

WHADDON NEWS

October 2017

Harvest Festival

Thankyou all for joining us to give thanks for the harvest. The church looked truly beautiful, filled with autumn colours (thanks to Hazel Hedges and her wonderful team).

The children sang tunefully and many of the parents were almost as good.

I was very impressed by how well all the children stood and spoke up during their class presentation. The youngest had of course only been with us for 20 days and 8 mornings so it was very brave of them to perform in front of a packed church. Everyone spoke clearly and loudly and were very proud of themselves.

Our wonderful Reverend Gussie literally gave us food for thought in her closing talk, alongside much laughter, and left us thankful for all the people who contribute to providing the food we eat.

As we walked back to school, I was struck by the sea of happy, smiling faces who, in taking time out of our busy lives, were completely enjoying each other's company and the specialness of the occasion.

Whaddon is such a special school!

Phonics meeting

Myself and Miss Nash hosted a Phonics information session for FS and Year 1 parents this month. The purpose was to inform Foundation Stage parents of how we teach phonics and how you can help your child to get the best out of their learning in this area. For year 1 parents, there was information about the National Phonics Screening test all year 1 children sit and how you can prepare your child for this. If you were unable to make this event, but would like to know more, please speak to either myself or Miss Nash.

Movie Night & AGM Social

A huge thankyou to the FOWS committee members for arranging the movie night. The children enjoyed the movie and the popcorn went down well!

It was great to see so many parents attend the social evening. While they had to endure wine and nibbles instead of popcorn, they all seemed to have a good time and there were some inspiring fund-raising ideas in support of the school.

Diwali

On Tuesday 17th October the whole school spent the morning celebrating Diwali (a couple of days early). Mrs Wright, her daughter and her mother came dressed in their beautiful saris and led the children in a wonderful morning. The day started with a whole-school assembly learning a little bit about Diwali. After that, the children took part in four different activities. They were in mixed groups of 11, which was a great opportunity for the younger and older children to spend time learning together and getting to know each other more.

The first activity was traditional Hindu dancing with Mrs Wright - many children said this was their favourite activity. Next, children heard the story of Rama and Sita and played a game involving the main characters - they were generally most interested in the monster Ravana, with his ten heads and 20 arms. On the playground the children used dyed rice to create traditional Rangoli patterns, which Hindu people use to welcome the goddess Lakshmi into their homes. You may have seen these after school—they were very impressive! The final activity was lantern-making, and learning a bit about why Diwali is known as a festival of light.

Thank you to Mrs Wright for a lovely day!



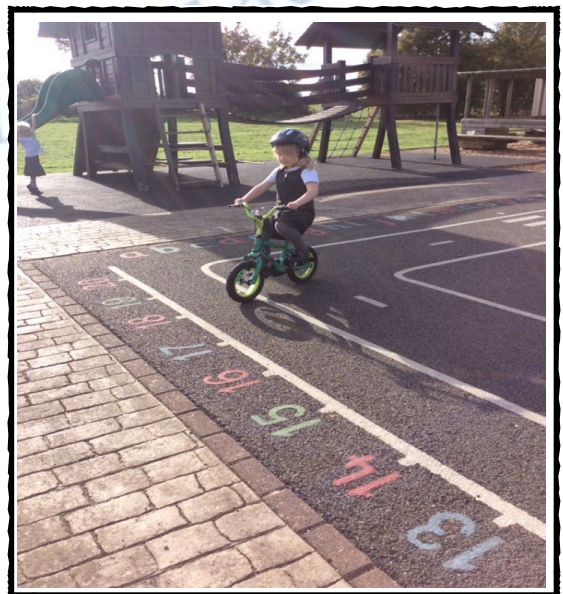
Foundation Stage News

We were very excited to receive 6 mysterious boxes last week. The children worked in teams to carry them to the classroom and we guessed what might be inside. Unfortunately there weren't monkeys as one child thought but there were shiny new bikes! We made the first one together, following instructions and thinking about how parts would fit together. It was then up to the children to use the tools and put the rest of the bikes together.

They worked collaboratively to fit them correctly and couldn't wait until they were complete.

Finally, 6 gleaming green bicycles stood waiting to be ridden. The children kindly helped each other to have a go on them. Supporting the less steady and taking care not to run each other over.

3 children had not been able to ride a two wheeled bike before but within half an hour, they were racing around (complete with helmets and knee pads of course)!



Forest School News

Year 1

The past few weeks have seen a lot of changes at Forest School. Each week the children spend time using their senses to establish how the seasons are changing and what they day's weather is like. Forest School is looking very colourful with the Autumn leaves.

