



16th October 2020
Newsletter

Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Dear all,

We can't quite believe how quickly this first half term has gone. As a whole school community, we have pulled together to ensure a safe and happy transition for all our children. We would like to take the time to thank you, as parents, and all our staff for the support and feedback during this strange start to the academic year. Nothing could prepare us for a pandemic, but together we have shown compassion, determination and optimism, all of which has helped us on our journey to excellence.

We know you would agree that our children have made us very proud; showing courage and resilience throughout. Their smiles have made this time easier and have been constant reminders of why we do what we do.

This term has seen many changes, including classes who have had to isolate. But we have also had many highlights – from learning to dance and exploring instruments, through to art projects and exploring new books. We have also welcomed Mrs Worthington to our Senior Leadership Team as our new Assistant Headteacher. She has joined us from the Trust and brings with her a wealth of experience in improving teaching and learning standards.

We hope you and your families have a safe and peaceful half-term holiday and we look forward to hearing about all your adventures on your return.



Mrs Westwood – Principal



Mrs Kaur – Interim Headteacher



Miss Prior – Interim Deputy Headteacher



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Dates for the Diary & Notices

Optimism 2 PE Day change:

Please note that Optimism 2's PE day has changed to a Friday.

Parent Consultations:

Thank you for your patience and understanding with the changes to parent' consultations this term. We hope the opportunity to speak with your child's class teacher gave you an insight into how your child has settled back into school and what their next steps are. Thank you for all your wonderful feedback, our teachers definitely appreciated your kind words!

ACADEMIC YEAR – 2020/2021

| | First day of term | Last day of term |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Autumn Term 1 | Tuesday 1 st September 2020 | Friday 16 th October 2020 |
| Autumn Term 2 | Monday 2 November 2020 | Friday 18 December 2020 |
| Spring Term 1 | Tuesday 5 January 2021 | Friday 12 February 2021 |
| Spring Term 2 | Monday 22 February 2021 | Thursday 1 April 2021 |
| Summer Term 1 | Monday 19 April 2021 | Friday 28 May 2021 |
| Summer Term 2 | Monday 7 June 2021 | Friday 23 rd July 2021 |

Please note mid-term CPD day Friday 27th November for staff; the school will be closed to pupils.

| Date | Event |
|----------------------|--|
| 9.11.20 to 13.11.20 | Maths Week England |
| 13.11.20 | Nasal Flu Vaccination |
| 16.11.20 to 20.11.20 | Road Safety Week |
| 27.11.20 | Teacher Training Day – children not in school |
| 30.11.20 to 4.12.20 | Children invited to bring in donated items for the Homeless Appeal this week |

Parent Events:

Unfortunately, we will not be holding in-school parent events this term due to Covid-19 restrictions. This means class assemblies and parent workshops will not be taking place in school. However, we are looking at alternate, online options that will help us to work collaboratively with you all.

Educational Visits:

As it currently stands, we will not be taking the children on educational visits during the autumn term. However, we will be utilising the local area where it is safe to do so. Unfortunately, our annual theatre visits have been cancelled by the companies as they cannot accommodate the large number of pupils from across different schools. Residential trips will not take place this year due to government guidelines.

As a school, we will continue to review our policies and procedures in line with government guidelines and will continue to update you regarding any changes made to the above.

Parent Voice

As parents, your feedback and voice matters to the development and running of our school. During this difficult start to the year, we valued your input to ensure all changes were supportive of you and your family.

This is an overview of some changes we've made due to your feedback...

| What you said... | What we did... |
|--|--|
| You would like siblings to be collected from one place. | We ensured this was planned for our return to school. It's taken a few weeks to embed but it seems to be running very smoothly now. |
| Your child wasn't enjoying the single lunch option. | We created a booking system which allows you to choose their options up to 6 weeks in advance. This process seems to be working very well. |
| You were struggling to make work commitments without Breakfast Club and After School Care. | We now have complete wraparound care in place for all year groups. It's been a huge success, thank you. |

We will continue to engage with you as families on a regular basis and thank you for your feedback and support thus far.

