



Westbrook Lane Newsletter

Classroom News



Class 1: Last week was very busy in Class 1 as we were fortunate enough to have some special visitors.

Matt Pickersgill (our class Governor) came to see how we learn in class 1 and some children interviewed him afterwards.

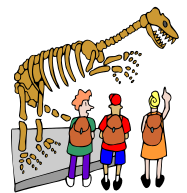
Cookridge fire station returned to complete their visit after previously leaving quickly due to an emergency.

The police came with a van, which year 1 children enjoyed going in. They even locked Mrs Gibbons up! Lastly, a project group in Class 1 organised breakfast for the parents. Everyone enjoyed tucking into the pancakes and bacon sandwiches even some school staff snuck into the hall!

Class 2: Class 2 Dinosaur Discoveries

Class 2 visited The Discovery Centre on Monday 27th January where Liz helped them to become "fossil detectives". They handled real dinosaur fossils and made detailed observations and drawings. Liz and our wonderful team of parent helpers were extremely impressed!

These skills came in useful this week when Class 2 were asked to investigate something strange which had happened in the Key Stage 1 playground. They found large footprints, feathers, bones and teeth and after careful examination of the evidence concluded we may have had a prehistoric visitor.



Class 5 Year 5 Reading Club

Book clubbers have been attending a reading group after school since November. Titles enjoyed have been "The Phenomenals- A Tangle of Traitors" by F E Higgins, the sequel "The Phenomenals- A Game of Ghouls" and "In a Glass Grimmly" by Adam Gidwitz. Discussions have been in depth and animated and have been continued on our Book Club blog. You can read our blog and Book Clubbers book recommendations at <http://shareit.yhgfl.net/leeds/westbrooklane/>.

Class 4 Class 4 have been enjoying writing stories for the BBC Radio 2 500 word story writing competition. It has been a challenge keeping our stories to just 500 words! There has been an excellent range of ideas across the class ranging from children whose parents turn into ducks and robots, a family who move into a haunted house and a teacher who is so obsessed with Maths they turn into a Maths monster!



Class 6:

Since getting our mini-suite in Class 6, we have been able to carry out much more independent research. Our group topic work has benefited enormously from this, as we have constant access to computers. Also, we can now use many great maths activities and games that make learning interesting and challenging.



Retirement

At the end of this term Mrs Harrison is retiring. Mrs Harrison has been at Westbrook Lane since 1997 and will be hugely missed by all of us. Her contribution, commitment and dedication over the past 17 years to the children and families of Westbrook has been enormous and I know greatly valued and appreciated by many. It is difficult to imagine life without her.

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new member of staff to replace her and will keep parents informed when the appointment has been made.

Governors Learning Walk



Two of our governors, Peter Mawson and Nageena Rahman, visited school on the morning of 28th January. The aim was to enable governors to observe teaching and learning in the school and to talk to children about the work they were engaged in.

'Pupils were very welcoming, readily shared their understanding of what they were doing and were confident to talk about their work. Whilst being enjoyable, the visit was also productive. A very high quality of learning was seen taking place throughout the school that is undoubtedly the product of the commitment and hard work of the teachers, support staff and other adults engaged in teaching and supporting pupils. The governors express their thanks for the obvious impact that this has on the quality of pupils' learning and for their willingness to allow governors to see this in action.'

Peter Mawson and Nageena Rahman

School Dinner Money

For anyone wishing to pay dinner money for the full half term until Easter, the amount needed for children having a school meal every day is:

Rec, Y2 & Y4 29 days x £1.95 = £56.55; Y1 & Y3 28 days x £1.95 = £54.60 Y5 & Y6 29 days x £2.00 = £58.00

For those parents of children who are having dinners on certain days of the week there are 6 weeks next half term less the Monday training day, (the Y1 & Y3 trips are on a Thursday).

Please remember to send dinner money into school in a named envelope no later than Tuesday morning each week

If anyone wishes to change the dinner arrangements for their child for after half term, please tell the office no later than Monday 10th February so that the kitchen can amend the food order. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

Friday 14th February	PTA Coffee Morning and Bun Sale - see separate letter Y6 Steel Pan Workshop - see separate letter School Closes for Half Term
Monday 24th February	School Closed Training Day
Tuesday 25th February	School Re-opens La Jolie Ronde Spanish Lesson instead of the Monday
Sunday 2nd March	Wildlife project Day - details to follow
Monday 3rd March	Y6 Cycle Training day 1 - see separate letter
Tuesday 4th March	Y6 Cycle Training day 2 - see separate letter
Thursday 6th March	Y1 Railway Museum Visit - see separate letter
Wednesday 12th March	Primary Book Day - details to follow