



# Newsletter



## Pen Mill Infant and Nursery Academy

All of the information on this page can be found on:

- our website at [www.penmillinfants.co.uk](http://www.penmillinfants.co.uk)
- our school jotter App

22nd March  
2024

### Message from Mrs Manning

*Dear parents and carers,*

*It was lovely to see so many of you attend the parent's evening and have the opportunity to hear about how your child is working and behaving in school. We are extremely proud of how the children are progressing with their reading and writing and it is lovely to see the care they take over their work.*

*The year twos had a successful trip to the Rural Life Museum this week and their behaviour and attitudes were exemplary. Thank you to all the adults who came in and helped with this trip we are very grateful for your support and time.*

*Today the children presented Father David with his leaving card and present, Father David has worked with the school for over ten years and the children have loved his assemblies and the adventures he shares with them about Maximus the mouse. We wish him every joy in his retirement.*

*Next week we look forward to welcoming you into school on Thursday afternoon for our Easter craft inspire session. After this, we will be parading around the school grounds in our Easter bonnets.*

*As we approach the Summer term we will embark on our new adventure of being part of the Preston Primary Trust, we look forward to working with the schools in the trust which will enable us to flourish further.*

*We wish you all a restful Easter break.*

*Best wishes  
Mrs Manning*



# Cygnnet Class

We have had another action packed term in Cygnnet class, here are only some of the things we have been up to -



Making repeating patterns



Singing songs



Using the instruments



Counting cubes



Dancing



Sorting shapes



Walking through the daffodils



Measuring & pouring



Going on a bike ride



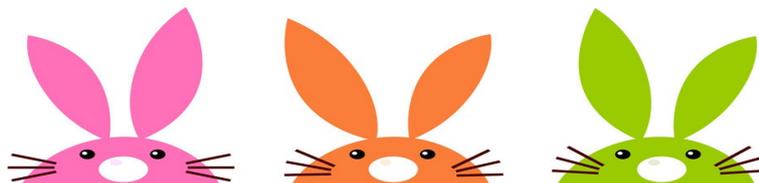
Matching animals to their patterns



Using team work to build a train track



Reading lots of stories



## Swan Class

With a hip hop, hippity hop we have bounced through the second part of the Spring term.

We have been enthused by the changes in the weather, particularly over the past week when we have been blessed with some warmer temperatures and less rainfall. Although the rain doesn't stop us much! We have still been outside and have carefully been exploring the changes that we can see in nature, the daffodils have been beautiful for us and we have very much enjoyed running through them during our time spent on the field.

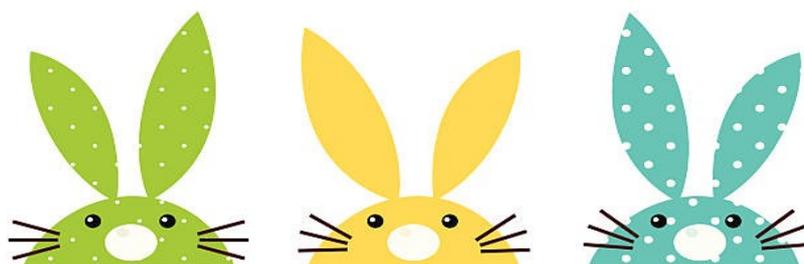


Mrs Chamberlain has led PE sessions with us every Thursday, the focus this half term has been dance and we have learnt the Hokey Cokey, Shake Your Sillies Out and played musical statues. Often we ask for the music to be on in our classroom so we can continue to practise our best dance moves.

We have been very lucky to be able to take part in World Book Day, Red Nose Day and Easter Egg donation Day. All of these events have been well supported with our families, thank you very much.

Next week we will all be very much looking forward to our Easter Bonnet parade and perhaps some special treats that we shall have to hunt for too....yummy!

We wish all of you a very Happy, Hoppy Easter.

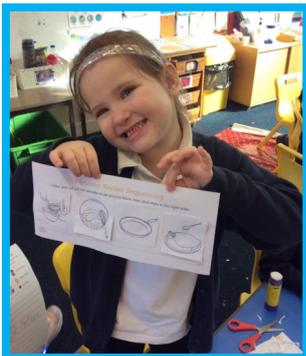


## Wren and Robin Class

Pancake day seems a long time ago now but when we came back from half term we made our own pancakes. We had Chef Shire making us pancakes from scratch and the children got to choose their toppings from a variety of yummy ones. Mr Shire flipped some pancakes and we could hear the giggles in the next room. The smell was just divine. All of the children tried a pancake and we are very proud of them! We read the book Mr Wolf's Pancakes and the children thought the ending was hilarious when the wolf ate all of the people who refused to help him make his.



