



Muscliff Primary School

October 2024 Newsletter



What have we been up to this term?



Welcome to The Beacon!

It has been a wonderful start to life in The Beacon, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled into their new provision. They have been busy getting to know our daily routines, building relationships and learning what it means to be part of the Muscliff community, embracing our school values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe.



THE BEACON

The children have particularly loved exploring Forest School this half term, enjoying opportunities to be active, investigate the natural world and make the most of our outdoor spaces. Back in The Beacon, they have been getting hands-on with sensory learning and messy play, as well as enjoying a variety of cooking and baking activities. These experiences provide wonderful opportunities to develop listening skills, follow instructions, share resources, take turns and learn together.

Every day brings new experiences, growing confidence and lots of lovely moments to celebrate. We are delighted with how the children have embraced their new environment and are looking forward to seeing them continue to flourish as we head into the next half term. A fantastic start for The Beacon!





RECEPTION

What a great start to the year we have had in Rainbows. We have settled into our first year at school beautifully and have loved exploring all the exciting areas and resources in our Rainbows classrooms and outdoor areas. This half term we have been learning lots of different nursery rhymes. We have loved learning the signs to some of these too or acting them out. We have been busy with our phonics, learning our first few sounds and blending sounds together to read simple words. A highlight of our term has been a visit from the Urban Heath Partnership. We thought about animals which hibernate and went on a trial around the school looking for pictures of animals. We also made a hedgehog out of clay and used leaves from our magical garden to make a place for our hedgehog to hibernate.

We are also looking forward to dressing up as our favourite nursery rhyme character to celebrate the end of our first half term!



YEAR 1

Year 1 have been thinking about how special we are and celebrating our individuality. We have had some great discussions comparing our likes and dislikes, seeing what we have in common with friends.

We have also been learning all about our brilliant bodies! We have loved learning lots of facts, such as your heart is the size of your fist and that our bones glow in the dark. In English, we have been doing some fantastic talk for writing, where the children have been doing actions to retell the story Funny Bones. The children have fully immersed themselves in the story and written sentences about where the skeletons should go next. In maths, we have been very impressed with the children's understanding of number bonds to 10 and their quick doubling of numbers 1-5. We'd love to hear that the children have continued to practise these skills over half term. Well done on a fabulous first half term in year 1!





YEAR 2



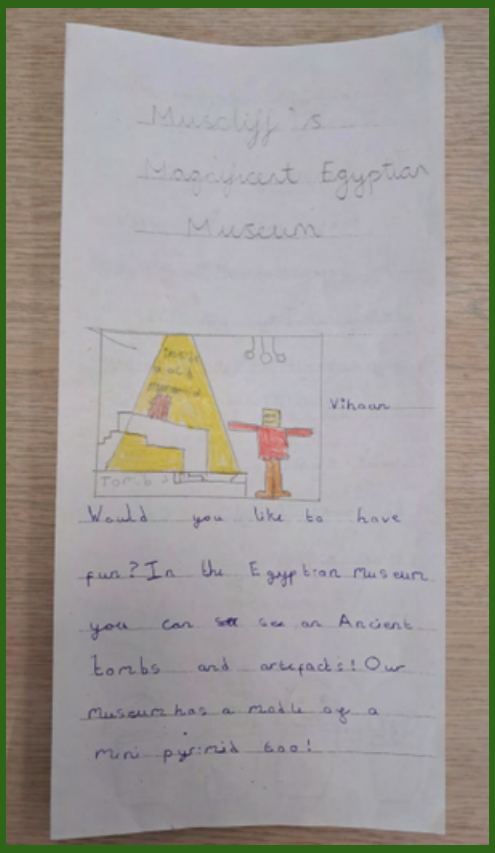
This month, Year 2 have been learning all about recycling through our new class text, Michael Recycle! The children have been inspired by Michael's adventures and have been exploring how we can all do our bit to look after our environment. They have been busy creating colourful posters to encourage others to recycle, litter picking around our school and sorting different materials into the correct recycling groups. The children have been amazing at learning about the importance of protecting our planet, and we are so proud of their enthusiasm and determination to keep our school clean and litter-free. Well done, Year 2, for being such fantastic eco-warriors!





