

Bird's Bush 2023 Autumn 1 Newsletter

Welcome to our first half-termly newsletter. It has been a fantastic start to the year at Bird's Bush! We have been busy welcoming all our children back to school, especially our newer members to the Bird's Bush family. It has been truly heart-warming to see our children settle so well into their new classes and routines, ready to engage with their new learning opportunities. We hope you will enjoy reading all about our new learning frameworks and the learning each group has experienced during the first half of the Autumn term.

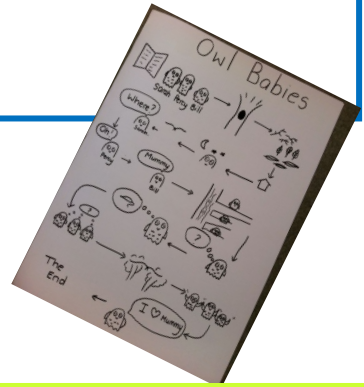
Talk 4 Writing

Bird's Bush children have loved their new Talk 4 Writing units this half-term. Our new approach to writing has enabled the children to apply their skills in a range of creative genres. Talk for Writing is an engaging teaching framework based on the principles of how children learn. It enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version. Visitors from Perry Hall MAT and Talk 4 Writing made a visit to Bird's Bush and shared how impressed they were with the high levels of enthusiasm and effective vocabulary used by our children.

Keep it up Bird's Bush!

Read Write Inc (RWI) and Big Cat!

At Bird's Bush we continue to use RWI to teach phonics and reading skills. Children will also be bringing home reading books that are at their reading level and we ask for your support in encouraging your child to engage in them. For children who are no longer on the phonics programme, we have launched our brand-new book scheme! Big Cat! These new books aim to build fluency, comprehension and a love of reading. All children will also have a reading for pleasure book too which they will have chosen from their class library.



"Science is important because it gives you knowledge for the real world and how it works. Because Science is all around us, it helps us to see how and why things happen."

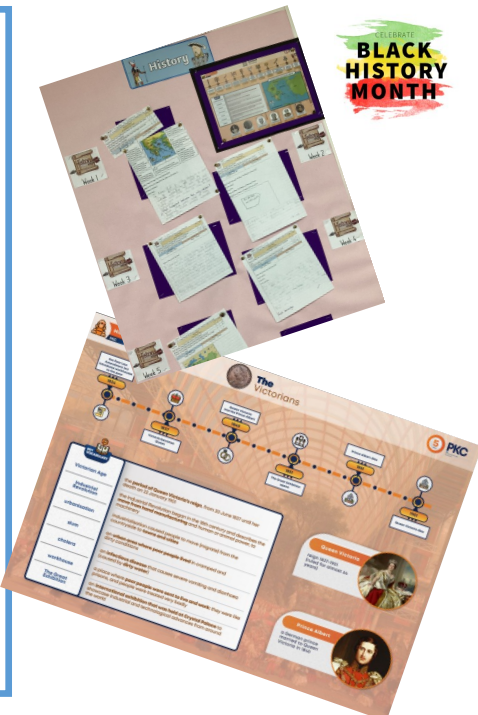
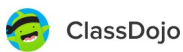
Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC) — Placing powerful knowledge at the heart of the curriculum

This half term, the children have enjoyed our new PKC curriculum. This knowledge rich curriculum covers a huge range of topics and focusses on teaching children the key knowledge that they need to know to be successful scientists, historians, artists, designers and geographers. Both staff and children have been oozing enthusiasm and excitement when sharing their new learning in a variety of ways. It has also helped the children make links between their learning and the real world.



DOJO winners!

Our children continue to love Class Dojo points as rewards for showing our Bird's Bush CHAMPION values. This half term's prize for the class DOJO winners is an invite to our Bird's Bush Big Breakfast. More details to follow for the winners.



Black History Month

Children across school have been celebrating Black History Month through October by learning about influential people, reading inspiring books by black authors, and of course completing their homework projects. We were so impressed by the high standard of homework across school.

