



North Mundham Primary School

The Heron Newsletter



Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Autumn 1

8th September 2023

In this newsletter, find out about:

- **Mrs Gordon's message and school news**
- **Reminders and Notices**
- **Internet Safety**
- **Upcoming events**

A Message from Mrs Gordon



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week. Typically the weather has been hotter and more like summer than our 6 week break but the children have all coped remarkably well

and settled back into learning with excellent motivation and attitudes. A special warm welcome to our new families both in Ladybird Class and in other classes across the school. You should be very proud of how well your children have settled into their new routines. It such a big step (for everyone involved) but they have taken it in their stride and are already part of our school community.

This week we have launched our new playtime initiative OPAL (Outside Play and Learning) with huge success. See below for more details and find out what the children think of the changes that we have made. We are very excited about the impact of this initiative and the positive role that it has to play in making our school a place where everyone belongs.

In recognition of National Literacy Day today we had a book swap earlier in the week and today everyone has read for an hour. Reading for Pleasure is so important and we want to encourage the children to find stories, texts, comics, information books that they love and that they can share. In Early October we will be welcoming authors into the school as part of Chichester Bookfest and every child from Y1-6 will receive a book as part of this fantastic local event.

This week we have also welcomed new members to our staff team. It has been a real pleasure to see how well Mrs Robins (Deputy Headteacher and year 6 teacher), Miss Hull (Year 4 class teacher) and Miss Coyle (Year 4 class TA) have settled and become part of our team.

Class celebrations this week:

Ladybird Class- a fantastic first week in school, learning routines and having fun getting to know each other, well done!

Bumblebee Class--The children have settled in brilliantly to Year 1. In their first geography lesson they were able to understand the difference of physical and human features. They sorted different pictures into which group they belong to.

Caterpillar Class- The children have already shown that they are Year 2 now especially in Maths this week where they have completed some amazing work!

Butterfly Class- -The children have had an excellent week and settled brilliantly. They have had an arty week, learning how to mix paints to make primary, secondary and tertiary colours, produced hand prints for our cave display and created butterflies to decorate the classroom. A great start to the year!

Scarab Beetle Class- have had a great first week back and have been learning about the 8 points of the compass and had a go at applying this knowledge to their own maps.

Preying Mantis Class- A fantastic start to the year for the following reasons:

- 1.Excellent behaviour and attitude towards work
2. Fantastic Chinese temple drawings
3. Good start to the year using their workbooks

Mr Tran is very much looking forward to the rest of the year.

Dragonfly Class- -Dragonfly Class have been wonderful in welcoming both of their new Y6 teachers. They have also had time to meet with their Year R Buddies and have already made great relationships and have shown mature responsibility. Well done Dragonflies!

Have a great weekend

Best wishes,

Zoe Gordon, Headteacher

OPAL- Outside Play and Learning



This week we have launched our OPAL playtime initiative. Over the 6 weeks holiday Mr Burroughs has worked extremely hard to transform parts of our grounds. Before we came back we put the finishing touches to a brand new storage shed, play zones, den building area, sandpit, slackline climbing equipment, mud kitchen and water play area. Last Friday all staff took part in INSET to learn about the theory behind the project and plan for how to make it work here at North Mundham. The letter below gives you some more information.

For it work properly we need lots of loose parts (resources) so if you have anything that might be suitable, please donate it to us. We especially need- **scooters, bike helmets, dressing up clothes (scarves, dresses, jackets, hats and bags), pushchairs (toy and real), suitcases,**

There will be much to come but it has been a real pleasure watching the children explore the areas and play together.

We plan to use more of the areas through the year so you will need to make sure that your child has wellies or suitable outside shoes and a waterproof anorak (or ideally all- in-one suit) so that they can

keep dry. Apologies if they have come home a bit dirtier this week but hopefully, you will agree that it has been worth it.

Quotes from the children today:

'I love having a sandpit that we can all play in'

'I've loved the dressing up'

'I think our playground is the best now'

'I really like making the dens'

'Please can we have some more mud in the mud kitchen'

'I like climbing on the slacklines'.