Black History Month

October marks Black History Month. This event reflects on the achievements, cultures and contributions of black people across the world, as well as educating others.

As a longer lasting commitment to celebrating diversity within the Trust, we will be linking aspects of our curriculum content to black history throughout the academic year, not just in October. It is important to share with children that we do not speak about Black History just in October, but as part of our world's history.

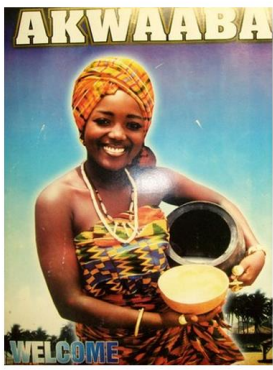
Parents – for more information about Black History Month, please visit here:

- <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

Children – for more information about Black History Month, please visit the following websites:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49883230>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/black-history-month>
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/black-history-month/>

Look over page at a snapshot of a wonderful PowerPoint on Ghana put together by one of our families...



WORD OF THE DAY

“ETE SEN”

How are you?

What it is: A greeting.

Language: Twi.

Country: Ghana.

Medaase- Thank you

Thank you to Mayati and Tafari who put together a lovely PowerPoint and resources on Ghana for our school. This is just a snap shot of what they did ...

These resources will be shared with all families to use over half-term.

Where is Ghana?

Ghana is located in **west Africa**.



The capital of Ghana is **Accra**

The population of Ghana is 29.77 million.

Ghana is said to be one of the safest places in Africa



The flag of Ghana

RED represents the blood of those who died in the country's struggle for independence



GREEN symbolises the country's rich forest.

The flag was created to replace the flag of the United Kingdom, upon attainment of independence in 1957.

GOLD represents the mineral wealth of the country.

THE BLACK STAR stands for the lodestar of African freedom.

We would love to see if you completed the activities. Remember to upload anything to your class Dojo portfolio!

Adinkra Symbols

The Adinkra symbols are believed to have originated from the area of the Ivory Coast. They express various themes which relate to **history, beliefs and philosophy**. Some symbols depict (represent), **human behaviour and attitudes, animal behaviour, plant life forms and shapes of objects**.

The Adinkra symbols are widely used by the Asante people, so that they can be reminded of their **values, virtues** and the **peaceful ways of their ancestors**. In Ghana today, many of these symbols are present on **clothes, drawn on houses or buildings** and used for **jewellery**.



NSOROMMA
Child of the heavens
Reminder that God looks over all people



ANANSE NTONTAN
"Spider's web"
Symbol of wisdom, creativity and the complexities of life
Ananse, the spider, is a well-known character in African folktales.



DENKYEM
"Crocodile"
Symbol of adaptability
The crocodile lives in the water, yet breathes the air, demonstrating an ability to adapt to circumstances



AYA
"Fern"
Symbol of endurance and resourcefulness
The fern is a hardy plant that can grow in



GYE NYAME
"Except for God"
Symbol of the supremacy of God
This unique and beautiful symbol is ubiquitous in Ghana. It is by far the most popular for use in decoration, a reflection on the deeply religious character of the Ghanaian people.

Covid-19

School Update

As per previous communication in September, two bubbles were closed due to positive tests in Reception and Optimism 2.

Before opening the school, we had to undertake a number of risk assessments to ensure that our pupils would be kept as safe as possible. Our pupils have been reminded about how we are trying to keep them safe and happy.

What are Covid Symptoms?

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the symptoms above we encourage parents to get their child tested for COVID-19. (You can request a test by visiting: <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or contact NHS 119 via telephone).

Thank You

Thank you for supporting our school through this challenging time.

Thank you for keeping yourselves, our children and our staff safe.

Thank you for demonstrating Nishkam virtues throughout.

