

Forest Academy News

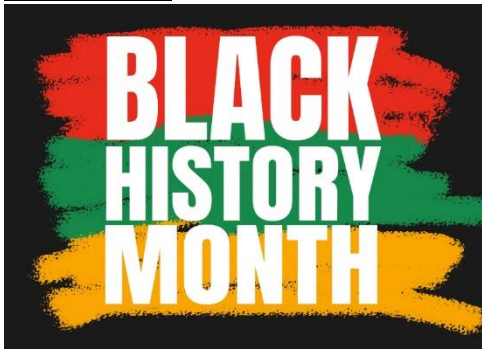
Keeping you up to date!

Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a good week. Excitement is building as children and staff across the school work on their final outcomes, culminating in an exhibition for the Museum of Hope. We have seen staff lugging large pieces of wood, rolls of backing paper and fabric, coat stands, chicken wire and tin foil along the corridors. Intrigued? We can't wait to see the final displays from each year group! A virtual tour will be put on the website once the exhibition has been completed.

CORE VALUES



This week, we have continued to think about how we show respect to everyone and value our differences. October is Black History Month. Through Inspire's Global Curriculum, we are ensuring that Black History is taught across the year and is an integral part of children's learning to ensure that we celebrate the achievements and contributions of **ALL**.

THIS WEEK'S LEARNING

RECEPTION



Ash class has been working very hard this week and learning about the remaining character skills, Leadership and Wonder. Leadership encourages children to be problem solvers who care about their environment and those around us. Then they explored Wonder which facilitates the burgeoning curiosity of the children. From these lessons the children have been developing their investigative skills and their curiosity has been coming alive. Evidence of this can be seen in some of the amazing questions the children asked. Such as, "Why do we need trees?" In maths, they have been looking at the different ways that to represent the numbers from 1 to 5. The children went on number hunts in the classroom and around the outdoor learning area to find items in these amounts. The children have been exhibiting the positive learning attitude and curiosity which is fostered at Forest Academy!



YEAR ONE – CHERRY CLASS

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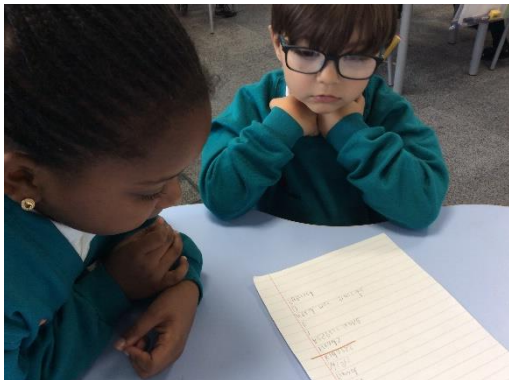
The children have been applying their knowledge of phonics and sight word reading to share what they have read with each other. They absolutely love reading books!

In maths, the children have continued to explore number bonds within 10. They have been applying what they have learnt to solve missing number calculations and have been using + and = to represent calculations.



The children have been writing a 'Guide to Kindness' to explain what kindness is, to say how people feel when they are kind and had a go at thinking of rhetorical questions to explain how people feel when they have received kindness.

YEAR TWO – ELM CLASS



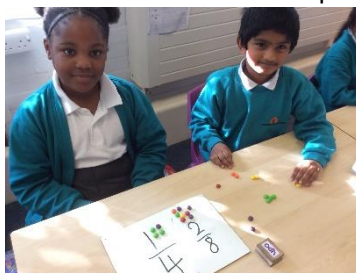
In Elm class, children have been publishing their final version of the core text 'The boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' in preparation for our Museum of Hope Exhibition. They have used the Mindset character skills to show resilience and effort when publishing their amazing stories. In maths, children have been making links between number bonds to 10 and number bonds to 100. Also, they have used practical resources such as counters and ten frames to bridging to ten to make the total of two numbers. In PE, they have explored different ways of moving to create an African inspired dance in small groups. Our Museum of Hope exhibition is coming along nicely and children have collaborated to create their acrostic poems linked to our core text. They have thought about words like **family, love, kindness, ambition,**

hopes, dreams, friendship, difference and wonder.

YEAR THREE – LIME CLASS



This week Year 3 have been learning about fractions. They have been using sweets and chocolate to represent different fractions of amounts. They used



skittles to represent quarters and halves. They also used chocolate bars to show thirds and different representations of thirds.

Unfortunately, they did not get to eat them afterwards as they had been handling them!

