

新年快乐 Kung Hei Fat Choi!

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!



This week in school we have been celebrating Chinese New Year! Mr Hough very kindly brought in his collection of Chinese puppets from home to help tell the story of the 12 animals that make up the Chinese zodiac. The children had lots of fun learning the story and making the puppets dance to the music! The celebrations concluded with a special Chinese New Year school dinner menu today.

We asked some of our children how they celebrate Chinese New Year with their family:

"As children my parents were not allowed to eat candy, so they used to look forward to Chinese New Year because it meant that they got to eat lots of sweets! I celebrate Chinese New Year at home with my family and we have a really big meal. We eat a lot of rice and noodles. I think it's important that we celebrate it because there are lots of Chinese New Year celebrations that happen all around Manchester, which is really good." **Samuel 5CD**

"At Chinese New Year we receive red envelopes with money in them. We eat a special cake called 'nian gao'. I stay at home and celebrate with my family and we put special lights up. It is a special time of year for me and it makes me feel happy to be Chinese." **Yongyan 6WG**



COMMUNITY HERO AWARD



This half term's Community Hero Award goes to Chorlton Good Neighbours. Helen Hibberd, the coordinator for the community-based care group, was presented with the award by some of the members of our school choir, who visit Chorlton Good Neighbours every year to perform Christmas songs for them. Here's why we think they're so deserving of this award...

"Chorlton Good Neighbours is an organisation that was established by local churches many years ago and they support the elderly in the community by offering coffee mornings, exercise classes and home visits. Helen Hibberd, the coordinator, is a very dedicated, enthusiastic and caring person and has a good relationship with all of the people she supports and the volunteers she works with. She offers a very valuable resource to the community."

Helen Wright, Office Manager

"I love performing in the choir for Chorlton Good Neighbours because they're all so kind and they seem to really enjoy it. One lady reminded me of

my grandma because she was dancing and singing along. There's a man there that's really good at art and I always go and say hello and he shows me his book of artwork." **Darci 6NG**

"Chorlton Good Neighbours deserve the Community Hero Award because they invite people along who might be lonely and they give them somewhere to socialise and meet other people." **Amelia 6NG**

"Oswald Road has a good choir because we are so enthusiastic. We sing uplifting songs, which makes the people at Chorlton Good Neighbours feel relaxed. I also like chatting to them after we perform because they always have interesting stories." **Amy 6NG**

"They bring lots of elderly people together for tea and biscuits and put on entertainment." **Kitty 4MQ**

"I think it's very important for us to perform there because it makes the people there feel special." **Sophia 4MQ**

"It's nice that they give people the time and place to hang out with people the same age as them." **Luna 4MQ**



YEAR 6 FIRST AID TRAINING

Year 6 really enjoyed their first aid training workshop this half term, which they did as part of their 'Extreme Earth' topic. During the sessions the children watched videos about bystanders in first aid situations, discussed possible reactions and performed first aid techniques on dummies.

"It was amazing – we got to learn how to do actual first aid in real life." **Elise 6KR**

"We got to learn how to help someone if they were in trouble. I really liked it." **Bibi 6KR**

"The Red Cross delivered really useful, simple training which was accessible to all – the children really enjoyed it." **Miss Rowe**



WELL DONE, OWEN!



A big shout out to Owen from Year 6, who took part in the Greater Manchester Primary School's Cross Country Championships earlier this month at Heaton Park. Owen was selected to represent Manchester having qualified by running for Oswald Road in the two previous rounds. He finished 25th overall and was the 3rd Manchester runner to finish. It was a very strong field of around 140 with runners from Greater Manchester and surrounding boroughs, so a really fantastic achievement. Well done, Owen!



6KR BAKE OFF

6KR held their very own class bake off this half term. Each cake was blind judged based on appearance and taste. The winner was Ammaarah with her incredible rainbow cake! Second place went to Thomas for his yummy profiteroles and Jonah came in third place with his golden chocolate cake. Fantastic baking everyone!



PE KITS

Here are some pictures of some of our fabulous children modelling an appropriate PE kit. It is very important that children have a suitable outdoor PE kit to change into before their lessons, particularly in these cold, winter months. Their kit should be separate to their everyday clothes as it is unhygienic to continue wearing these once lessons are finished. This kit should be kept in school in a suitable bag. Thank you for support.



TALL TALES & SHORT STORIES

Thank you very much to all the parents that took part in the free course we offered this half term, called 'Tall Tales and Short Stories'. This fantastic adult education course helps parents bring storytelling to life with homemade props and puppets. The learners got to show off their creations in the last session of the course by inviting their children along to share a story as a group.