Wren and Robin class have had a super busy half term learning about 'Down on the Farm'. We have been learning about this in anticipation of our school trip to 'Gore Farm'. We are very excited to take the children there and show them all the animals and give them first hand experiences and smells of the farm. Every year we get off the coach the smell is the first thing that they notice but they quickly get used to it. They have been learning about the animals that you will find there, definitely no zebras! They can name cows, sheep, pigs, goats and horses. We have been learning about animals and their produce. They know that cows give us milk and that can be used to make cheese and yoghurts. We hope that Farmer Tess and Farmer Stu will be impressed with their knowledge when we visit. We will also be exploring the woods at the farm, something which we haven't done before so we are very excited to explore them.



On our welly walks we have been looking for signs of Spring. The children have been admiring the daffodils, looking for blossom on the trees and can even name Catkins! They have really enjoyed being out in the fresh air and taking note of their surroundings. They can see the difference between how the field looked in the Winter compared to how it looks now. They are even talking about the changes in their play and the things they have been noticing on their walks to school. One of the children said they saw crocuses on their walk to school in the morning.

We hope you have a lovely Easter and the Easter Bunny visits you all.



# Kingfisher Class

Well, I can hardly believe it's almost the end of another half term. The children have worked so hard and been so busy that the weeks have flown by.

It was great to see so many of you at parents evening and share your children's progress with you. I hope you enjoyed looking at their books, the progress is amazing, I am so proud of each and every one of them.

In English this half term the children have been focusing on traditional tales. They loved retelling the Billy Goats Gruff and were very loud trolls, shouting "Who's that trip trapping over MY bridge?" so loudly that Mrs Manning came to see what on earth was happening! We followed this by reading The 3 Billy Dog's Gruff as inspiration to create our own versions of the story. We had sparkly unicorns, green slimy frogs, long snakes and fluffy kittens crossing pipes, fallen trees and metal bridges, and fierce sharks, scary fire breathing dragons and naughty tigers living underneath them. The children's imaginations really shone through and it was wonderful to see them using adjectives independently. We have since been working on non-fiction explanation texts and they have loved learning about how bricks and glass are made, linked to our Science topic.

In Maths, the children have shown an amazing understanding of inverse, knowing that if  $3+2=5$ , then  $5-2$  must be 3. I love how they can explain their thinking and show me in a variety of different ways. The children can also explain exactly what I have done wrong whenever I make a marvellous mistake on the board! We have also focussed on using number lines to support our calculation skills, which the children are really getting the hang of now.

In Science, we have continued our work on materials, completing investigations to help teddy and his friends who are building houses. We have looked at waterproofness, to help teddy make his roof, opacity, to make curtains and strength for a table top. The children have shared lots of really sensible reasoning behind their predictions and are beginning to work scientifically.



In Music, amongst other learning, including moving to music and playing instruments, the children have been making up new lyrics to the song "Down by The Bay." (I'm sure some of you will have heard them at home.) I have heard the children singing in the cloakroom, the lunch hall, on the playground and even coming from the toilets! It has really helped with our rhyming words too. If you haven't heard any of this song, do ask your child to sing it to you.



In PE, the children have shown great skills in their climbing and balancing, using the apparatus safely as part of our gymnastics work.



We have completed our animal masks, and the children are so proud of them. We have used papier Mache, painted them and then added extra cut out details. We have also begun work on our habitat shoeboxes. We can't wait to show you them when we are finished, but this may be after half term.



## Owl and Goldfinch class

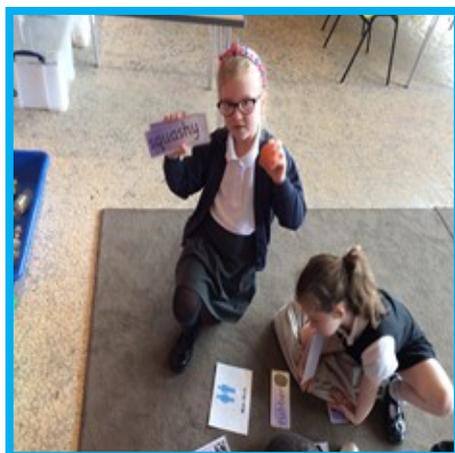
This half term has been a busy one! The children have all been working really hard and we couldn't ask for any more.

