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Believe in ourselves, be the best we can be

Newsletter- 30.1.23

Curriculum- Fairytales

The children are very much enjoying the curriculum focus of Fairytales since returning to school in January. We kicked off the term with a 'Let's Improve' competition where children put their uplevelling skills to the test and improved a basic version of Jack and The Beanstalk - keep an eye out for our winners' announcement soon! Since then children across the school have enjoyed retelling stories, 'twisting' tales to make them less traditional and even creating their own fairytales. Children have also brought the stories to life using their creative skills in Art and DT through impressionist landscape paintings and moving pictures; books and toys. This topic captures the imagination of our children, allowing them to build on their existing knowledges and experiences as well as challenge their thinking.

Music at Bishop- did you know?

As part of our curriculum, we pay for a specialist music teacher to deliver high quality music teaching as part of our curriculum offer. Lisa Price joins us throughout the academic year to work alongside different groups so that during their time at Bishop, our children get a range of experiences to enrich their learning-

- Whole class lessons with Explorers, Investigators and Adventurers focusing on percussion instruments and the use of voice
- Year 3 Whole class Recorder lessons
- Year 4 Whole class Dood (reed instrument) lessons
- Year 5- Whole class PBones (plastic trombones) lessons
- Year 6- Specialised teaching on Digital Music.



All of this is alongside the music lessons delivered by teachers, the peripatetic lessons for guitar, piano and recorders that can be paid for and the many opportunities children have to learn and perform songs as part of an ensemble or as brave soloists! We want our children to develop a love of music!

Merits

In a recent School Council meeting, the children raised some concerns over adults at home understanding the Merits and what to do with them. I thought this was a good point and wanted to reiterate the process for you.

- Every week, 5 or 6 children per class are given a merit in our celebration assembly. These can be for a variety of things and often reflect our school values.
- Adults at home need to collect these merits (this is the bit the children were worried about!) When you have 10, you can then send them in to your child's class teacher.
- The class teacher will then complete a Certificate of Excellence. Via the office, we will then invite you to a Friday Celebration Assembly where you can watch your child be given the Certificate of Excellence in front of the whole school. You also get to stay and listen to us sing too which is always a treat!

Your children are asking you to PLEASE look after those Merits- sticking them to the fridge is a particularly popular method of keeping them safe! We LOVE to celebrate with parents and children so hope to see lots of you soon!

Brian Taylor Workshops

This week KS1 and KS2 enjoyed a number of very creative, fun and educational Art Workshops led by our local artist Brian Taylor.

Each year group focused on the art movement they are currently studying. During these workshops' children explored:

*Blending primary colours into secondary colours

*Wet into wet blending

*Warm and cold colours

*Contrasting colours and textures - using long strokes for flat and more stippling for hills (sky/ground)

*Different stroke techniques: short/bold strokes of colour

*Tilting paper to support the ways colours run/blend.

*Accepting 'Happy accidents' - that this is okay and can often add to a painting!



Here's what some of the children said about the experience:

'I really enjoyed the workshop and I was fascinated by Brian Taylor's paintings. Some of the techniques we used were: tilting to blend colours, mixing primary colours into secondary colours and using sponges/cardboard to create different strokes and textures. I really liked my work because I had lots of 'happy accidents' but that's what made my artwork look different but still beautiful!'
Natalie (Y5)

'I enjoyed the workshop as Brian Taylor is a very talented artist and he taught me how to use beautiful techniques in my own work. I used the wet-to-wet technique where you put water on the page first and add colours. When they mix it makes fascinating patterns! I was really proud of my blending in my work as I think I ended up with some really lovely colours.' Joe (Y6)

Preschool Update

At preschool we have been sharing our favourite books and fairy tales, we have been using musical instruments to enliven our stories and creating fantastic representations of our favourite scenes and characters at the craft table.

Christie Tribble- Preschool Supervisor



Pupil Voice

As a school, a focus for school development has been the teaching strategy of revisiting prior learning. This is something that is very important to fully embed learning into the long-term memory so that children can then start to build on this knowledge and make important connections in the future. We shared this with the children in assembly and introduced our new revisit symbol which will be used throughout all classes. We talked about what the best thing was about learning new things and why it is important to revisit what we learned previously. The reflections were superb as usual!

'The best thing about learning is you can express your feelings in any subject. You also need to have confidence in yourself to do better. We never stop learning. Even when we are writing, playing, or even just listening, you're learning. We revisit learning so it is stuck in your head. You can never take it out, it's stuck for life.' Imogen- Y4

'If you don't revisit you might forget when you are older and you might not understand things so well' Renee- Y2

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Dave Killoran
(Headteacher)

FUTURE DATES FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2023	Half Term
Monday 20th February	Non-Pupil Day