YEAR 2 TRIP TO TATTON PARK

Year 2 had a great time on their trip to Tatton Park last month! The trip links to the work that the children have been doing on the Victorians as part of their 'Trash to Treasure' topic.

In preparation for their visit the children dressed up as servants from the Victorian times and when they got there they spent the day carrying out chores with Ma'am to get the house ready for the arrival of Lord Egerton! Their chores included baking, scrubbing the floor, lighting the fire and making the beds.

The Year 2s learnt that in the Victorian days servants weren't allowed to talk whilst doing their chores as they were not supposed to be seen or heard (and they gave this a good try!) During the visit they also went on a tour of the house, which took a long time to walk around because it was so big (there are 24 bedrooms!)

On the tour the children saw the dining room and learnt that the huge chandelier has to be taken apart once every year to be cleaned. They also saw where Lord Egerton's guests go dancing and the library, which has a secret door!

"I really liked the trip to Tatton Park because it was fun being a servant from the Victorian days. I am glad I'm not from the Victorian times though because it would be really hard work doing all those jobs every day and never being allowed to talk! My favourite job was scrubbing the floor and baking, even though I was so tired after we got back."

"Tatton Park was a great trip that was led by a team of wonderful staff who were in character as servants and the lady of the house- ma'am. The staff were very convincing and even had the teachers wondering if we had gone back in time to the Victorian days! The children loved the excitement of this and it was lovely to see them so engaged." Mrs Hickman



YEAR 1 LEGO WORKSHOP

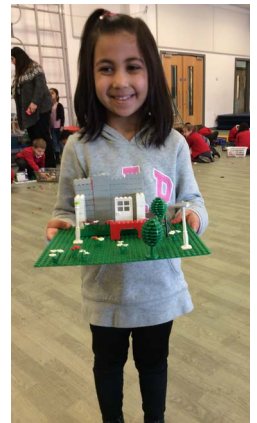
Year 1 took part in an exciting Lego Workshop this week in which they had the opportunity to create a huge city! To create this city the children each had to each build a house and a garden based on the model Phil the Lego Man showed them. The Year 1s then had free time to create their own inventions to add to the city such as pyramids, windmills and cars.

"I think the Lego workshop was really great because we got to use tiny pieces and make what we wanted at the end." **Woody 1JJ**

"It was really fun because we got to make a house and a garden and whatever we wanted." **Arissa 1JJ**

"I built some really cool houses. I thought the Lego workshop was really good because I love Lego." **Elliott 1JJ**

"The children had a great experience making different buildings for our Lego workshop. This was a great fine motor activity for the children, as well as a great opportunity to work together as a team!" **Miss Jones**



YEAR 3 STONE AGE MAN VISIT

As part of their exciting topic, 'The Big Dig', Year 3 took part in a fantastic workshop day led by one of our Stone Age ancestors. During this visit, the Neolithic Stone Age man arrived, as he did around 12,000 years ago, wearing his fur pelt and carrying his spears and borer as he did alongside his fellow hunter-gatherers around 10000 BC.

During the workshop the children learnt to cave paint, aim a spear and get a hands-on experience of ancient technology and skills from the Paleolithic period of the Stone Age right through to the Iron Age.

"I loved the Hunger Games."

"I really enjoyed the chariot racing."

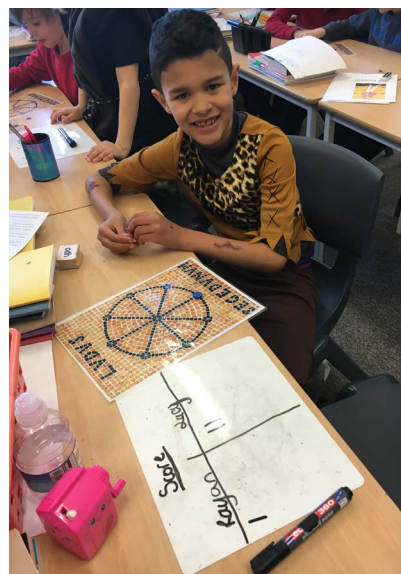
"The 'Floor is Lava' game was amazing!"

"I enjoyed learning about when they heated a stone and put it in their leather bag to cook their vegetables."

"I learnt a lot of new things that day. It was really educational."

"I enjoyed playing the first game known to mankind. I was great at it."

