



Spring News



Pen Mill Infant and Nursery Academy

7th February 2020

Issue 3

Message from Mrs Manning, Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to announce that I have been appointed as permanent Headteacher of Pen Mill Infant and Nursery Academy. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to lead the school and I am committed to ensuring that the highest level of care and education is provided for all our pupils.

As Headteacher I work closely with the Governors, senior leaders, teachers, staff and the wider community. The children's needs are always paramount in the life and decision making within the school. Together we strive to make the improvements that are needed to help your children develop and grow positively through the development of knowledge and skills.

We strongly believe in providing the children with creative, exciting and meaningful learning experiences which make their learning fun and enthuse them to find out more. We know how vital working alongside you as parents is and provide opportunities such as Inspire, Math's Workshop's , Celebrate and Evaluate sessions and coffee mornings which give us a chance to work in partnership with you to support the children. We welcome your voice and are interested to hear your thoughts and new ideas.

The school is a happy and vibrant place to learn and I am forever proud to be part of this school.

*Tracy Manning
Headteacher*

Senior Leadership Team

Headteacher /DSL
Mrs T Manning

Deputy Headteacher/ SENCO
Mrs L Cullen

Finance and Operations Manager
Mrs L Frost

Weekly Update - week commencing 11th February 2019

All of the information on this page can be found on:

- our website at www.penmillinfants.co.uk
- the playground screen

Our weekly updates are emailed to parents every Friday. If you have not been receiving these please advise the school office so that our records may be updated with your correct email address.

Golden Book Pupils

Awards were presented this week to the following children:

Cygnnet	Finn & Maja
Wren	Summer & Noah
Robin	McKenzie-Louise & Ebony
Kingfisher	Daniel & Caspian
Woodpecker	Charlie & Blake
Owl	Carlton & Caige

Attendance

Pen Mill Academy attendance - 94%

Our Attendance Bear was awarded to Wren class who attained the highest class attendance this week with 98%

Team Points

Well done to **Maple** team who achieved the most team points this half term with 393 points.

Nursery - Cygnet



We have been exploring colour in Nursery this half term. We started this topic by looking at rainbows and decorating our own using various colours and materials.

We explored colour by looking at the textures of coloured rice and coloured spaghetti and what happens when you mix them all together.



The last two weeks we have started learning the story of Elmer and how he is different from all other elephants but he is just as important. The children have loved how colourful Elmer is and have enjoyed decorating our own Elmer for our displays.



The children have enjoyed cutting, sticking and painting their own Elmer's using various materials, especially making our own Elmer using milk bottles.

We have had a busy half term with great learning opportunities for the children.
The Nursery Team



Wren & Robin classes



What a wonderful start to 2020 the children in Robin and Wren class have had!

The children came back from Christmas ready to wow us all with their brilliant attitudes to learning.



We have been learning about animals this half term, and have enjoyed lots of wonderful books as part of our literacy sessions. We have been on bear and lion hunts (luckily we didn't find any!) and even had a Tiger come to Tea! We made our own Stick Men in Forest School and had some real stick insects come to visit us. We loved learning about these unusual creatures and holding them, very carefully. We would like to thank our visitors who have kindly given their time this half term. We have managed to get outside more and the children have loved exploring our outdoor area, building their knowledge and understanding of the world and demonstrating how beautifully they can play together. We loved exploring the ice during the colder weather and thinking about where it comes from and why it happens. There were lots of cold hands as they wanted to see who could melt the ice first!

We enjoyed working with our grown-ups, sharing our phonics knowledge and skills at inspire this week. Thank you to all those who were able to come! As a team we are so proud of the reception children, who are growing into wonderfully keen and independent learners. Keep it up everyone!



It has been an incredibly busy half term in Key stage 1 and the children have been working hard and having fun in all areas of our curriculum. Through the books *Meerkat Mail* and *Poles Apart* we have explored information texts including newspapers, postcards and fact files, culminating in the children creating their own amazing fact files about different countries.