The children have spent a lot of this half term being scientists and explorers!

We have been learning all about materials in science, focusing more on the chemistry strand of learning. The children have been focusing on irreversible and reversible changes, what that looks like and understanding when using heat and mixing components together they often can not go back to their original state. The children made cakes and melted chocolate to see how that looks like in real life. On their recent school trip, they were looking at marvellous materials and made felt from wool, again consolidating their understanding of reversible and irreversible changes.



The children had lots of fun on their school trip. Many saying it was the best day ever!



## Owl and Goldfinch class



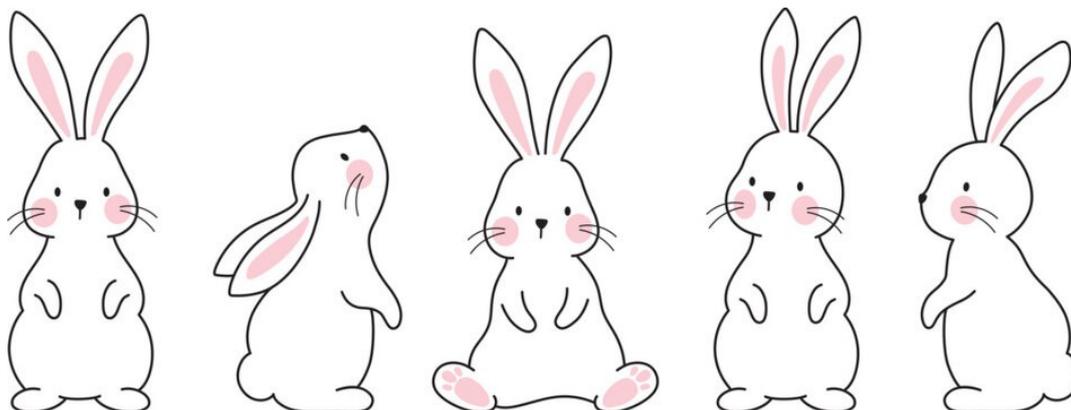
In history the children have been learning about Captain Scott and all about his ill-fated trip to the Antarctica. We have done many activities to consolidate our learning of this topic and the children have been fascinated by frostbite, and how they all succumbed to their death. Please ask them questions all about Captain Scott, they will have lots to tell you!

If you can continue with practising their spellings and punctuation at home, remembering where and when we use full stops and capital letters. Also, reading with your child is very important, please make sure you record in their reading record when you have done so.



## Upcoming events

<b>EASTER CRAFT AFTERNOON - INSPIRE</b> (Parents invited) 1.30pm - 2.40pm	Thursday 28th March 2024
<b>EASTER BONNET PARADE - CHILDREN TO MAKE EASTER BONNETS AT HOME</b> (Parents invited) 2.40pm	Thursday 28th March 2024
<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>	Friday 29th March 2024
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	Monday 1st April 2024 - Friday 12th April 2024
<b>INSET DAY</b>	Monday 15th April 2024
<b>ALL CHILDREN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL</b>	Tuesday 16th April 2024
<b>RECEPTION CLASS VISIT TO GORE FARM, TRENT</b> (Wren & Robin Class)	Monday 13th May 2024
<b>YEAR 2 SWIMMING GOLDENSTONES - GOLDFINCH CLASS</b>	Wednesday 24th April Wednesday 8th May Wednesday 22nd May Wednesday 12th June Wednesday 26th June
<b>YEAR 2 SWIMMING GOLDENSTONES - OWL CLASS</b>	Wednesday 1st May Wednesday 15th May Wednesday 5th June Wednesday 19th June Wednesday 3rd July



## Easter Bonnet Parade - Thursday 28th March



We would like to invite you to our  
Easter Bonnet parade on Thursday 28th March 2023 at 2.40pm  
here at Pen Mill Infants.

Please help your child make their Easter Bonnets at home and  
bring them into school on  
Wednesday 27th March ready for our Bonnet Parade.

## Safeguarding



### PEN MILL INFANT AND NURSERY ACADEMY SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or family,  
please contact one of us, either in person or on 01935 474224.



Mrs Tracy Manning  
Headteacher  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Louise Cullen  
Deputy Headteacher &  
SENCo  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Amy Cundy  
Teacher  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Margaret Gulliver  
Trustee  
Safeguarding  
Trustee

<https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/children/report-a-child-at-risk/>