Tolerance: We don't know when a 'bubble' will be sent home, or whether a child or member of staff needs to isolate, and this of course tests how tolerant we are.

Cleanliness: We continue to clean our hands to keep ourselves and others safe, and we ask God to clean our hearts.

Peacefulness: We commend our children for the peace they show during this troublesome time. We pray to God for this peace in our own lives.

Gratitude: We look upon our school community and are thankful for the Nishkam family we have.

KS1 Virtue - Cleanliness

Take the time to reflect on what cleanliness means to you...

*'Listening and believing with love and humility in your mind,
cleanse yourself with His [God's] Name,
in the sacred shrine deep within.'*

GURU NANAK DEV, SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB, PAGE 4

Cleanliness begins with the
purity of your own mind,
thoughts and heart.

Cleanliness is a state of
purity, clarity, and precision.

Suze Orman

I ask God to help me clean up my mistakes



What our Nishkam Passport says...

Cleanliness begins by washing often, keeping your body clean and eating pure foods. However cleanliness of the mind is the next and higher goal. A clean mind means that you can concentrate your thoughts on things that are good for you. You rid yourself of habits that do not serve your dignity. You speak in ways that honour others and yourself. You can 'clean up your act' by deciding to change when you have done something you aren't proud of or when you have made a mistake. When you begin to forgive, you reach a higher cleanliness, as your heart becomes pure.

Lockdown Letters

When the children started the new academic year, they were inundated with changes, however showed great optimism and resilience.

The last academic year was beset with unprecedented change. Our children had so much to contend with. Giving them an opportunity to reflect and record their feelings in a letter to themselves proved fruitful and insightful. They became aware of how they shared similar feelings and experiences.

They relished the opportunity to capture this important time in their young lives. These letters have been kept safe in a specially designed treasure chest and will be returned to the children to read at the end of this academic year. This keepsake will remind them of the changes they have faced and the virtues they have demonstrated throughout that period.

“When our teachers asked us to reflect on the last six months, I realised how much Covid 19 had affected us. We appreciated the chance to record our feelings.” (Year 5 pupil)

“I could not wait for Mrs Westwood to come and collect my letter. She kept it nice and safe in the special treasure box.”
(Year 2 pupil)



“It was only when I started writing my letter that I realised how much I had missed my family and friends during the lockdown period. I hope it never happens again.”
(Year 6 pupil)

“I look forward to opening my lockdown letter in July. I am optimistic that the virus will have gone by then!”
(Year 3 pupil)



Light of Hope Art Project

Light of Hope is an Art project run by Lichfield Cathedral and their artist in residence, Peter Walker. Over 120 schools are taking part in this project that marks the Christian celebration of All Saints Day. At this time, Christians remember people whose lives have shone brightly with love.

To mark this event all children created their own light holder and decorated them with patterns, words and images linked to this theme. Children discussed the virtues that could be shown through this activity and within the celebration.

At this time, the theme of hope and light coming from darkness is poignant. We must all remember the importance of optimism and determination to get past obstacles. The children enjoyed this opportunity to get creative, learn about an interesting religious celebration and think about those that shine brightly in their lives.





Well done to all of Reception for finishing their first half term at school! We are so proud of how well the children have adapted and settled to such an unusual start to the school year. We have all made new friends and enjoyed exploring the different areas of our classroom. Over the last two weeks we have been busy learning about our bodies and how to keep ourselves healthy.

Please encourage your child to practice their phonics and numbers within 5 during the school break. Children should also be reading every day. This can be their school reading book or other books they have at home.



Service

English

In English we have been learning how to write instructions. We have enjoyed making a delicious Gruffalo crumble and then writing instructions using time connectives. We have also been looking at word types. We have learnt about nouns and adjectives. We have used our adjectives to describe characters and settings.



Maths

In Maths we have been learning about ordinal numbers and addition. We also learned to find addition fact families and use the Part-Part Whole Model to add numbers. We have worked with practical resources, made mathematical pictures and used number sentences.



