

Conkers Class

Spring 2 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you've had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. We are ready to embark upon our next half term in Conkers Class. We have a variety of engaging and exciting learning opportunities planned for the children centred around our new topic 'Is There Anyone Out There?' We are also eagerly awaiting both World Book Day and Science Day this half term! We thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to speak with us should you have any concerns, information to share or any questions – our door is always open to you and we are here to work in partnership with you.

Our Very Best Wishes, Mrs Bedford and Mrs Milson.

PE/Forest Schools

Conkers children will continue to have PE on a Monday afternoon with 'Hawkes'. The children will also have Forest Schools each Friday. Your child can come to school on these days wearing their PE/Forest School kit - this is continuing to work well as it saves a lot of time with the children not needing to change. A complete PE kit includes: black or blue trousers/shorts, plain white or blue t-shirt, plain blue/black jumper and suitable outdoor trainers. For forest schools sessions, the children will need to wear old/warm clothes, waterproofs and wellies.



Staff teaching timetable

Monday: Mrs Milson

Tuesday: Mrs Milson

Wednesday: Mrs Milson (am)

Mrs Mitchelmore (am)

Mrs Mitchell (pm)

Mrs Bedford (pm)

Thursday: Mrs Bedford

Friday: Mrs Bedford and



Resource Requests

We would continue to welcome any recycled items you may have at home for our creative/junk box modelling areas such as: old bottle corks and caps, milk bottle or small plastic lids, wooden lolly pop sticks, wool, fabrics, buttons, a range of small boxes (such as mini cereal box or smarties sized boxes), cardboard tubes e.g. kitchen roll/wrapping paper tubes.

The children are always creating new models, so any of these items would be greatly appreciated.

We would also greatly welcome any tarpaulin sheets, since these are useful as part of our Forest School learning.

Thank you very much in advance!



Spelling Homework

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

Reception children will also continue to be given two or three activity sheets to help them practise the phonemes and graphemes they are learning each week.

Please remind your child to bring their spelling books into school every Monday.

Your support really does make a positive difference to your child's learning journey so thank you.

Water bottles and snacks

We will be continuing to spend 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 blustery and rainy days.
- ✓ 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 time.



Reception WOW Moments & Individual Interests!

We hope that you are enjoying the ongoing opportunities to share your child's learning journal and we thank you very much for your comments. We wish to continue to celebrate your child's WOW moments captured at school and at home. To help us do this, we ask that you continue to fill in a WOW note at home to share with us when your child has achieved a new milestone, tried something new or said something that makes you exclaim 'WOW! (e.g. reading with greater confidence, showing a willingness to write, riding a bike for the first time or swimming a length). These notes can be completed at home and sent into school. These will be added to your reception child's learning journal.

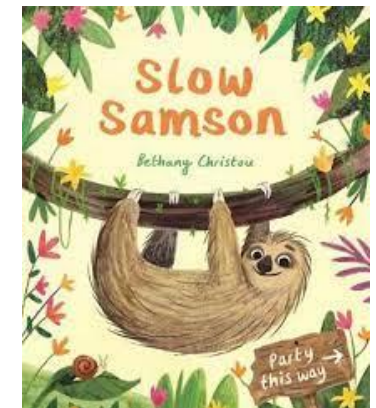
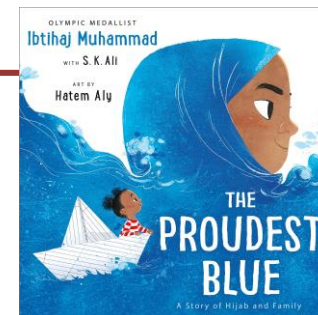
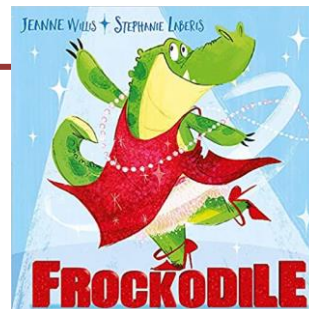
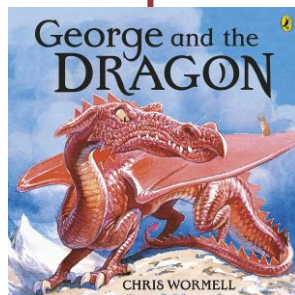
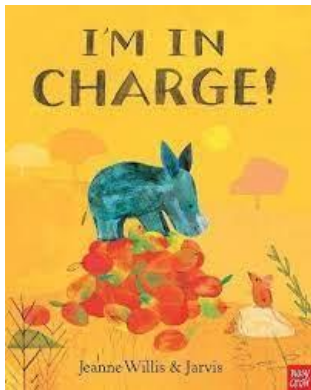
Please also continue to share with us your child's particular interests to enable us to tailor our planning and provision areas to their personalised interests.



Talk Through Stories

We are continuing to thoroughly enjoy our Talk Through Stories sessions together. Talk Through Stories, provides an invaluable opportunity for the children to see and hear a wide range of vocabulary, immersing them in a language-rich environment.

We will be continuing to read a different book every week and learning 8 new 'tier 2' words from each one. Here are the pictures of the front covers of this half term's texts - if you have these books at home, please do enjoy sharing them with your child.