YEAR 3







Year 3 have made a brilliant start to the new school year, embracing new challenges with enthusiasm and a thirst for knowledge! We have been transported back in time as we delved into the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. Our beautiful text 'The Boy who Stole the Pharaohs' Lunch' provided a wonderful stepping stone into the past, inspiring some fantastic descriptive writing and helped us to design beautifully illustrated leaflets packed with interesting facts. We even researched different leaflets first, to make sure our own were the best they could be.

The classroom has also been filled with the sounds of recorders as we develop our musical skills, while in PSHE, we have been learning what it means to be a good friend. In Maths, we have continued to stretch our brains, mastering regrouping with hundreds in column addition and subtraction, and we are now beginning our exciting journey into multiplication. What a fantastic start to Year 3! We can't wait to see what the children will achieve in Autumn 2.

YEAR 4

That river walk on the very first day of Year 4 seems like such a long time ago now! Since then, the children have continued to impress us with their hard work, enthusiasm and positive attitudes. They have settled brilliantly into Year 4 life and approach each day with a real love of learning.

In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed our Wildsmith unit. It has been a solid, wholesome story that has provided so many rich opportunities for writing. It has been particularly pleasing to see the maturity of the children's written work develop over the half term, with growing confidence, creativity and independence across a range of genres.

In Maths, the children's engagement with Times Table Rock Stars has been fantastic. The majority of the class are logging on at least four times each week, and this commitment is already paying off. We have also celebrated several children achieving their "Gone Green" certificates, with many more well on their way.

Forest School became a firm favourite in our weekly timetable. The children have enjoyed building dens, identifying trees (and climbing some of them!), bug hunting and, of course, getting wonderfully muddy along the way. These experiences have helped develop teamwork, curiosity and a real appreciation of the outdoors.

Every day is a pleasure with your children. We both feel incredibly lucky to work with such a kind, enthusiastic and hardworking group, and it is genuinely a privilege to be part of their journey.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents again on 5th November for our fireworks event. Have a wonderful break!

YEAR 5

What a brilliant start to Year 5! We have been impressed with how quickly the children have settled into their new year group. They have shown fantastic enthusiasm for their learning, particularly in English, where we have been exploring Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children have thoroughly enjoyed stepping into the magical world of Willy Wonka and have produced some incredible pieces of descriptive writing, using their imaginations to invent their very own rooms for the chocolate factory. We have been so proud of their creativity and the effort they have put into their work!





In Geography and History, we have been exploring Central America, discovering what life was like for the ancient Maya and comparing it with life in the region today. Children even created a Mayan inspired mask used during different rituals and ceremonies during the Ancient Mayan civilisation. A real highlight of the half term was welcoming our parents and carers into school on Monday to design and create some delicious chocolate bars together! It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved. Across the whole half term, we have been particularly impressed by how the children have demonstrated our school values of being ready, respectful and safe. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far and can't wait for another exciting half term of learning!



YEAR 6



Year 6 have made a fantastic start to their final year at Muscliff, embracing their new role as the oldest children in the school. They have risen to the challenge brilliantly, with pupils elected as School Captains and enthusiastic volunteers stepping forward to become Reading Rangers and Maths Mentors, supporting and inspiring younger children. In English, children have been gripped by our beautiful text, Kensuke's Kingdom, which has truly inspired lots of wonderful writing.

The highlight of the half term has to be the trip to Lulworth Cove, where children were able to see first-hand the coastal features and evidence of erosion they have been learning about in Geography. This experience brought their learning to life and deepened their understanding of our ever-changing coastline. Feedback from the rangers at Lulworth Cove cemented what we already know about Year 6 children: polite, engaged and curious. Tying in with the Geography unit, children have also been enthralled by our History topic on smugglers, discovering the fascinating and often daring activities that took place along the Dorset coast. It has been a brilliant half term full of enthusiasm and memorable learning experiences!

Up next, Year 6 will be exploring the sobering history of World War II and its impact on people's lives.

FOREST SCHOOL







Year 4 forest school for this half term comes to an end, but what a fantastic half term we've had learning and exploring in nature. In our last session, every child made their own 'Wildsmith' medal, and created their own design on it which linked to the story or to the activities we had done in our forest school sessions. Everybody did a brilliant job at this, we had some drawings of dragons, campfires, trees and many more imaginative designs. Unfortunately, as it was raining heavily for our last session we didn't get to make a campfire, but we still had marshmallows and had some time to play out in the forest school. The children had so much fun jumping in puddles and playing in the mud!