Congratulations to our winners!





Reception - Robins

What a wonderful start to school for Reception! They have loved learning all about our school, our community and the different people who help us. Reception have shown themselves to be keen investigators and explorers, learning inside the classroom and outside!



They have made a super start to their phonics learning and are enjoying reading lots of stories, poems and nursery rhymes.

Book and biscuit sessions have been popular this half term and it has been lovely to see so many family members sharing our love of reading.

In Maths, Reception have loved using Number Blocks to help us to learn numbers to 5. They have explored using Numicon, dice, blocks, counters and so much more!



Year One - Woodpeckers have had the best start to their year!

We have been doing some fantastic learning in all of our subjects, from science to dance lessons! This has really helped us to explore our knowledge about the 5 human senses of touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing! We further explored inspirational individuals, such as Helen Keller, who was the first blind and deaf woman to go to University to achieve a degree.



In our maths lessons, we have been looking at the differences between length and height, and have been using our counting skills to measure objects accurately with rulers! We have been pushing our potential with our mathematical language and have remembered to include 'cm's' when working out how long or tall something is.



In our writing, we learnt the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and created our own versions, such as 'The Three Little Ducks'. We then used this story to create our own dream houses, which often included lots of swimming pools and sweets!



Year Two - Kingfishers have had an amazing start to the year!

In maths we have been adding and subtracting using partitioning. We are getting very good at using numicon and dienes to help with our tricky learning. We also learnt about 2D and 3D shapes and patterns. In the holidays we will be looking for 3D shapes around our home, please help us. We are trying really hard each week in our Masters of multiplication!

In English, we have produced some super writing using our Kinetic letters. We have written our own Jack and the beanstalk stories, which we read to our Reception friends. We made Wanted posters for the scary monsters from our defeat the monster stories and we have written letters to complain about the treatment of the stationary from the book 'The day the crayons Quit'. Every day we work hard in our RWI group to keep practicing our sounds.



In our other lessons we have learnt about our bodies and all of the different systems inside us - digestive system, the circulatory system and the skeletal system. We have been learning how to look after our environment in RE and thought about why we have a school council in our school. We have even had time to elect our school council members by voting democratically. In Geography we have been learning how to read maps of the local area and the world. We have been finding countries, learning about the Equator and the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. We even drew our own maps of school. They are very good!!

We have really enjoyed this half term and being at school. We are very excited about new learning after the holidays.



From The Kingfishers.

Year Three - Kestrels

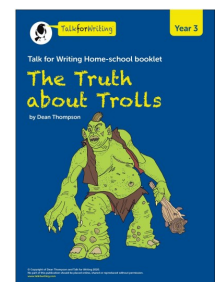


We have been busy this half term creating some fabulous artwork in year 3. We have been printing to create lines, like the lines in Hokusai's, The Great Wave off Kanagawa, 1829-33. We used a pencil to poke holes into our printing tiles to make a flower. After that, we used paint to cover our flowers and printed it onto card.

As part of our PE curriculum we have been focusing on dance and team work.

In science we have been learning about the body and how it works. We have also started to use fun interactive games to help us to check what we have learnt.

In English, we have been reading the story The Truth About Trolls, we have been busy rewriting the story to turn it into our own!



In maths, we have been doing lots of work around place value. We have learnt how to partition numbers and add them across a column.

Year 4 - Owls

Year 4 have had an amazing start to the year, we have enjoyed History and the ancient Greeks, learning about hot-headed Alexander the Great cutting the Gordian knot. We were amazed to find out that the Spartans had to sleep on wooden 'beds' and train to be warriors from 7 years old!



Our practical Science lesson was fun but also a little revolting as we recreated the digestive system, looking at what our stomach acid does to food and how it travels through the intestines.

We have entered the world of an author and began to build a love of writing; this has seen us use our wonderful vocabulary to bring a story to life for the reader.

Our Maths has incorporated inverse problems, perimeter and we look forward to each stage of our Masters of Multiplication.

