KIRBY HILL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 2024/2025 — Friday 25th October

Dates for your diary …

October – Black History Month
31st Oct – Closing date for Secondary School place applications (for Sept 2025)
4th Nov – Return to school
7th Nov – PTA Glow Discos
11th Nov – Remembrance Service / Start of Anti-Bullying Week
12th Nov – Odd Socks Day – Celebrating differences
15th Nov – Children in Need Day (PE Kit: Wear something yellow or spotty)
22nd Nov – Walk to School Day
6th Dec – PTA Christmas Fair (3.30pm in the school hall)
9th Dec – Whole school festive magic show – paid for by the PTA
11th Dec – Choir's Christmas Production for parents, 2pm (School hall)
12th Dec – EYFS / Y1 Nativity Performances 9.30am & 2.15pm (School hall)
13th Dec – Y2 & Choir – Nativity readings and carols at church, 11am (parents and grandparents welcome)
16th Dec – Anning Class Christmas Party (am) / Canady Class Christmas Party (pm)
17th Dec – Darwin & Einstein Class Christmas Parties
18th Dec – Christmas Dinner Day / Christmas Jumper Day
19th Dec – Bell Class Christmas Party
20th Dec – Finish for Christmas (School closes at 2.15pm – no After School Club)
7th Jan – School re-opens for pupils

Effort Shield

The Kirby Hill Effort Shield is an amazing award to receive as it shows that particular children have valued their learning and fulfilled our school vision:

All things are possible for one who believes. ***Mark 9:23***

Well done to:

Olivia Banthorpe-Howlett (Y4)

& Xander Shaw (Y6)

As you may be aware, we have a milk scheme in school, administered by Cool Milk. Midmorning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised cost. If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/register.

Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday. For children who are already over 5, it's not too late – the scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. Should you have any questions or need any help, send a message to www.coolmilk.com/contact.

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

"Spreading a Little Happiness"

We are pleased to be supporting this super scheme again this year. Boxes can now be collected from the school office, along with an updated guide for what can and cannot be put in the boxes.

Filled boxes need to be returned to school as soon as possible after half term. We will share the exact deadline once it has been confirmed.

Anning Class' News

What a busy couple of weeks we have had in Anning Class! Last week we enjoyed the story 'Tidy' in which Pete the Badger tidied his habitat, the forest, too much! So much so that he ruined the habitat for his friends. We thought about looking after woodland friends and made some bird feeders using cereal to hang on the trees. The Reception children also drew Pete the badger and had a go at writing the word 'bin'. Their writing of CVC words is coming along beautifully!

This week, we have enjoyed reading 'Pumpkin Soup' and have explored pumpkins in our outdoor area. We used spoons to scoop out the slimy flesh and tried to use tweezers to pick up the seeds. Inside the classroom, we used pictures to create the life cycle of a pumpkin. On Wednesday morning, we watched Mrs Cockerill use bicarbonate of soda and coloured vinegar to make the pumpkins erupt! It was very exciting!

Anning Class loved having their first forest school session of the year on Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Laycock. We learnt lots of skills which we used in different activities based on the book 'Room on the Broom'. The hot chocolate at the end was such a special treat.

Bell Class' News

We had a very exciting day on Wednesday when we went on our first school trip to Harlow Carr Gardens.

The bus was the first very exciting part because lots of the children had never been on a coach before!

We were blessed with a wonderful day of weather which showcased the beautiful Autumn colours. We headed across to the woodland playground areas first to let off some steam. The children thought about how to be safe and respectful to others before they went on the equipment. In fact, an ex-head teacher who was there commented on our children's good behaviour, which was lovely to hear.

After lunch, we took part in our guided workshop where we learnt about seasons. We went on a hunt for signs of Autumn, made group leaf homes for a toy hedgehog and then went to the learning greenhouse to plant some peas.

It was a wonderful day and the children were delightful.

Canady Class' News

In Topic, Canady Class have loved completing their final stage of their DT task – painting their castles! I have been so impressed by how well the children have applied their problem-solving skills throughout this project and by how well they have supported each other throughout the process. This week, Canady Class have used sponges to print a stone effect on the walls of their castles and they all look great!

As well as building castles, the children have learnt more about William the Conqueror. When William crossed the English Channel to defeat the Anglo Saxons in the Battle of Hasting in 1066, he brought quite a few innovations with him, among them: he changed our language, he brought monasteries, but William's most visible innovation - one that can still be seen all over the UK - was the building of castles. Before the Norman Conquest, Anglo Saxon "castles" were earthworks and ditches, or pointed sticks surrounding small settlements. Almost as soon as he arrived, William began planting garrisons of his soldiers in terrifying stone castles to make sure the locals understood who was in charge.

In PE, pupils have started to compile all their skills they have learnt from our last few weeks on 'throwing and catching' by playing a series of games. Over the weeks, the class has shown a vast improvement in their ability to communicate with one another as a team, throw and pass a ball with accuracy and move into available space once they have passed the ball to their team mate.

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term break!

Darwin Class' News

We have had a great two weeks in Darwin Class where we have continued to work on our independence and learning routines, and I am so proud of the huge progress the class has made.

In art, we have looked at Roman mosaic designs and then applied the features to create our own versions – we included a bit more colour than the Romans, but tried to keep it to a pastel pallet where possible.

In maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction and have used practical resources to help us understand regrouping and exchanging.

In English, we have focussed on the different types of nouns there are and when to use a capital letter. We have also looked at collective and partitive nouns and enjoyed learning in a practical way.

A huge well done to all those who entered the pumpkin competition – the entries were amazing – below are some of the entries from Darwin Class.

Einstein Class' News

In the last few weeks, both boys and girls have fielded teams in local football tournaments. In both competitions, our pupils were wonderful ambassadors for our school – sportsmanlike, polite and respectful- receiving praise for their conduct. I am so proud of them all. As an added bonus, our amazing goalkeeper also netted a medal for great goalkeeping, whilst constantly keeping a smile on his face!

In other sports news, we had our final Sports' Leader training session with Mr Vitali, in which the children were challenged in groups to create a playtime game for younger children. It was great to see how different the games all were – and they all looked great fun! In the photos, you can see groups demonstrating their game or sharing a team photo!

At the end of a very busy half term in Einstein Class, we are saying goodbye to the Middle Ages – we've enjoyed our (at times gruesome, at times funny!) time in the 14th century, which has inspired some stunning work in our topic books. I hope that you have a great half term and I look forward to seeing everyone again in November!