

Bel Royal Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Claire Hammond
Deputy Head: Mr. David Mills



Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we bid farewell to another enriching half-term, it is my pleasure to reflect on the diverse learning opportunities that have made our school a very busy place over last few weeks.

At the beginning of this academic year, we set clear School Improvement Targets based on the findings of the Jersey Schools Review and our own continual school evaluation. As part of a 3-year development cycle, this year we are working towards:

- Improving standards in writing and mathematics.
- Ensuring the full curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2 is mapped out and all statutory requirements for coverage of the Jersey Curriculum are met.
- Embedding the ethos of Rights Respecting Schools and working towards silver and gold accreditation.
- Improving our outdoor environment

School leaders are driving these improvements, and we are pleased with the impact of some of the initiatives we have put in place and the developments to our physical and virtual school environment, which is enhancing learning experiences for our children.



Technology plays a pivotal role in our children's learning journey and our 1 to 1 devices are being used extremely well throughout the school as a tool to enhance skills in other areas of the curriculum and to record and celebrate learning. This integration of technology in the learning process has been a highlight and the children are adapting seamlessly to digital platforms, developing their skills for the future.



We continue to have support from various groups who come into school to give their time, building on learning opportunities for our children and to offer advice and deliver key messages.

This term, our Key Stage 2 children have benefitted from the 'Hive Hackers' course; a 7-week programme run by volunteers from PWC who have helped to develop the children's digital skills and the concepts of coding and programming.



<https://www.pwc.com/jg/en/about-us/community-engagement/pwc-hive-hackers.html>

Every week we see a wonderful team from Every Child Our Future volunteering their time to support our children with their reading.

We also have a visit from Natasha and her therapy dog Rosie every Friday afternoon for some 'Paws & Read' time. This is always a highlight for some of our children who love reading with Rosie. This not only develops their reading skills, but helps to build confidence and self-esteem, whilst supporting their emotional wellbeing.

This term we have had visits from Jersey Fire and Rescue who have delivered key messages about fire safety skills and responsible citizenship and Year 2 have been working with the Education Welfare Team on the 'Keeping Myself Safe and Well' Programme, developing their knowledge, skills and understanding in how we can keep emotionally and physically safe.

As we launched hot lunches this half term, there has been so much positive feedback from the children, and it is wonderful to see them enjoying a range of healthy hot lunches as well as enjoying the social element of eating lunch together each day.

Beyond the classroom, our children have excelled in a range of extracurricular activities.



Many of the children are enjoying lunchtime clubs run by Mr Dolman and Mr Mills and the collaborative creations by Monday's Lego Club have been amazing.

Fantastic result for our netball team winning 7 - 4 in our first match.



This term, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils have started Netball club and have been learning the different positions and rules of netball. We entered the Nets West League, and we were able to win our first match of the campaign overcoming an excellent Helvetia team.

In football, we played our neighbours St Lawrence in what was a high-quality display from both sides. Both sets of players put in a fantastic performance with Bel Royal narrowly missing out and St Lawrence clinching victory.

The children in our school choir have shown off their beautiful voices and this week were filmed singing 'Everyone Belongs' as part of a fun and important project which has the themes of 'diversity' and 'inclusion' at its heart. The video will be screened at the Inclusive Education and Early Years Vision launch event on Thursday 22nd February 2024 at Jersey Library.



Mrs Arthur and Miss O'Connor have been busy with a group of children creating a magnificent dragon in celebration of the upcoming Lunar New Year.

The children have loved working on this together and learnt a dragon dance and drum routine to show the school in a special assembly today.





During Storytelling week, Nursery were very lucky to go on a trip to Hamptonne to hear three different stories in three different rooms- Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man and Sleeping Beauty.



When they got back to Nursery, they decided to make their own gingerbread people, luckily, not adding too much spice, so they didn't run away!



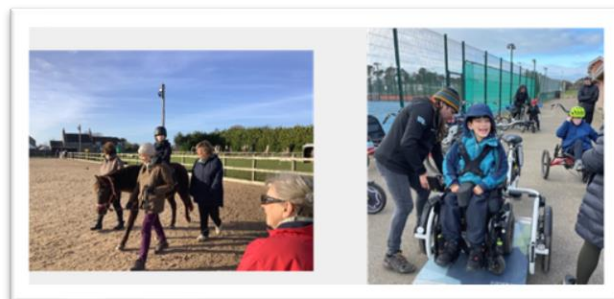
The children enjoyed listening to lots of stories read by different people and sharing books at home.

This term in the Early Years/KS1 ARC the children have been focusing on a different story each week. They have taken part in activities, learned new skills and new songs linked to the story.



One of their favourite stories is, 'The Colour Monster.' This story helps us to explore and talk about our different feelings. Miss McKenzie wrote a colour monster song to sing and sign. We are all learning to sign using Makaton.