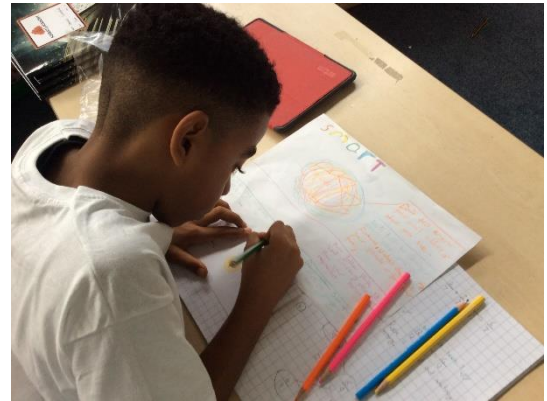
YEAR FOUR – OAK CLASS

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It's been another busy week in year 4, as we finish our outcomes for this half term. Oak class have been planning and drafting their woodland setting descriptions. They have also been working on their oracy skills, as they present their hopes for a better world in the future. In art, they have created cubist versions of their animals. In reading, we have been practising the skill of clarifying, to help us to work out the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases. They have also been learning about how to keep safe online, and creating their own e-safety posters



YEAR FIVE – PINE CLASS & POPLAR CLASS

This week the children were learning about factors and multiples in Maths. In Science they investigated which material would be best for stopping sound waves. They have particularly enjoyed sketching the characters from our core text 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse'. In English they have started to write their own narratives.



YEAR 6 – ROWAN CLASS & WILLOW CLASS



Rowan and Willow class have been working hard towards their final outcomes for this half term. They have completed a narrative about their return to school and have used figurative language (similes, metaphors and personification) to aid their description. They have demonstrated fantastic resilience when imitating Charles Mackesy's sketches from our core text. In science, pupils have used their knowledge of classifying animals to identify plants and animals in the school environment.

To see more of the fantastic learning at school follow us on:



Twitter @Forest_Academy

or



<https://www.facebook.com/Forest-Academy>

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our breakfast and afterschool clubs are operating as normal. For further information please call the school office. To book a place in advance for your child, please call **07538 030914**.



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CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed your contact details it is really important to let the school office know as this information will be used for all communication. Please also let us know if the details of the emergency contacts you have provided us with have changed so that there is someone we can get hold of quickly if we are unable to contact you.

ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

Please remember to report your child's absence on the absence line if your child is unwell and unable to attend school for any reason.

COVID-19

You will be aware that the infection rate and number of cases of COVID-19 are continuing to rise nationally and that Greater London has been placed in the "high" category from Saturday. The school has implemented several measures to minimize the risk of transmission in school. We need all members of the community to help stop the spread. As stipulated in government guidance, if your child displays symptoms or has a positive test result, they must not attend school and will need to isolate for at least 10 days unless they have a negative test result. Any siblings will need to self-isolate for 14 days. The main symptoms (NHS UK) are:

- **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 displays any of these symptoms they will not be able to return to school unless they have been tested and the result is negative, or they have completed the required period of self-isolation. If you are asked to self-isolate the school will send you a text to remind you of the date that your child can return to school in the event that you cannot get a test. Remember that self-isolation means staying indoors and not mixing with other households at all.

REMINDERS

- Please remember to send your child to school with a named, reusable water bottle. The water fountains are currently not in use.
- Children should come to school dressed in their PE kit on their PE days. Please ensure that they wear a plain white t-shirt, plain black jogging bottoms and black trainers.
- Jewelry must not be worn other than **small studs** and a watch (not a smart watch). This is for health and safety reasons.

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- Bikes and scooters should not be ridden on the school grounds for health and safety reasons. Please wheel them in or out of school.
- Please ensure that you keep pre-school and young children with you and supervise them closely when you are on the school grounds.
- Please make sure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat. The staggered start to the day means that even on days when it is cold and raining, children will have to wait until it is time for their bubble to go in. If they miss their slot, they will need to wait until the other bubble has gone in and will be given a late slip. For children in Reception, Years 4 and 6, the start time is 8.35am. For children in Years 1,2,3 and 5 the start time is 8.45am.

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY

The school will close to all pupils for the half term holiday on Friday 23rd October and re-open on Monday 2nd November.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you think that your child may be entitled to free school meals, please let the school office know and the staff will help you to check and tell you what to do next. We want to ensure that all those who are eligible are receiving their entitlement. The school receives additional funding based on the number of children claiming free school meals which enables us to provide your children with additional support and to purchase extra resources.

MUSIC RELIEF FOUNDATION – OCTOBER CAMPAIGN

Below is a list of current services and outreach programs in October that may be of interest and benefit to parents, carers and children.