Collins ebooks



Please do continue to log into Collins e-books for the purpose of accessing our reading scheme at home.

The children are continuing to access the text, as a hard copy, 3 times in the week in class and the purpose of sharing the book at home is to further support your child with developing their fluency, and their understanding of the text.

Remember this book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level so if your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise and celebrate their successes! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

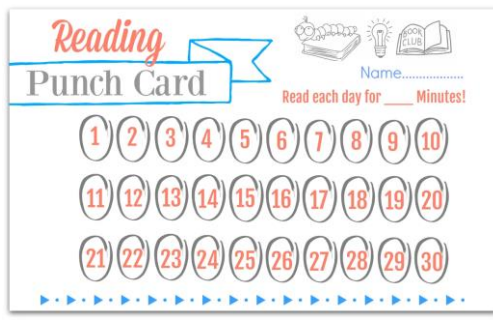
We ask you please continue to use your child's Reading Record to make a record that you have listened to them read, accompanied by any comments that you wish to share with us. Please ensure that both your child's reading book and reading record are kept in their books bags so that we can use these in class.

Reading for pleasure at home

We are delighted with our pupils' attitudes towards reading at Leavening and we have a positive culture of 'everyone a reader' which, of course, is the most important factor in enabling access to a broad curriculum. We are keen for all pupils to read widely and often at home and therefore have introduced the following incentive.

Your child will have a reading reward card and will be encouraged to read 5 times a week at home. Each time they read/share a book, they/you will sign their reading record and then this will correlate into a 'punch' onto their reading card (a bit like a loyalty card in Costa!) Every time a child achieves 20 'punches' to demonstrate they have read 20 times, then they will be able to choose from the reading reward list.

You child won't bring their reading reward card home, but they will bring their book and reading record and so please do encourage and support them in reading for pleasure at home. Any further questions please get in touch.



Sharing Books

We continue to promote and strongly encourage the sharing of books with your child for pleasure. Remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read these books alone. Read these books to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun sharing books together!

It has been a pleasure to witness the children's enthusiasm and excitement for our mobile library van visits. They are thoroughly enjoying selecting a book of their choice!



World Book Day!

Thursday 2nd March 2023



Your child can come dressed as a chosen book character or in their home clothes. They may bring their favourite book into class too!





What are we learning about?

In English, KS1 children will be writing a fantasy narrative inspired by the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. They will need to decide upon a twist to the original tale by imagining what else the magic beans could make happen! They will also be writing instructions to accompany their Design Technology cake recipes, as well as composing their own version of 'The Magic Box' free verse poem by Kit Wright. Reception children will be developing their Literacy skills through sharing the 'Aliens Love Underpants' story and they will also be exploring rhyme through sharing a range of spring time and Easter rhymes.

In maths, Reception children will be developing their understanding of number through building numbers 9 and 10 and comparing numbers to 10. They will also explore bonds to 10 and will learn about on 3D shape and pattern. Year 1 children will be learning about the following areas: place value within 50; length and height; mass and volume. Year 2 children will be learning about: length and height; mass, capacity and temperature; multiplication and division.

In Science, KS1 children will be discovering about the properties of materials and their uses, and identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials. They will also be developing their ability to pattern seek and to gather and record data. In Understanding the World, Reception children will be using all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. They will also investigate collections of materials with similar and/or different properties and will be encouraged to talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.

In Geography, your child will be using simple fieldwork & observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds, as well as studying the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment. They will also be developing their ability to use simple compass directions and locational and directional language. Reception children will be extending their understanding of the world through studying simple maps and drawing information from these and exploring their school grounds.

In computing, KS1 children will be exploring the 2Go program and completing a variety of challenges. 2Go gives the children the opportunity to control an object on a screen using a range of instructions, and serves as an introduction to programming. Reception children will also be exploring the 2Go program through Mini Mash. KS1 children will be building on their ability to use spreadsheets by using tools such as copying and pasting and totalling. Reception children will create and interpret a range of data together using the 2Count program.

In PE, Mr Hawkes will be developing your child's Invasion Games skills and tactics.

In Forest School, Mrs Bedford will be engaging the children in a range of learning activities such as Tying various knots; building shelters/dens; participating in team building games; sharing the 'I'm not a stick' book and using potato peelers to create wooden people and animals by whittling.

In Design Technology/Expressive Arts and Design, your child will be learning about Cooking and Nutrition through making a variety of desserts, cakes and biscuits.

In Music, your child will be exploring the music of Mason Bates and composing music for our imaginary animals. They will also be learning a song to help them to remember the names of the planets in the Solar System. In French, Mrs Stockill will be teaching your child the names of fruits and developing their use of colours and numbers. They will also be practising how to say whether they like or dislike something in French. They will also try some French breakfast items at the French cafe.

In Religious Education, your KS1 child will be thinking about the big question: how and why Christian and Muslim people might celebrate special and sacred times? Reception children will be considering the question: what times are special and why? Whilst enquiring about these questions, we will study the celebrations of Easter and Eid-il-fitr.

In Personal, Health, Social and Emotional Education pupils will be learning about 'A Healthy Me'. This will involve learning about aspects such as: ways to keep themselves healthy; keeping clean; being safe; medicine safety; road safety and linking health and happiness.