OPAL letter



NORTH MUNDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear parents,

At North Mundham we have started a new playtime initiative to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

In what ways, if any, do you think you benefited from playtime? Thinking about your own childhood, what did you like playing at school or at home? Children today don't have the same freedoms we once did, so we want to give children back time to really enjoy and learn from play. After all, it's a child's basic human right.

In what ways, if any, do you think you benefited from playtime?

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is the result of over 20 years of testing and development in over 800 schools and has been used in Spain, Canada, France and New Zealand. The programme has also been adapted and used in schools in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria under the Play Friendly Schools project. In 2018, OPAL won first prize in an EU-funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe and two UK national playwork awards. In 2019, OPAL was awarded a quarter of a million pounds by Sport England to bring the programme to many more schools.

OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

- Average screen time per day is six hours.

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- Average outdoor play time per week is five hours.
- Percentage of UK children who only play outdoors with other children at school is 56%.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.

Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play. These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.
- Having a certain amount of freedom.

As we improve play opportunities for your children, you may find we are asking you for resources and making changes about how the children use the school grounds. They may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health and safety, wellbeing and development.

If you would like to learn more about the OPAL

The school will be supported by OPAL for 18 months and there will be an opportunity to come and talk to the OPAL mentor at your child's school. If you would like to learn more about the OPAL

Primary Programme, please have a look at the OPAL website

(www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk), where you will find lots of useful information and several videos about the programme.

In the coming 18 months you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

We will be planning an opportunity for you to come and find out more and see playtime in action very soon but if you have questions in the meantime, do ask.

Best wishes

Zoe Gordon (Headteacher)

Helen Ford (OPAL Lead)