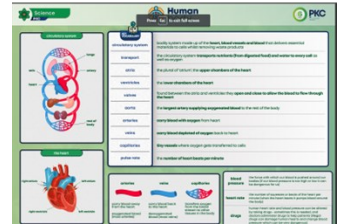
We are looking forward to more fun and bringing our learning to life next half term.



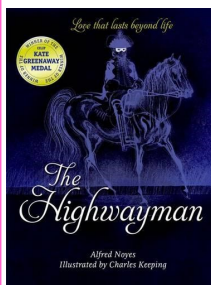
Year 6 - Falcons

This term we have really enjoyed learning about World War I. We have enjoyed learning about the battles, such as the Battle of the Somme. We were fascinated by the Christmas truce of 1914 and that both the English and Germans were brave to go across no man's land as they could have been shot. It was a great act of faith. We are really looking forward to learning about WWII.

We have found our Science learning really interesting and we now know all about the circulatory system.



In Maths, Ava said "I enjoyed my lightbulb moment" in fractions and we have all been enthusiastic to learn about fractions and we never gave up in Maths!



One of our favourite parts of Reading was learning about the classic poem, The Highwayman. We impressed our teacher by learning the first part of the poem (even though some of us tried to cheat at first!). It was six verses long and we did a really good job of learning and performing it.

Even though we initially had reservations about our dance learning, we actually loved learning dances throughout the decades. Mia's favourite week was learning the classic Thriller dance but a lot of the class enjoyed the Charleston because we went out of our comfort zone to do it.

Our learning in Art has been fantastic and we liked learning how to mix the plaster of Paris.



Year 5 - Eagles

Year 5 have done some amazing learning this half term! They have been artists looking at different styles in art - including rococo and modernism. Our classroom art gallery is looking amazing with their own interpretation of an abstract painting.



Children took a visit to Packington Farm, to use their new map reading skills into context doing some orienteering.

The children have been loving their new class novel! Thief! by Malorie Blackman and have been learning more about her as an author and comparing her books.

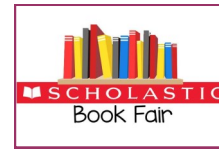
To complete the half term, children took part in the BBC 500 Words Writing Competition, fingers crossed one of our ambitious authors will make it to the final and get to visit Buckingham Palace.



Up coming events at Bird's Bush



Our brand **new school library** will be opening after half term! We will have sessions to invite families into school to visit the library together to choose a new reading for pleasure books. To celebrate the launch of our school library, we are thrilled to be joined by bestselling author Chris Duke who will be visiting to share his new book with us. You will receive a flyer to pre-order copies of the book at a reduced cost.



The Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to school on **Wednesday 8th November** until **Wednesday 15th November** for you to browse and perhaps buy a new book. It will be open every evening by the rainbow gates as well as during parents' evening.



The **Premier League Trophy** will also be making a visit to Bird's Bush on **Friday 10th November**. The team will lead an exciting assembly called Premier League Reading Stars with workshops for KS2 classes following this. Thanks to Miss Francis for winning this amazing opportunity for our school.

Parents Consultations

We look forward to seeing all our parents during the first week back after half term,

Parents evening will be on **Wednesday 8th November**. We have also dedicated an afternoon per year group for parents that are unable to attend on an evening,

Please check your email/text for more details.

We continue to use our **Champions values** to promote positive attitudes to learning which reflect the values and skills needed to promote responsibility for learning and future success:

- **Confidence** – We believe we can do it!
- **Honesty** – We tell the truth
- **Ambition** – We can be successful
- **Motivation** – We get on with it and try our best
- **Pride** – We celebrate doing well
- **Independence** – We know how to help ourselves and each other
- **Organisation** – We have what we need to get on
- **Never Give Up (Resilience)** – We are resilient and keep trying
- **Safe** – We feel safe to try new things and know how to keep ourselves safe

Happy half term to all of our families. We look forward to seeing our children back in school on

Monday 6th November!