In science the children in year 2 explored life processes and habitats that included some very interesting discussions on whether things are living, dead or have never been alive, including have unicorns ever been alive? Ask your year 2 child if they can tell you the life processes using the acronym MRS GREN. In year 1, the children have been identify common mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and amphibians.

It was lovely to see so many adults attend our Inspire Sessions and to become so involved in their children's activities. Year 1 continued their learning of the 3R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. During the afternoon Beth, from Carymoor, delivered a KS1 assembly relating to our topic. It was very informative and the children found it amazing that old mouldy food waste can be converted into electricity.

Year 1 then designed their own 'Burpy the Bin' and found out what waste he liked- indicated by a big loud BURP when items were put into the bin! Year 1 also discussed how waste food turned to compost and used compost to plant cress seeds. Beth showed us how to make compostable pots out of newspaper.



The Year 2 Inspire was a great success! The children and parents had lots of fun doing the different experiments, making a rain cloud in a jar was messy but really enjoyable, the children loved seeing the rain explode out of the shaving foam cloud! We hope we have *inspired* you to have a go at trying some of experiments at home or try new ones and let us know all about them!



Message from Finance Team

Statements have gone home for any monies outstanding this half term. Please ensure this is paid by the 14th February. If you are unable to pay the outstanding amount then please contact the finance office at penmillfinance@educ.somerset.gov.uk or phone through on the school number.

Next half term starts on 24th February to 3rd April (30 days). The costs are as follows:

Breakfast Club - £2 per day - £10 per week - £60.00 for everyday

Nursery Lunches - £2.50 per day - £12.50 per week - £75.00 for everyday

Please can all payments be made in advance. Ideally we would like the full payment for the half term within the first week back, however if this isn't feasible than weekly is acceptable as long as it's paid at the beginning of each week.

Any payments made cannot be refunded. All payments will be allocated to the correct area and used to cover the costs.

We have the following trips taking place and require all slips and payments in as detailed below:

Gore Farm Visit for Reception classes on Thursday 26th March (all slips and payments in by Friday 28th February)

Fearne Animal Sanctuary visit for Year 1 on Wednesday 4th March (all slips and payments in by Friday 14th February)

Fearne Animal Sanctuary visit for Year 2 on Wednesday 11th March (all slips and payments in by Friday 14th February)

As detailed in the letter, if slips and payments are not made by these dates then your child will be unable to attend. If you require another copy of the letter please ask your child's teacher.

No Dogs

Please can we remind you that there are NO dogs allowed on the school grounds except for the guide dogs.



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No mobile phones allowed

Please can we also remind you that mobile/smart phone usage on the school ground is strictly prohibited.

We hope for your understanding and cooperation.



Scarlet fever

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to inform you that we have had a two confirmed cases of Scarlet fever at Pen Mill Infant and Nursery Academy.

Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that mainly affects children. It causes a distinctive pink-red rash. It's important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of **scarlet fever** so that early treatment with antibiotics can be given. The rash feels like sandpaper to touch and it may be itchy.

Please click on the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

British Red Cross

We have raised AMAZING £79.50 for the Australia's Bushfire Crisis!

Thank you very much for your generous donations!

Upcoming Dates - all dates can be found on our website

Computing Week	Monday 10th February—Friday 14th February
Parents Evening	Tuesday 11th February
Parents Evening	Thursday 13th February
<i>Maple Team non-uniform day</i>	Thursday 13th February
Last day of term	Friday 14th February
Half term holiday	Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February
Children return to school	Monday 24th February
<i>Y1 Ferne Animal Sanctuary trip</i>	Wednesday 4th March
<i>Y2 Ferne Animal Sanctuary trip</i>	Wednesday 11th March
Height and Weight measurements <i>Reception</i>	Tuesday 24th March at 9:30am
<i>Reception Gore Farm trip</i>	Thursday 26th March