



SOUTHMINSTER
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Southminster C of E Primary School's Newsletter Friday 26th January 2024

Bible Quote of the Week

Isaiah 54:13 And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and and great shall be the peace of thy children.



We have been preparing ourselves this week for the Big Garden Birdwatch, looking out at the variety of birds in our environment and thinking about how we can attract more. We are lucky, of course, to have our large outdoor learning area and a big field with trees around and about. We hope that lots of you are able to join in this weekend at home with your children and that this gives you at least an hour's peace and quiet enjoying nature.

[Big Garden Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](http://rspb.org.uk)

EYFS

This week, we have been exploring what birds eat. This is linked to the Big School Bird Watch that is happening around the country. We read several books about different birds, including robins, blackbirds and sparrows. We then mixed and made our own bird feeders using old yoghurt pots, lard, bird seed and mealworms. We have also been discussing the story 'Zog and the flying doctors'. This story linked beautifully with our topic 'How do people help us?' Our science experiment involved looking at what would happen when a coin was left in Coke. Although, lots of the children thought it would explode, we found out that it made the coin shiny. This will be our hook for looking at teeth and dentists next week.

KS1

This week, the children in KS1 have been finishing and editing their own versions of Jack and the beanstalk.

In Science, we looked at baby pictures, discussing how much we have changed and grown. Thank you to all the children for sharing your lovely pictures!

In Art, we have been exploring the work of artists Andre Derain and Nicole Dyer, expressing our opinions and thoughts about their work. We drew a still life picture before having learnt different techniques, then we learnt some drawing techniques, making lines of different thicknesses, using lines to create texture and pattern and using tone to add shading. We are going to use the techniques learnt to do another still life drawing and compare our creations.



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LKS2

In LKS2 we have been continuing our exploration into life in Anglo-Saxon times. We have researched the culture and lifestyle of people at the time, looking at how their village settlements developed, the move to Christianity, the food they ate, how they made and dyed their clothes and the jobs people had. Children in Anglo-Saxon times had to work hard and even look out for wolves hunting sheep and goats! We have looked at artefacts that still survive today such as the Bayeux tapestry and the treasures found at Sutton Hoo. We have started planning our non-chronological report to put this knowledge into our own words. We have also been reading the opening chapter of Tony Bradman's 'Anglo-Saxon Boy' which gives us another glimpse into life in Britain over 1000 years ago. Here we are making bread using a recipe from Anglo Saxon times and playing a traditional game called tafl.



In Rosa Parks class, the children have also been putting food out for their bird friends. They have counted 7 species so far - black headed gulls, blue tits, magpies, crows, rooks, chaffinches and a solitary pied wagtail! They come to visit after the children come in from break and lunch and they have put out bird seed to encourage their feathered friends.

UKS2

Our Upper Key Stage 2 students are on a thrilling adventure into the world of narratives, inspired by the classic 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth.' Crafting imaginative adventure stories, these young writers have unleashed their creativity, mirroring the excitement of literary exploration.

In Mathematics, the focus turns to fractions, with our budding mathematicians mastering conversions between mixed numbers and improper fractions. Meanwhile, in Geography, students have compared and described two diverse locations, uncovering the profound impact of plate boundaries and geothermal activity on physical features. From thrilling narratives to mathematical mastery and geographical discoveries, UKS2 is embracing a holistic learning experience!



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Attendance News

Many of you will have met Mrs. Clare Saunders who now works in our school office on Thursdays and Fridays, and we also welcome her as our new Attendance Officer. To view our updated Attendance Policy, please visit our website:

[Attendance policy \(southminsterschool.co.uk\)](https://southminsterschool.co.uk)

Attendance at 90% or below is defined as **persistent absence** by the Government's Department of Education and can affect a child's academic progress and achievement. The Government expects schools to take action to tackle and deal with absence as much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving them at a considerable disadvantage. There is clear evidence of a link between low attendance at school and low achievement. Lateness also contributes to poor attendance percentages. **Please ensure that your child is at school on time and does not miss school unnecessarily.**

From now on, we will be highlighting the class with the best attendance each week here on our Newsletter as our Attendance Heroes.

Safeguarding

There is no such thing as a perfect parent. One day all's calm, the next it's chaos. However it's going, the NSPCC is available with advice and support for parents and carers on the link below:

[Support for parents | NSPCC](#)

Diary Dates:

Friday 16th February: Inset Day

Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February: Half Term

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day

Friday 15th March: Red Nose Day

Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April: Easter Holiday

Monday 15th April: Inset Day

Monday 13th May: Year 6 SATs Week

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May: Half Term

Monday 3rd June: Year 4 Multiplication Check Week

Thursday 13th June: Dengie Sports Training

Monday 10th June: Phonics Screen Week

Wednesday 26th June - Saturday 29th June: Year 6 residential trip

Wednesday 3rd July: Dengie Sports

Tuesday 23rd July: Summer Holidays begin.

Reading

We are continuing to promote the importance of reading and to engage the children in reading for pleasure and we welcome your support with this at home. **Please ensure that your child has his/her Reading Record and reading book at school each day.**

Kind regards,

Mrs. Woods and all the staff at Southminster C of E Primary School