The older children in the ARC have enjoyed a range of enrichment activities such as Healing Waves, Cycle without Limits, swimming, and horse riding.



Year 1 have been learning all about their homes and where we live this term. They have gone on a walk of our local area, learned to direct a Bee-Bot around a map, created their own maps, practised sketching our homes, learned which parishes they are from and visited a home from the Georgian times at 16 New Street.



Year 2 visited Hamptonne as part of their learning about local animals and their habitat. They went on a wellie walk and the team from Jersey Heritage helped everyone to identify birds by their colour and by their birdsong. We used binoculars to hunt for the birds in the trees and we also visited the piglets and calves. We all had a fantastic trip!

It has been another fantastic half term for Year 3 where the children's collaboration, perseverance and love of learning is shining through. They have been exploring the text *Cinderella of the Nile* becoming immersed in the ancient world of trade merchants, bandits and Pharaohs using inference skills to put themselves in the character's shoes and writing skills to write secret letters using literary language.



In science, the class have become geologists where they have loved all things rocks whether that be investigating, classifying, observing, or researching. They are now looking forward to exploring the world of Ancient Egypt in our history, geography, and art lessons next half term.





So far this term, Year 4 have been learning all about the Vikings in history and were so surprised to learn that they didn't wear horned helmets.

In science, the children have been investigating the different states of matter and testing various solids to

find out their melting points and in maths, they have been working on graphs and fractions.

In English, the children were incredibly lucky to start our new text driver, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* on a snowy day! The children have been writing their own poems about an enchanted sweet, using various authorial techniques and their five senses to enhance their writing.

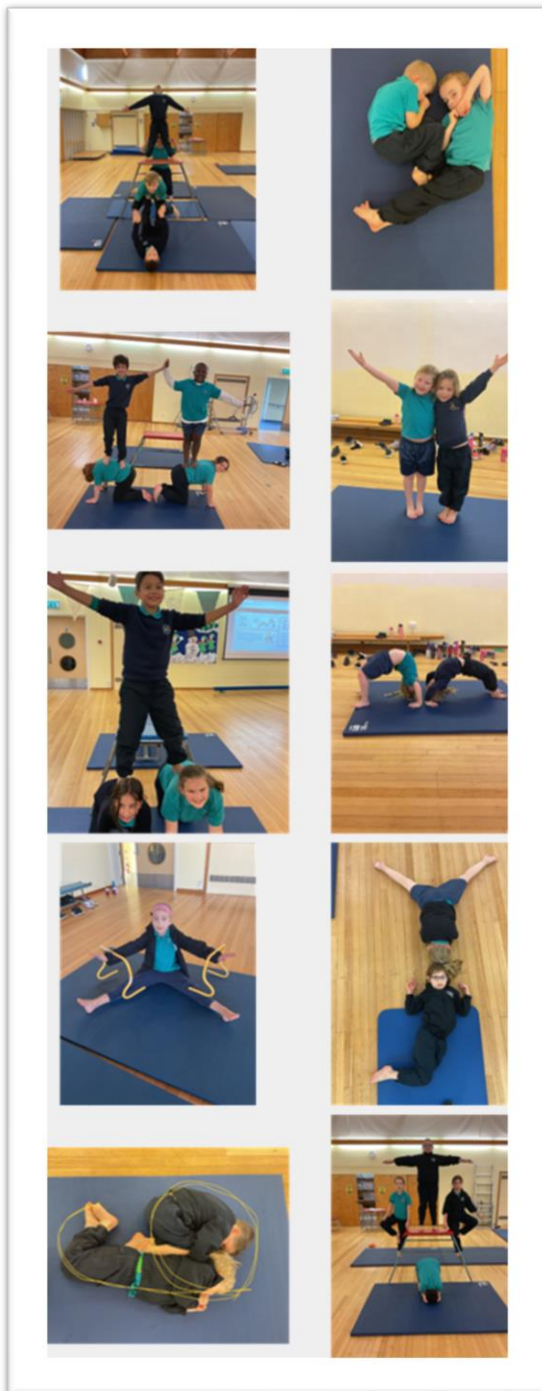


Year 5 have had a busy term, exploring a wonderfully, reimagined version of *The Little Match Girl*. This has allowed us to link what we have read, with our understanding of what life was like for children as part of our new history topic of the Victorians. Just before half term we visited *The Victorian House* at the Jersey Museum.

Science has been a series of hands-on lessons exploring the properties of solids, liquids, and gases and learning how to separate materials. Miss Simon created a catastrophic mixture where sand, paperclips, sugar, and pasta had got totally mixed up!

How could the children plan to separate them, using their scientific knowledge and a range of equipment? We have certainly been "wowed" by the crystals created from the sugar and water.

