



Fir Tree News

Academic Year 2017/2018

Date: February 2018

Although a short half term, we have achieved a lot both and in and out of the classroom. Our sports teams have been representing the school, while our choir has been rehearsing hard in preparation for their performance at The Anvil in March.

I would like to move to an electronic newsletter rather than the paper copy which you currently receive. Next week we will be sending out a letter confirming that this is an appropriate form of contact for you and checking your email addresses which we hold are correct.

Value of the Month

This month the focus in life skills has been respect. The children have been learning about the importance of respect in a range of different activities and they have voted for the child who they feel has displayed this value in their classes.

Nursery: Kaci

Reception: Archie

Year 1: Jasper

Year 2: Aiden

Year 3: Tanyalak

Year 4: Trisha

Year 5: Connor

Year 6: Sakshi

Sporting News

This month our sporting teams have been very busy, working as a team to represent our school.

Congratulations to everyone who participated for us.

Year 5/6 won gold medals at archery at Park House

Year 5/6 won bronze at bowling

Both 3/4 boys and girls football teams beat Cold Ash 5-0 and 3-1 respectively

Year 3/4 girls beat Shaw 2-1 at football

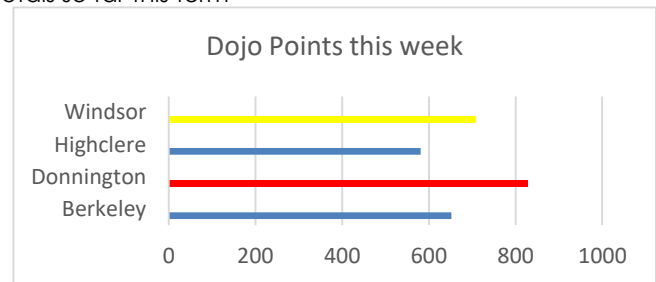
Year 3/4 girls came 3rd at indoor 5's football



Dojo Points

As you are aware, every pupil in the school are in a house, either Donnington, Windsor, Highclere or Berkeley. During the week every pupil earns dojo points for positive attitude and behaviour in and around school. These are announced on a weekly basis and cause great anticipation and excitement. This week we will be awarding additional points for the best dressed house on World book day.

Totals so far this term



West Berkshire Anti-Bullying accreditation

Last week Counsellor Beck presented members of our Peer Mentor team with the West Berkshire Anti-Bullying Accreditation. This is in recognition of all the work which has been taking place in school to make Fir Tree a happy and safe environment to learn and play.



Maths Week

At the end of last half term, we had a maths themed curriculum week. Teachers planned lots of wonderful activities related to maths.

In Foundation they learnt about Chinese New Year and read the story. They had their own races and used mathematical language such as first, second and third and then made their own medals. Following on from the races, they talked about time and many of the children made their own watches. They made marks in the glitter to write numbers and tweezers to put different amounts of rice in bowls. They also used the tape measures to measure the length of the noodles and ordered them from longest to shortest.

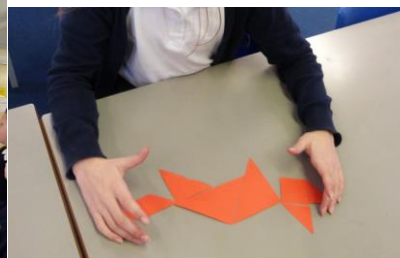
Year 1 pupils learnt about Andy Goldsworthy and went outside to make their own sculptures inspired by his work, focussing on patterns and shapes. In science pupils conducted blind taste tests, recorded our preferences on a bar chart and then examined the results. They did a maths trail around the school, involving shape, number and addition. This involved finding 2D/3D shapes, looking for the greatest/smallest number and addition with cars in the car park. They have made 2D shape monsters by tracing around 2D shapes and wrote clues describing the monsters for a friend to guess, focussing on describing the shapes and using number. They also did some problem

solving based around ordering different capacities. The children had to follow a set of clues and use language of capacity and sequence (e.g., first, second, last) to put them in the right order.

Year 3 completed a maths trail around the school, did a calculation and measures sessions, problem solving activities, spy maths lesson and made shape pictures using only 2D shapes.

During maths week year 4 consolidated their knowledge of area and perimeter by finding the perimeter of our playground. They used trundle wheels to measure in metres the distance around the edge and then added up all of the lengths to find the perimeter. They also used their knowledge of multiplication to find out the area. They then started to do some work with fractions firstly discussing what a fraction was, and then looking at equivalent fractions and discussing why we would use these. They finished by looking at the playground and finding fractions in the environment using their skills to know that to be a fraction there has to be EQUAL parts in the WHOLE.

Year 5 investigated making different shapes using Tangrams. Tangrams are 7 polygons that fit perfectly together to make a square, they can be rearranged to form different animals, people and objects. They had to use lots of verbal reasoning and spatial awareness! The class also read Grandfather Tang's Story (a traditional tale from China that uses Tangrams to represent the different characters in the story) and then wrote our own version. In art, they used oil pastels in primary colours to create artwork in the style of Piet Mondrian. They also used multiplication and division to solve problems on our maths trail around school.



On Thursday 22nd March M&M productions will be returning to Fir Tree with their performance of The Secret Garden. Last year we were lucky enough to watch their Railway children production. The children were captivated from beginning to end. Please remember to send in your contribution to this fantastic experience.

Save the Date

- 07.03.18** Trinity school show KS2 to be in school by 8:15am
- 08.03.18** Foundation Stage Rhyme Challenge assembly
- 08.03.18** Cake Sale
- 09.03.18** World Book Day
- 13.03.18** Choir – The Anvil
- 14.03.18** Eat lunch with your child
- 20.03.18** Late parent's evening 5-7pm
- 22.03.18** M&M productions – The Secret Garden
- 22.03.18** Early Parent's evening 3:30-6pm
- 23.03.18** Year 3 class assembly
- 29.03.18** END OF TERM 1:15pm