History

In History we have been learning about the Mesozoic era when dinosaurs lived. We made our own timelines and talked about how the world has changed over time. We also discussed the different theories for dinosaur extinction and how sometimes in History we don't have all the answers.



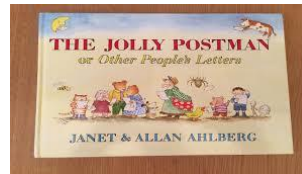
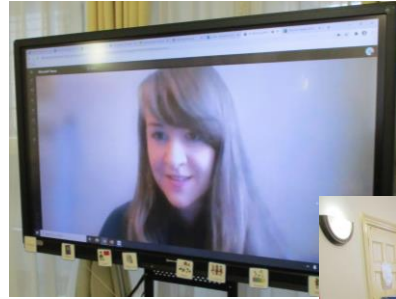
Computing

In Computing we have learned how to keep ourselves safe online! Don't forget to stay safe online during the holidays. Remember to always ask a parent before using a device and tell a grown up you trust if you see something online you don't like.

Humility



For English we had tremendous fun writing a letter. The purpose of our letter was to invite Miss Prior to our tea party. We learnt all about the layout of an informal letter. We had lots of fun convincing and persuading Miss Prior to come to our tea party. We also practiced how to use question marks correctly, how to open and end a letter and how to describe our tea party.



In Science we had so much fun investigating the best material for The Jolly Postman's rain hat. We investigated lots of different materials and decided what the most important properties would be.

Compassion

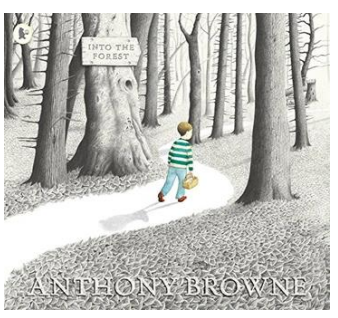
In English, we have been looking at diary writing and exploring the related features. We imagined being the boy in our story, 'Into the Forest' and ensured we presented our diary entries using cursive handwriting.

In Science we have been learning about rocks and soils. We carried out a number of experiments and ensured our tests were fair.

During our PHSE lessons the children learnt about the importance of gratitude and peacefulness.

In Mathematics, the children have become increasingly confident with addition and subtraction for 3-digit numbers.

Music was a blast this half term! Being able to create a composition related to a piece of a cartoon clip was challenging and fun.



Peace of Mind



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| $\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 65 \\ + 72 \\ \hline 137 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 296 \\ + 46 \\ \hline 342 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 276 \\ + 459 \\ \hline 735 \end{array}$ |
|--|--|---|



| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| $61728 - 400 = 328 \checkmark$ | $11928 - 100 = 828 \checkmark$ | $599 + 200 = 799 \checkmark$ |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|

Dear Diary...



Forgiveness



In science, we conducted an investigation to find out more about melting points. We learned about conductors and measured temperature using a thermometer. Our favourite part was when we melted the chocolate!

This week we really enjoyed making tealight candle holders to the Light of Hope project; folding them was a bit tricky but we persevered and showed determination. The messages and pictures were so inspiring!



Contentment

In English, we have been looking at debates and we actually had our own debate about a character from our class book. The children were really engaged and wrote a balanced argument based on this debate.



During our PHSE lessons the children created a chain of connectivity to show how we are all connected in some way.

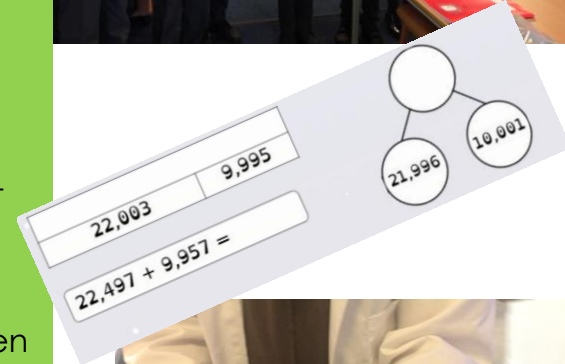
The children have been working really hard in Maths, becoming really competent at solving tricky addition and subtraction problems, including reasoning, multi-step and problem-solving questions. This week the children have begun the topic of statistics.