This term, Year 4 and 5 have been attending swimming lessons at Les Quennevais where, under the watchful eye of instructors, they have been learning different strokes and survival techniques when in the water.



In gymnastics, Year 5 have been learning group balances where they have collaborated with peers to perform interesting symmetrical and asymmetrical balances. Year 1 have been using their bodies to create interesting balances in the shape of some of their favourite letters! Can you guess the letters?

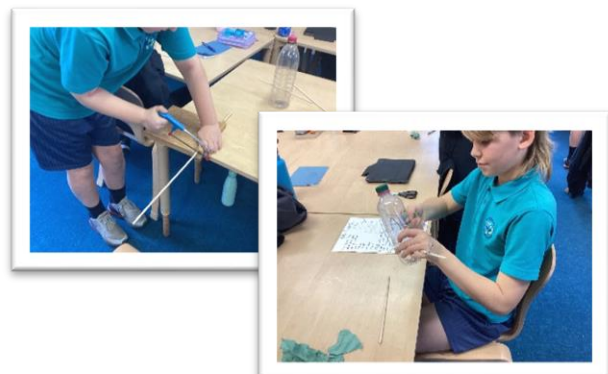
This half term, Year 6 have been working hard across the curriculum investigating variation in hair and eye colour; developing their fluency in mathematics; finding out about Charles Darwin's life and work; exploring the Richmond Map of Jersey to see how land use has changed over time.

After half term, they are looking forward to learning more about our island's farming history when Year 6 visit Hamptonne.

Music lessons have begun this term with a focus on learning to play the ukelele – some of us have some experience of this and hope to be able to play some simple tunes soon, which we will share on Seesaw!

We have successfully written diaries, imagining ourselves to be Charles Darwin reflecting on his time on HMS Beagle. We used this opportunity to read each other's work and discussed what we did well and how we might improve. After further editing, we reflected our own work and how we had been successful in writing in role and what our next steps are in our learning.

Year 6 are in the process of making bird feeders and bird boxes in DT, which we will place in various parts of our school grounds to feed the many birds we have visiting us daily. There are many skills involved in this task: research, planning, creating, making, and evaluating.





Our Parent Teacher Community Group met this week to discuss recent school developments and to plan upcoming dates for community events.

Huge appreciation for the committed parents who are giving their time and enthusiasm to work towards helping our children benefit from wonderful community and fundraising events.

There are lots of events coming up. Teachers will communicate with you directly regarding class dates. Below are some key events happening across the school. As always, we will add to these and let you know as soon as we have further information.

Upcoming Dates

20 th February	Year 5 residential parent meeting
21 st February	International Home-Language Day 2024
22 nd February	Inclusive Education Launch Programme – Jersey Library
27 th February	Year 4 residential parent meeting
5 th March	Year 3 residential meeting
7 th March	World Book Day
13 th March	Swim Marathon
15 th March	Pizza boxes & Pizza competition – info to follow.
19 th & 21 st March	Parent Teacher Meetings
26 th March	Easter Mini Disco Nursery & Reception: 5pm – 5.45pm Easter Disco Y1 – Y6: 6pm – 7pm
28 th March – 12 th April	Easter Holiday
15 th April	INSET day – school closed.
29 th April – 1 st May,	Year 4 residential Jersey Scout Centre
6 th May	Bank Holiday
9 th May	Liberation Day Bank Holiday

21 st May	Year 6 Pre-trip Parents briefing Year 6
27 th May – 31 st May	Half Term
17 th June – 21 st June	Year 6 residential Osmington
3 rd July – 5 th July	Year 5 residential St Aubin's Fort
4 th & 5 th July	Transition Days
10 th July	EYFS Sports Day – am KS1 & KS2 Sports Day – pm
11 th July– 12 th July	Year 3 residential Camp Bosdet
18 th July	Summer Fayre
19 th July	End of Term

The best judgment of how engaging a curriculum is, comes from the enthusiasm and responses from our children and it is always so fantastic when the children come to talk to me, every day, about their learning or things that have taken their interest and they are proud of. There have been a few notable comments this week, that have been really lovely to hear.

"I really don't want to stop doing this activity, I love writing so much".

"I am really proud of myself today because I found this maths tricky, and I have used lots of stuff to help me work it out, are you impressed Miss Hammond?"

"Miss Hammond, thank you for bringing hot lunches to our school".

Although I would love to take credit for these wonderful comments and for the taste sensations being enjoyed by the children at lunchtime, this is a testament to our fantastic team and dedicated community. I am ever so grateful to all the hard work and support of the staff, children, parents, and our wider community who help to make Bel Royal the special, vibrant place that it is.

Enjoy your half term break and I look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 19th February for another half-term of learning, growth, and shared achievements.

Warm regards,



Claire Hammond