Kurti Birkenbeil OPAL mentor

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OPAL in action

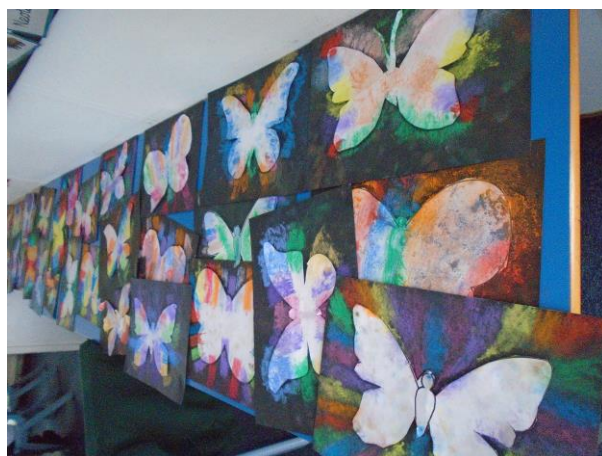






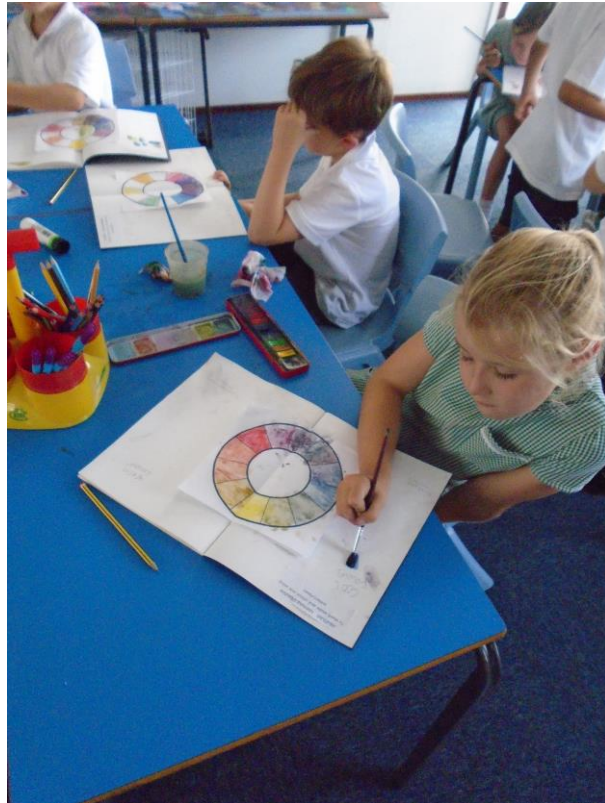


Year 3 get arty



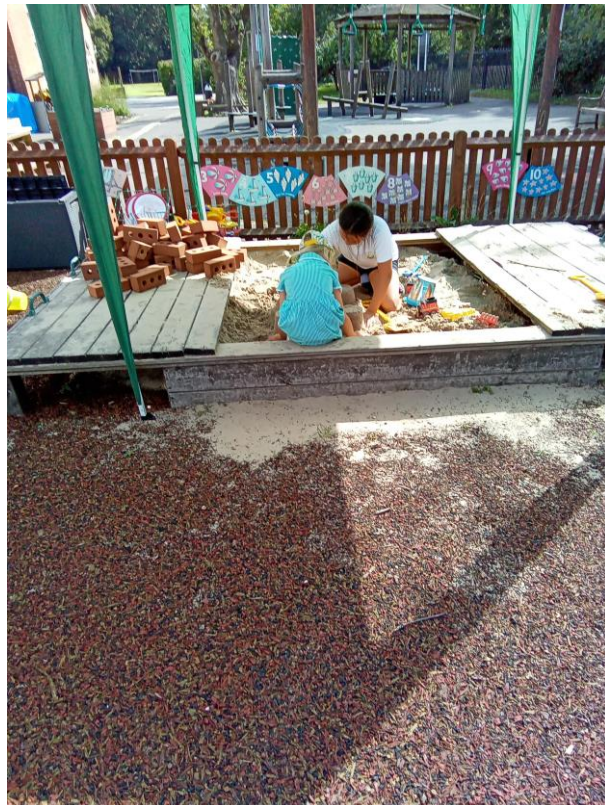
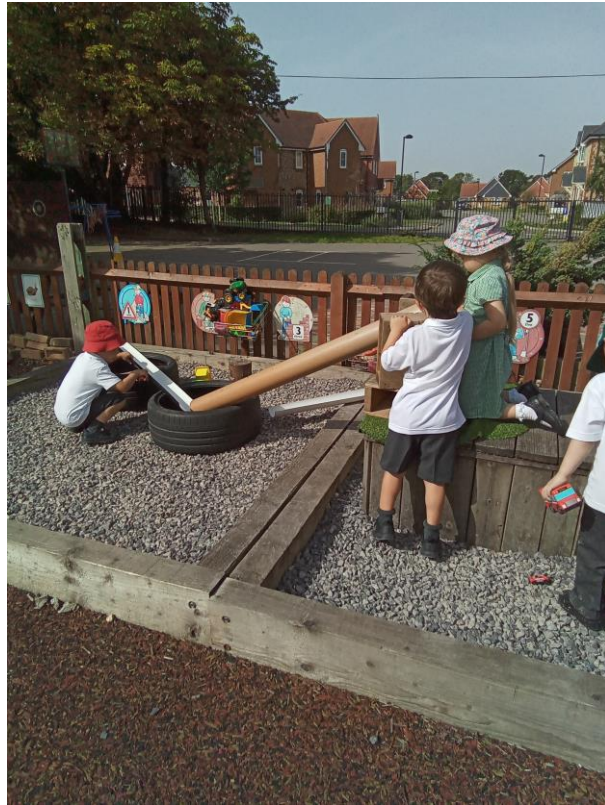