"I got the chance to lay in a Bronze Age bed made of animal skins."



TRASH TO TREASURE!

As part of their 'Trash to Treasure' topic for this half term, Year 2 learnt all about how different materials can be recycled. In their art lessons with Mrs Appleby the children got busy making their own fashion creations out of recycled items such as old scraps of fabric, plastic bags and pieces of card. The children came up with some amazing carnival-themed clothing and showed them off to their grown ups on the catwalk at the incredible Year 2 fashion show!



RECEPTION SCIENCE DAY

On Wednesday 14th February, Reception took part in an exciting day of science experiments. The children were split into groups and rotated in these groups around various 'experiment stations'. The activities included recycling, making volcanoes and testing the speed of a toy car as it was sent down ramps of varying materials. The children were encouraged to come in dressed as scientists, or people that use science, such as doctors or nurses. A huge thanks to all of the parents that gave up their time to come in to speak to the children about how they use science in their job!



LUNCHTIME FOCUS

We love to see so many of you with such healthy lunchboxes! Here are a few photos showing the different fruits and vegetables you've been enjoying this half term...



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Sarah Nicholls- School Business Manager Tuesday 30th January

My job is so varied that most days I am never sure what I'll face, which makes it really interesting and the time certainly whizzes by!

7.00am- I'm usually in school by 7.00am, one reason is to avoid the traffic and the other is that at that time school is so quiet! I can get a lot of work done in this short time. My first job is always to fill up the kettle and make myself a cup of tea! The second job is to boot up my computer.

7.30am- I have a quick catch up with the school caretaker, Phil, to see if there is anything I need to do for him from a buildings or health and safety point of view. This can be anything!

8.00am- I check the inbox@ email account for Mrs Howard and forward anything on to her, which she then responds to. I also check my emails and then the day begins when the rest of the office team arrive.

8.45am- One morning a week I'm on one of the doors to meet and greet the children as they arrive. I really enjoy doing this as it gives me a chance to say hello – most of my time is spent in an office so to get out makes a nice change!

9.30am- I meet with Mrs Howard to discuss a wide range of issues- finance, the budget, staffing, policies and health and safety. I don't always have the answers to hand, or Mrs Howard may ask me to do something specifically, so those are usually my next jobs.

11.00am- Rachel, our Strategic Lunchtime Organiser, arrives and we have a quick catch up. Lunchtime is a very busy time of the day so we need to make sure she has enough staff and that everyone knows what they are doing.

11.30am- The post arrives with bank statements so I carry out the bank reconciliation. As we have control over the budget, we have to adhere to lots of rules and regulations to make sure the budget is dealt with correctly. Kerry, the school's Finance Officer, is excellent at her job and supports me hugely in doing this.

12.00pm- Quickly pop into Chorlton to get myself a sandwich for lunch, before coming back to meet a playground designer. We're always looking into ways to improve the school, but it isn't always achievable due to financial constraints.

1.30pm- Off to Brookburn Primary School for a Business Manager Cluster Group meeting. This gives me a chance to catch up on anything new, plus share good practice, which I find very useful.

3.30pm- Back to school to catch up on emails, which have come through since I've been out, plus deal with any issues which may have arisen. School starts to quieten down so this gives me a chance to catch up on anything outstanding.

4.30pm- We make sure everyone has been picked up from the afterschool clubs and then hand over the reception area to Owl Club.

4.45pm- I leave work to start the long journey home (mainly sitting on the M60!)



You said | We did

You wanted us to let you know if your child has made an outstanding choice or done a really great piece of work in school.

We have started sending out 'good news texts' and Mrs Howard has started sending home postcards with 'well done' messages on.

Working parents found it difficult to contribute to the family wall in Nursery as the 'Parent Postcards' are kept in Nursery.

The Nursery team have given us a stack of 'Parent Postcards' at the school office, so those that drop off at Early Birds or pick up from Owl Club can come and collect one from the front desk. Any completed postcards can be handed in to the office and we will pass them on to the Nursery staff.

You really enjoyed the Mela that we held a few years ago and would like to see another event in school that celebrates our cultural diversity.

This year instead of the PTA Summer Fair we are planning an International Fair on Saturday 30th June. This event will be run by both the PTA and the school...more details to follow nearer the time. Save the date!

Many parents were not aware that the school website can be viewed in Urdu and Arabic.

We have made this function easier to find on the website (just go to the top right hand corner of any page on our website and click on the language you'd like to change it to). We also sent out a flyer to parents giving these instructions in both Urdu and Arabic.