The Year 1 Forest Schoolers have been very interested in creatures. They have used minibeast identification sheets to find millipedes, slugs, snails and woodlice. We even had a larger visitor – a toad! The children were excited to see it and talked about why it might be in our forest school area.

Another popular activity has been craft work. It's incredible what can be created using natural materials; the children have made necklaces and mobiles, sourcing and sawing the wood themselves. We have all developed a liking for the smell of sawn wood!

After many polite requests from the children, we had a campfire in the final session. Children learnt how to 'STOP, DROP and ROLL' if there were any emergencies and they all had a go at lighting the fire using flint and steel. After their hard work, they enjoyed a feast of sausages and marshmallows.



Forest School News

Year 2 and 3

Class 2 have also been noticing the changing seasons. They noticed that some of the plants they had learnt to name in the summer are no longer around, leading to a discussion about seasonal plants and why plants might grow more in the summer. The children also commented on the lack of evidence of fox visits to the school field and discussed why this might be.

Some of the older children are becoming very interested in birds and enjoy using the bird book to identify birds they spot. We've seen some crows, magpies and wagtails recently.

Continuing the theme of creatures, some children have been facing their fear of spiders by learning that any spider they see during forest school will be harmless. This led to a discussion about what spiders eat and how they catch their prey. Do you know why spiders don't get caught in their own web? If not, ask a child from Class 2!

This half term's tasty treat has been marsh mallow crispie cakes! The children all helped to gather firewood and light the fire for the outdoor oven. They worked as a team to make some delicious, very pink, crispie cakes. Luckily, there were some left over for the staff to try afterwards. They had a lovely smoked flavour!

Uniform

As you are aware, we moved to winter uniform on our return to school after the half-term break. This is the first year we have requested a change of uniform at a specific time as we are a school which values outdoor learning and we spend a considerable amount of time outside. We want the children to feel warm and comfortable enough to enjoy their learning. The weather has become much colder and will continue to become even colder this term and next. We appreciate it may take time for trousers to be purchased but we thank you for your support in ensuring your child is equipped to be able to make the most of their school day.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Tuesday 31st October	Year 1, 2, 3 Parents Evening	12.00—17.00	School
Wednesday 22nd November	Whole School Trip to Collect Christmas Tree—Salcey Forest	All day	
Sunday 26th November	Christingle—All children and families	17.30-18.30	St Mary's Church
Friday 8th December	Nativity-All children	18.00-19.00	Village Hall
Friday 15th December	Whole School Trip to the Panto	9.00am	Aylesbury Theatre
Monday 18th December	School Party Day Party clothes needed	All day	School
Tuesday 19th December	End of year Carol Concert	14.00-15.00	St Mary's Church

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

AUTUMN TERM 2017	Monday 4 September	Friday 20 October
	Monday 30 October	Tuesday 19 December
SPRING TERM 2018	Wednesday 3 January	Friday 9 February
	Monday 19 February	Friday 30 March
SUMMER TERM 2018	Monday 16 April	Friday 25 May
	Monday 4th June	Tuesday 24 July

TERM TIME BANK HOLIDAYS 2017/2018

Monday 7th May 2018 – May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS 2017/18

Monday 4th September 2017
 Tuesday 5th September 2017
 Wednesday 3rd January 2018
 Monday 23rd July 2018
 Tuesday 24th July 2018

