



Primary Newsletter: Autumn 1

A message from Mr Tharme:

What a wonderful start back to school the children have made this term. As I walk around and see all of the fantastic learning that is happening across the academy, I am always so impressed with how engaged and happy the children are. Standing on the gate in the primary entrance has to be one of my favourite times of the week. I can see so many happy children and families skipping, scooting and confidently walking into school - the children clearly love being here!

Our new starters in Reception have settled in so well and, through their daily actions and interactions with staff and other children, show off how they truly belong here with us at Livingstone Academy. They listen attentively, follow instructions carefully and walk with pride in our academy. Well done everyone and thank you parents and carers for supporting us to make this a successful transition for each and every child.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children are demonstrating our values and being excellent role models to the younger children everyday, showing positive learning attitudes and behaviour. They are earning so many house points and it is a joy to celebrate this with them every Friday in celebration assembly.

This term, we have held various 'showcase' events including our Launch Event in September, Open days for primary and secondary, visits from Principals from other academies and visits from the leaders of Aspirations Academies Trust. During each of these events, our visitors are blown away by the learning opportunities on offer, our incredible facilities, but mostly, our articulate, confident and happy children.

Thank you to all of the wonderful parents, children and our incredible staff of our academy for helping to make such a happy, positive and engaging start to the academic year. Have a restful and wonderful half term. We look forward to welcoming you all back for more learning on Monday 30th October 2023.

Kind regards

Mr Tharme



A message from Mrs Taylor:

As our final week of the term draws to an end, our children have had lots of opportunities to reflect on learning and be proud of their achievements. They have impressed us with their resilience and confidence throughout the term and it has been a pleasure to see such confident and happy children enter through our gates each morning. The children have worked alongside each other to really think about what has made them proud and the next steps they want to achieve.

Next term, we have lots of exciting opportunities planned for all, including the planetarium experience for our Reception children- where they will learn about the night sky, solar system and our role in that as planet Earth.

In addition to this, Year 1 and 2 children will visit the local area of Bournemouth to look at similarities and differences and investigate the human and physical Geography of the local area.

Our new playground has also been very well received and the introduction to the new playtime equipment and zones has meant there is something for everyone!

This term, we opened our doors to prospective parents during our first Primary open evening of the year. Many visitors commented on the hard work achieved already this term, as they visited the classrooms, watched videos of the day in action and met teachers and student volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our open day volunteers and staff for making this evening such a positive experience.

It has been great to see the children engaging so well during our Monday assemblies by developing awareness of key themes such as:

- Respect and Growth Mindset
- Diversity and Celebrating differences
- Self- worth and Belonging
- British Values and Black History Month
- World Mental Health Day

I look forward to welcoming you all back after the half term break feeling refreshed and ready for the new term's adventures!



What have we been up to this term?

Reception:

What a fantastic start to school! The first half term has flown by and we have seen the children begin to grow into independent learners. An example of this is seen each morning in the way that children are saying goodbye to their grown-ups, greeting their friends in the classroom and caring for their needs by putting their belongings away.

We started in September by looking at the story of 'The Colour Monster.' The children related to the concept of our emotions being represented by different colours and throughout the half term we have continued to describe our feelings through colours as well as words. Through building friendships and practising their communication skills, the children are beginning to understand and manage their emotions.

The children have really enjoyed exploring the outdoor area, improving their strength, balance and coordination through the games and activities they have created. We are especially proud of the way the children can be heard caring for their own safety, as well as the safety of others, while taking risks.

We have been thinking about looking after our bodies, including our teeth, as well as learning more about our families and communities. The children have loved dressing up and pretending to be people who help us, including firefighters, dentists, teachers and police officers. Through their play, recently taught vocabulary can be heard and this makes us very proud.

The children have been enjoying their maths and phonics learning and are beginning to see how it opens up a world of possibilities to them. We are excited to see the children's continued achievements after half term.



Year 1:

We can't believe that the first half term is nearly completed! The children have settled in so well into life in Year 1, and have continuously shown us a growth mindset when faced with challenge. Our learning has developed from reception, whereby the children are writing more, but also accessing continuous provision, allowing children to consolidate their learning throughout the days/weeks.

In writing, we have been learning the story 'Little Red Riding Hood'. From our text, we have been learning to write accurate, simple sentences, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. Alongside this, we have been identifying and using a variety of adjectives in our writing, to describe the wolf and the forest. We children have wowed us with their learning and have made super progress.

In maths, we have been learning about place value (within 10). We have been learning various small steps, including sorting into groups, finding one more, counting forwards, greater than, less than and equal to. The children have been recording their verbal explanations to show their understanding of questions, and have been working hard to independently answer questions in their books.

In science, we have been learning about the seasons, specifically autumn. The children created autumn wreaths which are on display in our classroom, and have been learning about why the length of day changes.

In Geography, we have been studying maps of the UK, and learning about the four countries which make up the United Kingdom. The children have also learnt the capitals of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, and have been researching key facts about each of the capital cities. By regularly revisiting our learning, the children are confidently recalling the capital cities.

It has been a fantastic half term, and we wish you a restful break, and look forward to seeing you all after the holidays.



Year 2:

The children have returned to school with such energy and enthusiasm, filling the classroom with curiosity, willingness to learn, and positive attitudes. It is clear that they have settled into Year 2 well and are ready to embrace new challenges. We are looking forward to watching your children continue to flourish academically and personally as the year unfolds.



Year 2 visited Bournemouth Oceanarium as part of their science learning this term. The children were in awe as they walked through the underwater tunnel and observed endangered and vulnerable aquatic species; including Carrie, a 7 year old Loggerhead turtle. We were able to put our science knowledge to good use and talk about the structures that Carrie uses to survive.

The children also explored how animals are classified into groups such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish - we were able to spot these animals along our tour of the Oceanarium and talked about the characteristics that distinguish these groups.

In English, the children have been developing their understanding of sentence structure and composition. We have been working on simple sentences and compound sentences, including the seven coordinating conjunctions '*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*'. Scan the QR code to view one of our Year 2 experts, Sammy, explaining the formula of creating a simple sentence!

After focusing on our key text *Our Planet by David Attenborough*, the children explored the ways in which we can share Attenborough's important message about taking care of the Earth. We decided to write a letter to inform people about our concerns about the vulnerable animals and habitats around the world. The children have worked extremely hard to use their new knowledge of simple and compound sentences to create this, including the important features of writing a letter.

In maths, we have been focusing on place value. In particular, the children have been exploring numbers to 100 using different representations and practising counting in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any given number. The children have had the opportunity to practise their learning using a variety of hands-on activities, using visual aids and manipulatives to help the children grasp the concepts.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you and your child return after the break, ready for another term full of learning and exploration!