Contentment had great fun in Music creating their own loops and remixes. The children also learnt how to play the beginning of the song 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' on the xylophone, eventually it sounded beautiful!



Somewhere
over the rainbow
skies are blue
and the dreams
you dare to dream
really do
come true.

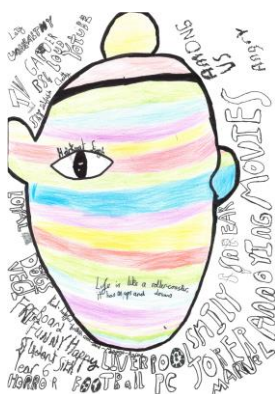
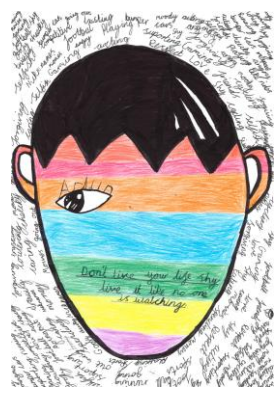
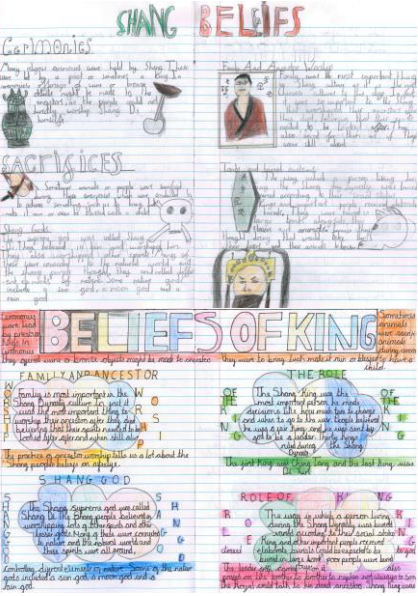


We have become scientists this half-term! Our topic: Properties of Materials, has meant that we have tested different materials to identify them, decided on the most efficient way to separate two materials and tested which materials are soluble and which have irreversible changes.



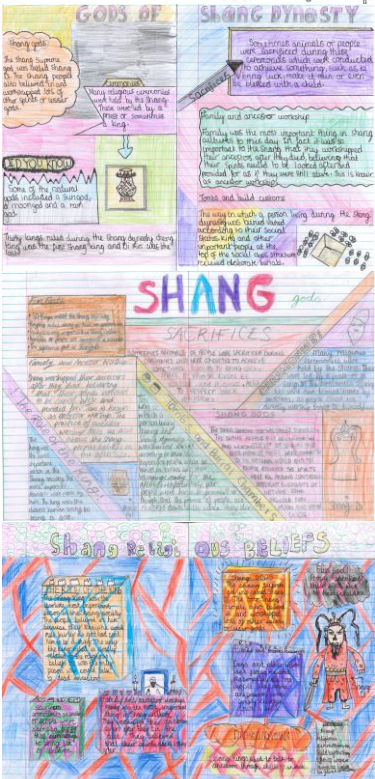
Optimism

As we continue to explore and enjoy the novel 'Wonder', we decided to draw self-portraits in the same style as the illustrations from the book and add our own precepts!

