



Welcome to Conkers Class!

Autumn 1 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the first term of this year! We hope you've had a lovely and relaxing summer holiday, and managed to enjoy the sunny weather. We have got various fun activities planned to do linking to the topic 'Evolution- In the Beginning'. Hopefully, we can enjoy some more sunshine too!

Thank you, Mrs Milson and Mrs Bedford

PE and Forest Schools

Conkers children will continue to have PE on a Monday afternoon with 'Hawkes'. Your child can come to school on a Monday wearing their PE kits, as this will save a lot of time having to get changed. A complete PE kit includes: black or blue trousers/ shorts, plain white or blue t-shirt, plain blue/black jumper and suitable outdoor trainers.

Mrs Bedford will be teaching Forest Schools on a Friday morning, and children can come to school on a Friday wearing suitable outdoor clothing and footwear (that you don't mind getting dirty!).

Reading books

Your child will continue to be given a reading book from school to bring home. Please listen to your child read at least 3 times a week and sign their reading record book to show us they have been listened to. We will aim to change their books on a Thursday once it has been signed. Your child's book is directly matched to the phonics sound they have already learnt in our Letters and Sounds phonics sessions, and this will really help them to sound out and blend words more confidently so that they become fluent readers.

Staff teaching timetable

Monday: Mrs Milson

Thursday: Mrs Bedford

Tuesday: Mrs Milson

Friday: Mrs Bedford and

Wednesday: Mrs Milson (am)

Mrs Stockill

Mrs Mitchelmore (am)

Mrs Mitchell (pm)

Mrs Bedford (pm)

Spare recycled resources

We would love any recycled items you may have at home for our arts and crafts area such as: old bottle corks and caps, milk bottle or small plastic lids, pine cones, wooden lolly pop sticks, buttons, small boxes (mini cereal box or smarties size), kitchen roll tubes and wrapping paper tubes. The children are always creating new models, so any of these items would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much in advance!

Water bottles and snacks

We will be spending a lot of time outside in the school day, so please remember the following:

- ✓ Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school each day, so they can help themselves to a drink throughout the day. Remember they should be drinking water at school, not juice.
- ✓ Your child will also need a coat with them every day too, preferably with a hood, for those colder and rainy days. If we're lucky enough to get more sunshine, please send a sunhat too.
- ✓ Free fruit and vegetable snacks are provided at break times every day, and we encourage all children to try some. Children are also welcome to bring in their own fruit or vegetable snacks from home to eat at break, if you prefer.

Spelling Homework

The children will be given spellings to learn based on the phonics sounds they are learning each week. Year 1s and 2s will also complete a spelling test, with the 10 spellings they've been given to learn each Monday, so please encourage them to practise.

For homework, to show that the children have been practising their spellings- which will help improve their progress in reading, writing and speaking- please help them to do the following:

- The reception children to practise recognising the phonemes and graphemes they are learning each week (information will be in zip up wallet in their book bag).
- The year 1s to practise their 10 spellings.
- The year 2s to practise their 10 spellings.

Dojo Points

This half term, we will continue awarding Dojo points for the effort children make towards their work and behaviour in the classroom. Children respond well to being given Dojos, so hopefully we can award many more this half term! On a Friday, Mrs Bedford will give a prize and a certificate to the children with the most Dojo points each week. Children are awarded Dojo points for demonstrating positive qualities such as: helping each other, tidying up, sharing a good answer, showing brilliant behaviour, being polite, brilliant letter formation and showing great effort in lessons.

What are we learning about?

In English, we will be writing a story based on 'Ug a Lug'. We will also be creating a persuasive text linked to 'The Story of Life'.

In maths, we will be learning about the place value of number, addition and subtraction.

In Science, we will discuss and compare the 4 seasons throughout the year.

In History, we are finding out about the life of Mary Anning.

In computing, we are learning how to stay safe online.

In PE, Mr Hawkes will be teaching ball skills.