Year 1

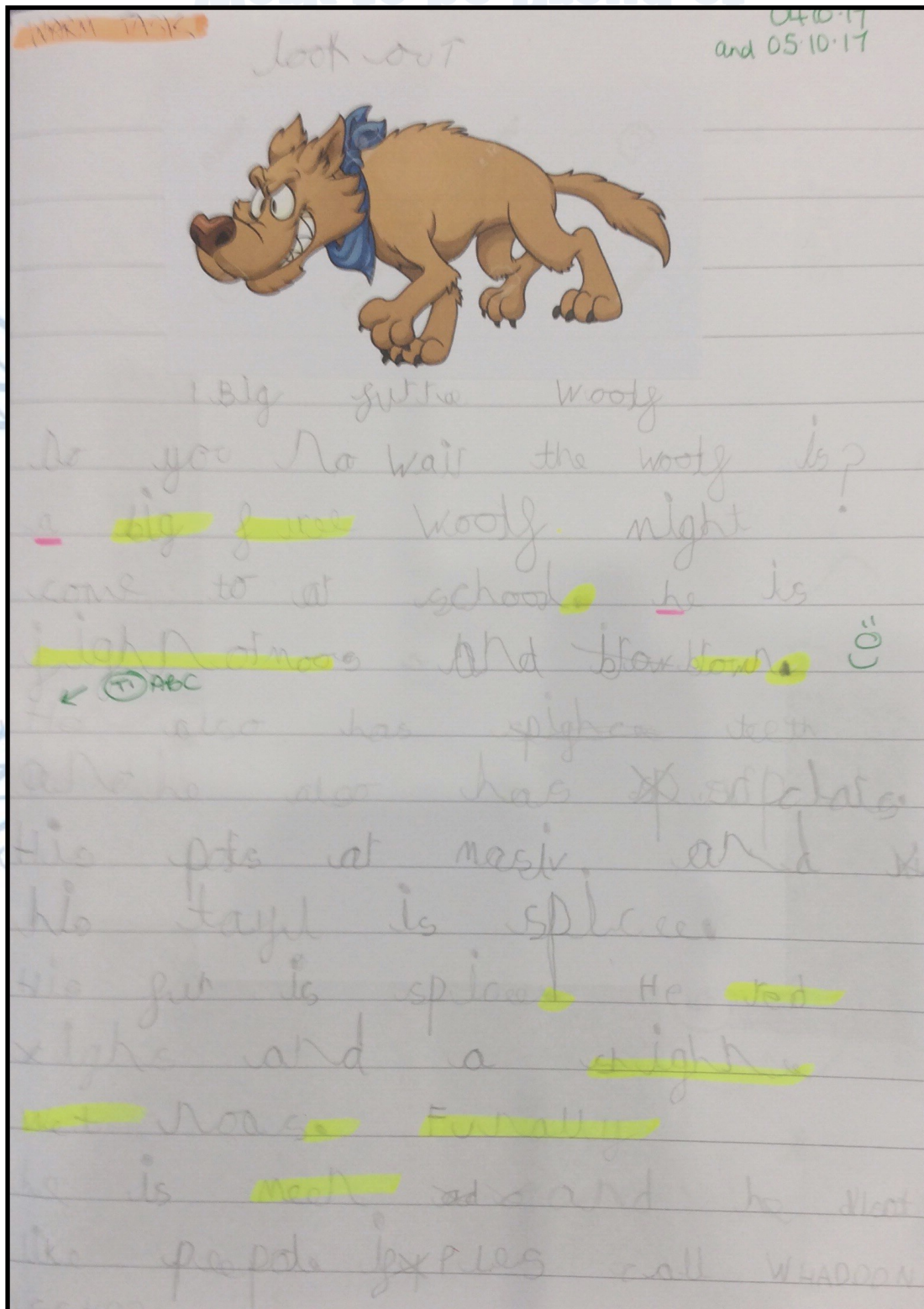
Work to be Proud of



Maggie and Yasmin's creative cave troll

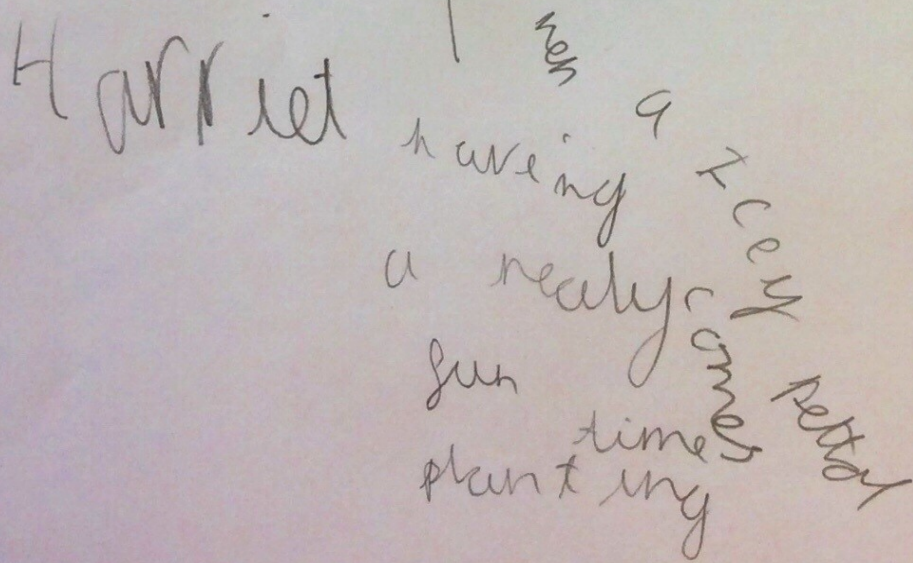
Year 1

Work to be Proud of



Matthew's super wolf poster

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Harriet's design for her own symbol