For Children

Safe Space - Mentoring and addressing youth issues

Safe Space is an online and offline platform led by three youth workers offering tailored support and mentoring to improve the lives of young people aged 11 - 25 experiencing mental health difficulties. Services include:

- Weekly **Instagram live series** exploring a new mental health theme each week - to date they have explored 1. Mental health and Covid-19, mental health and gangs, the role music, the media and social media play in positive and negative mental health and gender roles and relationship. This is available to watch Tuesdays @ 4.30 - 5pm via their Instagram channel @music_relief. Students are free to join the discussion to share their opinions and engage with our youth workers to receive support and answers to issues affecting them.

- Alternatively, their Instagram live series is available in **podcast** version via the link [here](#).

Half-term Activities

This October half-term they are pleased to offer 'Enriching Lives, Hybrid October Half Term Activities'. Sessions will be delivered by youth workers and will take place online and offline (social distancing and group gathering rules applied). Events will be split up between two age groups 8 - 12 years and 13 - 17 years. Activities are designed to use the creative arts to increase mood and well-being. More information and how to sign up can be found [here](#).

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Musictober

Music Foundation would like to connect with young people who are creatively talented, to send in a 3-minute video of themselves playing an instrument/drawing/acting or singing. They would like to know why they have chosen that art form to express themselves and how it has helped them.

They will be promoting these videos and schools they come from on all their social media platforms. At the end of the month, they will be hosting a webinar and reaching out to some of these individuals for a Q&A session.

For Parents and Carers

Discussion Group

"Express Yourself" is a platform for you to be heard, share experiences, opinions, build confidence, and connect. It provides topical discussion, social and emotional support. To date, they have discussed interesting topics such as 1. Relationships - Discussing breakdowns, barriers, and coping during lockdown. 2. Community and School - Exploring what do we want as a community from local authorities? 3. Covid-19 and Education - Addressing Covid-19's impact, life after lockdown and parental concerns. Their current project is The Journey of Me - Exploring self-identity and rediscovering forgotten passions.

The event takes place weekly on Zoom every Friday @8pm - 9pm. New members are always welcome.

Webinar

On the **28th October @ 6.00pm - 7.30pm** they are hosting a Talk Through - Music Edition webinar which will explore the psychological and emotional benefits of music - increasing creativity, self-esteem, confidence, well-being, mood and mental health to name a few. You will hear from musicians, singers, music psychologists and teachers as they share their insights and personal stories of how music has helped them through various situations. The webinar's goal is to encourage everyone to partake in regular musical activities.

More information and information on how to sign up can be found [here](#).

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Have a lovely weekend.

From

Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Wray and all the staff



Happy Birthday wishes to:

🍰 Jamal
🍰 Hassan
🍰 Thierry
🍰 Isabella
🍰 Maisie

Elm Class
Poplar Class
Oak Class
Rowan Class
Poplar Class

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Support and Advice

These are very challenging times for everyone, but there is a lot of help available. Below you will find the contact details of a number of organisations to go to if you need help or advice:

- For help with welfare rights advice, call the council's free advice line on 0800 731 5920 to speak to an advisor or email welfare.rights@croydon.gov.uk.
- [Discretionary Housing Payments](#) may be available for a limited time to top up housing-related benefits to cover housing costs such as rent
- You may be able to claim a [discretionary reduction in council tax](#)- visit Croydon Council website to find out if you qualify
- There are three food stops with community partners in New Addington, Selsdon and Thornton Heath, where eligible residents can get £20 worth of food and groceries for £3.50 per week. For information email anita.konczack@croydon.gov.uk
- Gas and electricity prepayment meters during COVID-19. Contact your energy suppliers, to discuss options to ensure your supply is not interrupted. Visit this website for further information: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-and-your-energy-supply>
- The council's Gateway service helps residents avoid homelessness, and offers support ranging from one-to-one debt advice and maximising benefit entitlement. If you are a Croydon resident needing support from Gateway staff, email gcc@croydon.gov.uk including a mobile number so an adviser can call you back.
- Croydon Council have a [COVID-19 web page](#) which will be updated daily with any changes to services.
- Help for anyone experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse - Croydon Family Justice Centre
020 8688 0100 or email fjc@croydon.gov.uk

If you have concerns about a child (or their families) welfare, contact Croydon Council's Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

Telephone: 020 8726 6400

Out of hours: 020 8726 6400 (ask for out of hours team)

Email: childreferrals@croydon.gov.uk

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 – 16:00

NSPCC

Tel: 0808 800 5000

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

You may remain anonymous if you wish.

If you think a child is at risk of immediate harm telephone 999