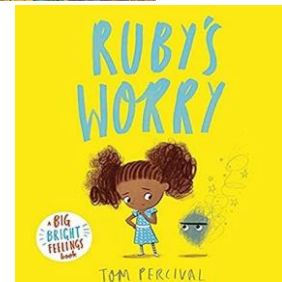
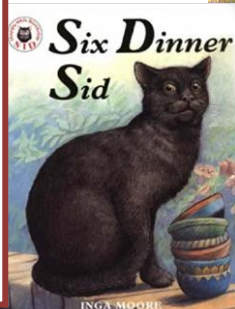
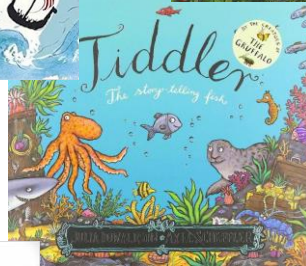
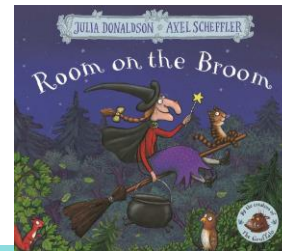
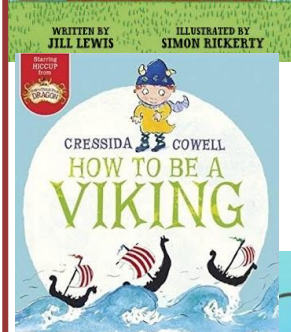
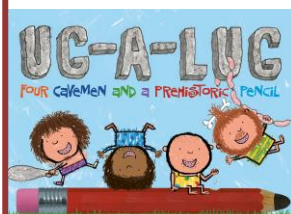
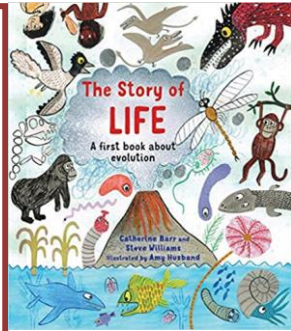
In Forest Schools, we will be discussing the rules and discovering the signs of autumn.

In Art and Design, we will be building sculptures inspired by the artist and sculptor Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

In Music, we will explore the evolution of musical instruments and then make our own. We will also learn to read/ write symbols to show sounds.

In French, we will learn to say greetings, numbers and days of the week.

In RE, we will be looking at 'Beliefs', specifically Christianity, and which stories are special and sacred to Christians. We will explore several bible stories (led by children's interests) and investigate what Christians learn from these.



WOW Moments!

We love to celebrate your child's WOW moments captured at school and at home. To help us do this, we ask you to fill in a WOW note at home when your child has done something amazing, tried something new or said something that makes you exclaim 'WOW!' (For example, riding a bike for the first time or swimming a length). These notes can be completed at home and brought into school where they will be shared with the class. These will be shown in the classroom and added to your reception child's learning journal.

Talk Through Stories

As you will know, helping your child to see and hear a wide range of vocabulary is very important to help with their learning. Ruth Miskin has researched this and found how essential it is for children to be exposed to 'tier 2' words, which they don't generally hear in everyday conversations. We will be reading a different book every week and learning 8 new 'tier 2' words from each one. These are the pictures of the front covers- if you have these books at home, please read them with your child.

School Trip to Jorvik Dig!

To launch our new 'In the Beginning (Evolution)' topic, we are excited that Conkers and Oak Trees are going to visit Jorvik DIG in York on Thursday 8th September 2022.

This will enable us to become archaeologists! We will discover what Archaeologists do and will experience looking at physical remains left by others and what we can learn about the tracks of the past from these. We will become trainee 'diggers' and discover the most exciting artefacts from 2000 years of York's history during a Dig Deeper tour. It should be a memorable day!



Knowledge Organisers

As a school, you will see that we are now providing Knowledge Organisers for the majority of subjects that we teach. Their homework tasks are based upon using the attached (age-specific) Topic Knowledge Organisers – there is a version for KS1 (Years 1 and 2) and for EYFS (Reception).

We will be using the same Knowledge Organisers in class with the children, across all subjects, and referring to them on the working walls, since they are a useful tool in supporting the children to **know more and remember more**. Please encourage your child to use the information on these to help them complete some of the homework activities in their home-learning books - these will be sent home in their homework packs.

Maths

At Leavening, we use the White Rose Maths scheme to teach our maths lessons. Each time we have taught a new unit in maths, a homework booklet will be given to year 1 and year 2 children and brought home in their book bags.

Children will be given their first maths homework booklet in 6 weeks once we have completed the place value unit. Please encourage your child to use their maths knowledge organiser for each unit to help them complete this. The answers will be provided at the back as well for you to refer to. Once they have completed their booklets, please send it back in so we can award them some Dojos!