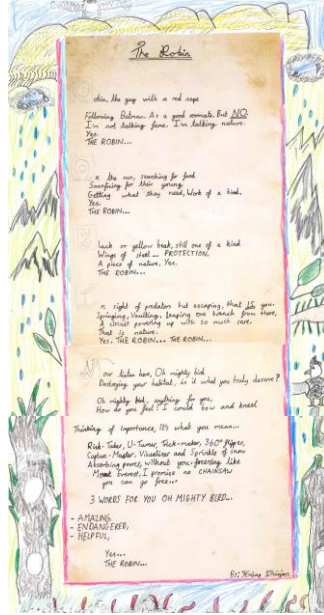
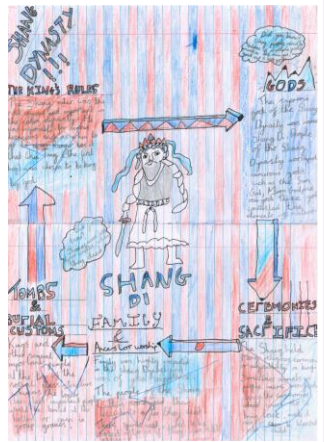
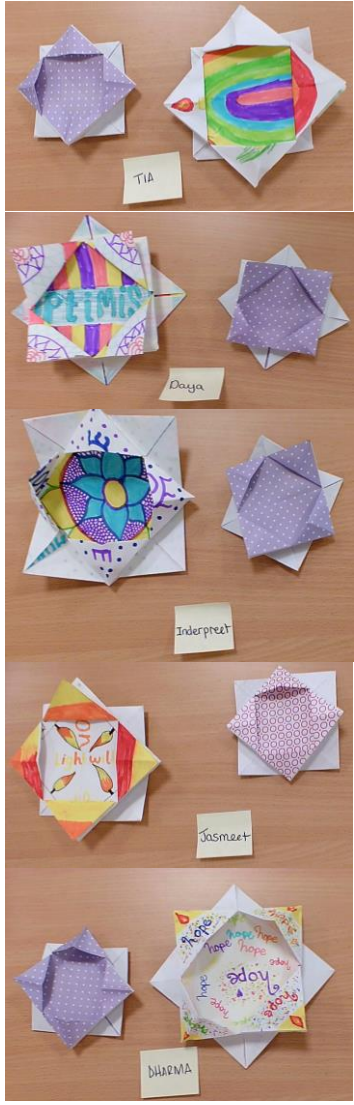


Thank you for working so hard! Have a great half-term break!

In History, the children have studied The Shang Dynasty and created stunning double-page information texts to explain what the religious beliefs and rituals were during this era. It's been so interesting learning about Shang culture through the analysis of artefacts!



We really enjoyed creating origami candle holders as part of the 'Light of Hope' project.



In English, we have been exploring the poetry of Robert Macfarlane, an author who has written a book of 'spells' entitled: "The Lost Words". He believes that the vocabulary of nature is being forgotten because our wildlife is in such a tragic decline. The children have researched species of animals that are native to the UK and have written their own poems to celebrate these magnificent creatures. They have done brilliantly with emulating and incorporating the poetic techniques, that can be found in Macfarlane's style, into their own work. The children have beautifully illustrated their poems and they look amazing!

KS2 Virtue - Tolerance

Take the time to reflect on what tolerance means to you...

"It's a universal law - intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility"

ALEKSANDR SOLZHENITSYN

peace
begins with
tolerance
and
respect
for everyone

Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others.

John F. Kennedy

Tolerance is the **positive** and cordial effort to understand another's **beliefs, practices** and habits **without** necessarily sharing or **accepting** them.

Joseph E. Osborne

What our Nishkam Passport says...

Tolerance is being able to accept things that you wish were different. When you practise tolerance, you have flexibility. You don't expect others to be just like you. You accept differences. When you are practising tolerance, you are able to sort out what is important from what is not. You show patience and forgiveness when people make mistakes. You accept what you cannot change with good grace.

Signs of Success

I am open to differences.

I am free of prejudice.

I don't complain when uncomfortable conditions can't be helped.

I respect others' opinions when they differ from mine.

I overlook people's faults.

Tolerance helps me to value differences.