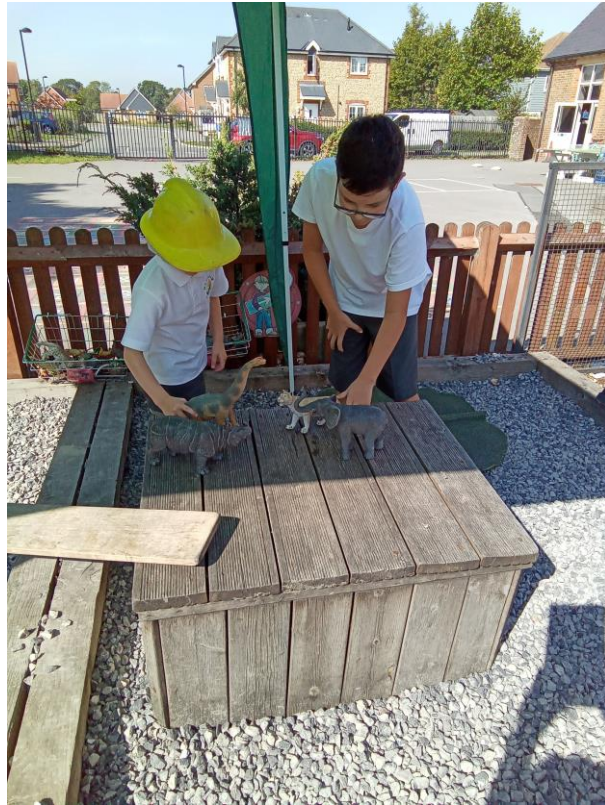




Ladybird Class first week







Important Notices



Notices

Clubs

You will receive a letter about school clubs early next week. Places for these will be allocated on a first come first basis.

School uniform

It is great to see the children back to school in their new uniform. We have a selection of preloved uniform that will be available next week for a donation to the PTA so do please come and have a look so that you have a plentiful supply for your child.

School Newsletter

This year there will be a full newsletter every fortnight and a bulletin on the week there is no newsletter. The bulletin will include important notices and dates.

Consent

On MCAS there is a section for parental consent. Please complete this as soon as possible so that we can ensure that we have up to date information regarding this.

IRock lessons

These start on Monday. Times will vary each week so that the children do not miss the same time every week. You should be informed of this but the office has a copy if you have not received the information.

Parking

Please remember that the disabled bays are for people who have a blue badge displayed and the rest of the area is for turning only not for parking.

Wet weather clothing

Please ensure that your child has wet weather clothing available every day either by leaving it at school or ensuring that it is brought in. This includes wellies or other suitable footwear.

Attendance

Please note that any holidays that are 5 days or longer will automatically be referred for a Fixed Penalty Notice. This applies to holiday taken in the same 10 week period that amounts to 5 days or more.

Many thanks for your co-operation in these matters.

Internet Safety



Is your child's internet use monitored?

The new Keeping Children Safe in Education document emphasises how important it is for schools to ensure that monitoring and filtering systems are in place at school. This is equally important at home to ensure that children do not accidentally access inappropriate material.

The NSPCC has excellent guidance on online safety. Follow [this link](#) for more information.

Dates for the diary



11th September- swimming for Y3 starts

12th September- Year 3 visit to Butser

15th September- International Dot Day (based on the story The Dot)

18th September- Outside Learning week *

19th September Meet the teacher (2.50 Caterpillar Class Y2, 3.05- Preying Mantis Y5)

20th September Meet the Teacher (2.50- Bumblebee Class Y1, 3.05 Scarab Beetle Class Y4)

20th September - Harvest assembly (in school)- donations *

21st September- Meet the teacher 2.50- Dragonfly Class Y6, 3.05- Butterfly Class Y3)

21st September- OPAL Grounds evening- parent helpers required*

27th September- Fire Service visiting

28th September- Little City visit- Ladybirds, Bumblebees and Caterpillars*

28th September- Open afternoon for Sept 2024 reception parents

3rd October- Bookfest author visit

4th October Bookfest Author visit

9th October INSET Day

10th October World Mental Health Day

11th October- 8.45 Phonics meeting for new parents*

12th October- Show Racism the Red Card workshops for Preying Mantis and Dragonfly classes

13th October Dragonfly Class (Year 6) assembly 9.00- parents and carers welcome

18th October- Open morning for new YR 2024 parents

20th October- Show Racism the Red Card- wear red day.

20th October- Break up for half term

Please note that more dates will be added in future newsletters.

*- more details to follow

INSET Days 2023-24

(Nearly all INSET days are either at the beginning or end of a school holiday, we ask that you take advantage of these for family holidays or long weekends and DO NOT book holidays in term time.)

Monday 9th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 19th February 2024

Friday 24th May 2024

Contact Us



If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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