



## NEWSLETTER

### Our Value for February is Creativity

The following pupils have received Merit Badges:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Class 1</b> | <b>Leonard</b> - For inspirational ideas in Literacy. Well done.                                 |
| <b>Class 2</b> | <b>Ioana</b> - For amazing enthusiasm in everything she does.                                    |
| <b>Class 3</b> | <b>Flynn</b> - You have shown an amazing attitude towards story writing and fractions this week! |
| <b>Class 4</b> | <b>Emilie</b> - For her detailed, accurate, informative write-up of her Science investigation.   |

#### Governor Audit Mrs Pippa Patterson, Foundation Director - 16 January 2017

On Monday 16 January 2017 I joined Year 5 for 2 hours in the Forest School.

Nine children, suitably dressed in outdoor clothes and wellington boots assembled in the playground, supervised by Mrs Jane Watkins and Mrs Ruth Craske. Jane's plan for the afternoon was to link the children's class topic of fairgrounds to an activity in the Forest School. She chose Hoopla. Having cut some willow branches in the playground, the children set off through the orchard with the willow, hazel poles and various tools. Once in the Forest School, each child "teased" the willow into hoops and used a bow saw to cut three hazel stakes. They then sharpened one end of the stakes with a pen-knife. Some children decorated the hoops and stakes with coloured wool. In pairs they then selected a spot in the wood to lay out their hoopla game, banging the stakes into the ground with a rubber mallet and then enjoyed playing the game of throwing the hoops over the stakes. Some children quickly invented a scoring system.

In addition to the practical application of the fairground topic, there were a number of other benefits to the

Forest School session that I observed:

- The children relished the time outdoors and away from the classroom.
- They learnt how to use tools safely, quickly taking on board the safety guidance from the teacher. It was clear that some of the group had never experienced using a saw, secateurs, or a pen-knife before.
- Sawing the hazel poles was quite physically demanding for some. However, everybody persevered and achieved satisfaction at completing the task.
- It was interesting to see the social interaction between the children as they worked. Jane discreetly pointed out to me children chatting to one another, who would not necessarily do so in the classroom or playground.
- The children practised teamwork. One holding while the other sawed for instance.

It is clear to me that the Forest "Classroom" is a valuable asset to the school, which is appreciated and enjoyed by the pupils and teachers. It is a great deal more than a "nature reserve", providing opportunities to carry on studying various subjects and being creative in an outdoor environment. I think it is important that prospective parents and children should be shown the Forest School scrapbook and have the overall concept explained. It is a real selling point for the school. I suspect that for some children it represents their first exposure to woodland and the fun they can have there.

## Together Everyone Achieves More

## Meningitis Awareness

**We have been made aware of a suspected case of meningitis in a child in Herefordshire. So can we just remind you of what meningitis is and the possible symptoms.**

Meningitis is an infection of the protective membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord (meninges). It can affect anyone, but is most common in babies, young children, teenagers and young adults. Meningitis can be very serious if not treated quickly.

- Symptoms of meningitis
- Symptoms of meningitis develop suddenly and can include:
  - a high temperature (fever) over 37.5C (99.5F)
  - being sick
  - a headache
  - a blotchy rash that doesn't fade when a glass is rolled over it (this won't always develop)
  - a stiff neck
  - a dislike of bright lights
  - drowsiness or unresponsiveness
  - seizures (fits)
- These symptoms can appear in any order and some may not appear.

For more information please visit <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Meningitis/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

## Class 4 Happy Haiku

These are some of the things that make us happy.

### PILLOW

I comfort small heads  
I capture magical dreams  
Memories remain  
By Sorrel

### FOOTBALL

Crowds cheer wildly  
At the incredible players  
Raising the trophy  
By Ollie

### A MOUTH-WATERING DELIGHT

Jaffa Cakes melting  
Chocolate running through me  
My dreams have come true.  
By Jessie B

### Diary Dates

Monday 13 February  
Monday 20 February

Wednesday 8 March  
Friday 10 March  
Wednesday 15 March  
Friday 17 March  
Tuesday 21 March  
Friday 24 March  
Friday 31 March  
Wednesday 5 April  
Monday 24 April  
Monday 1 May  
Wednesday 10 May  
Monday 22 May  
Friday 26 May  
Monday 29 May

Half Term  
Back to School  
Years 3 & 4 Forest School  
Year 5 Residential Trip to London  
Year 5 Return From Residential Trip to London  
HMFA Gymnastics  
PTA - Games Night  
Moving Targets  
Red Nose Day  
HMFA Rugby at Marden Academy  
Parents Evening  
Summer Term Commences  
Bank Holiday Monday  
Year 5 & 6 Road Safety Talk  
Oakerwood Year 6 Residential Trip  
Year 6 return From Oakerwood  
Half Term



**Together Everyone Achieves More**