- Support your friend if they are having a bad day.
- Listen to your friend's ideas and respect them even if they are different from yours.
- Include them in your game.
- Use kind hands with each other.



Secondary colours

Year 1 practised their colour mixing skills. They used primary colours to make secondary colours. They then used the colours they made to paint greetings in different languages.





Forest School has arrived

We are so lucky to now be using our Forest School. All our reception children have lessons outside on a Thursday. The sheer excitement is magical! Mrs Anderson is leading the sessions and has ensured that the Forest School is ready for use. Her passion for Forest School learning has been incredible and we thank you Mrs Anderson! Forest School provides a specialised learning approach that offers children regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

Why is it beneficial for children to attend Forest School?

- It develops self-regulation skills
- Children build resilience and learn from failure
- Children gain a sense of achievement
- It increases motivation and concentration
- It improves problem solving

We look forward to sharing more Forest School updates with you in the coming weeks.



A Forest School interview

This week I interviewed five children from Reception about their Forest School experience so far.

Thank you to Vincent, Maverick, Alice, Harriet and Jake.



Can you all tell me about your favourite things at Forest School?

Maverick – I love the mud pit and the mud kitchen. I like making muddy pasta.

Alice – I tried to find spiders and I found an enormous one! I also found some baby grasshoppers too and caught one!

Vincent – I found 2 spiders. I then found a worm when I was digging.

Harriet – I dressed up as a bumble bee. I was buzzing around. My friends were other bees. We stung people just like bees sting.

Jake – Mrs Anderson teaches us to make things. I made a paintbrush out of a feather and a stick.

Maverick – We have to say hello to Cyril the Squirrel.

Harriet – Yes we do! We also make tents and dens.

What are the tents for?

Harriet – For when it's raining so we can hide from the rain.

Maverick – We have to go to base camp for snack.

What is base camp?

Jake – Where we get orange squash and biscuits.

Is there anything else you can tell me about Forest School?

Vincent – Yes, we get muddy and wet!

So do you have to wear special clothes?

Jake – Old ones.

Forest School sounds like so much fun.

Alice – It is so much fun. I love Forest School!

Vincent – We have a Forest School song.

Do you, could you sing it for me?

All five children beautifully sang 'We are on our way to Forest School'!

Golden Book

Children are nominated by Teaching Assistants and Teachers for a Principal's award which is entered in the Golden Book. The award can be for living one of our Values or special achievement. Sporting awards/achievements gained through a regular commitment to a club or group are also celebrated.

Ash	Bea	for embracing Forest School with such enthusiasm and enjoyment; showing determination when climbing and swinging from trees.
Oak	Layla	for her hard work and determination during phonics lessons. She tries so hard to use her robot arms and blending hands and is remembering lots of our new sounds.
Elm	Tara	for her beautiful handwriting and good use of finger spaces, full stops and capital letters in her writing.
Beech	Leo	for working really hard at using spaces between words in his writing about animals.
Maple	Patrick	for showing perseverance when completing an art activity, despite finding it challenging to begin with.
Willow	Daniel	for his enthusiasm and mature attitude towards his learning in geography.
Sycamore	Sienna	for her excellent attitude in class: always taking responsibility for her own learning.
Chestnut	Ava-Rose	for putting her hand up to contribute so much to class discussions and working hard in all of her lessons.
Hazel	Elodie	for her critical analysis of the features of non-fiction texts, or lack thereof, and the effect that it has on the reader.
Birch	Gillies	for the compassion he shows to other members of Birch Class when they are having a bad day.



Other items to mention:

Amber	Chestnut	Honours in Disco Freestyle Distinction in Theatrical Tap Distinction in Theatrical Ballet	Street Dance stars: Amber Freddie Elodie Salma	Chestnut Birch Hazel Birch
Amber	Chestnut	Distinction in Theatrical Ballet	Premier Multisports	
Mia	Chestnut	Excellent attendance - Lil Dragons	James Cairo Bobby Isabella	Chestnut Beech Elm Willow
Ivy	Hazel	Swimming Level 4	Football	
Isabella	Willow	Star of the week - Judo	Gymnastics	
			Sarah's Dance	Eadon Salma Birch Birch