Last week we made bows and arrows, using willow and string! The children really enjoyed doing this and worked together in their teams to collect sticks for arrows. They then helped to gently bend the willow and tie the knot to create the bow!

Places for Forest School After School Club next half term can now be booked on the website: https://www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings/2026/11/04/muscliff-primary-school-forest-school-after-school-club

young CARERS

We have had a lovely start to this academic year in our Young Carers group. We have made fruit kebabs and more recently, we had a Forest School session with marshmallows! After half term, we're meeting to prepare for our lunch with Tom Hayes (MP) who was a young carer himself. We will be finding out about his caring roles and how he became to be an MP.











Sports News



Selected pupils from Years 4–6 enjoyed a fantastic cross-country event at Kings Park, showing great determination and resilience throughout the race. The competition was strong, with everyone giving their best and proudly representing the school. A special mention goes to Arthur and Theodore who secured Top 10 finishes. Well done to all the runners for their effort, enthusiasm and team spirit.

Football Success

Football Success This Half Term

What a fantastic half term of football we've had! A huge congratulations to all our football teams who have represented the school with determination, enthusiasm and brilliant team spirit.

Our Year 5/6 girls' team performed exceptionally well, finishing an impressive 3rd place in their tournament! The girls worked brilliantly together, showing fantastic teamwork, respect and sportsmanship throughout. They should be incredibly proud of themselves!

Our Year 6 boys' team also deserve a big well done for their hard work and determination. They battled hard in their matches and are really beginning to develop as a team, learning to support one another and work together on the pitch.

And finally, a particularly special congratulations to our Year 5 boys' team, who WON their tournament!

What an incredible achievement! Their teamwork, effort and determination certainly paid off and we couldn't be prouder of them!

Whilst winning is always exciting, what makes us most proud is seeing our children encourage one another, show resilience and represent our school with such positive attitudes.

Well done to every single player! We are incredibly excited to see what all three teams can achieve as the year progresses. Keep up the fantastic work! ⚽











Term dates

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PE days for Autum 2



Friends Update

Our Friends of Muscliff have been busy at the start of the year; welcoming new families in to the school, sorting library books and preparing for upcoming events. The new library is looking good - we are so grateful for the hard work of the Friends in making this happen. We look forward to the children exploring it very soon!

The next events are the discos on Thursday 19th November - tickets are still available through your Arbor account. If you are able to help at one/ all of the discos the Friends would love to hear from you. Preparations are well under way for the Christmas Fayre on Friday 4th December 5-7.30pm. Please check the latest Friends newsletter (sent this week) for items being collected and how you can help! The next meeting is Wednesday 4th November 6.30pm at school - please come along if you would like to offer your support.
Thank you.









School Council

It has been wonderful to welcome back our School Council for their first mission of the year – promoting Harvest Festival! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our school community, we collected a fantastic amount of food, which has now been collected by Bournemouth Foodbank to support local families in need. We are so grateful to everyone who donated and helped make this such a success. Without your kindness and the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication of our School Council, we would not be able to make such a positive contribution to our local community. A huge thank you to everyone involved!

After half term we will be collecting 'new unwrapped toys' for the Salvation Amry Christmas Toy appeal. Please bring in any toys in before the end of November. The school council will share more details soon.

We are now really looking forward to welcoming our new School Council representatives after half term. With an even bigger School Council, we can't wait to see them leading the way and making a real difference across our school and beyond!





News from the local community

Please click on the image below to view the Library Newsletter



Other Updates



Run Bournemouth Festival

Matthew, Merv and Freddie from 2AM participated in the 1.5km Run Bournemouth festival on Saturday 10th of October.
Well Done Boys!



Muscliff Primary School

Become a Trustee Governor at Muscliff Primary School

Make a Difference. Shape the Future. Support Your Local School.
Are you passionate about helping children thrive and want to make a real difference in your local community?
Muscliff Primary School is looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers to join our Board of Trustees.
As a Trustee Governor, you will play a vital role in supporting the school's leadership, helping to shape strategic decisions, champion educational excellence, and ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed.
You don't need a background in education. We welcome people from all walks of life who can bring their skills, experience, fresh ideas, and enthusiasm to our team.
Why Become a Trustee?

Help shape the future of local children
Support and challenge school leaders to achieve the best outcomes
Develop new skills and experience in leadership and governance
Give something back to your community
Be part of an ambitious and supportive team
Flexible and Convenient

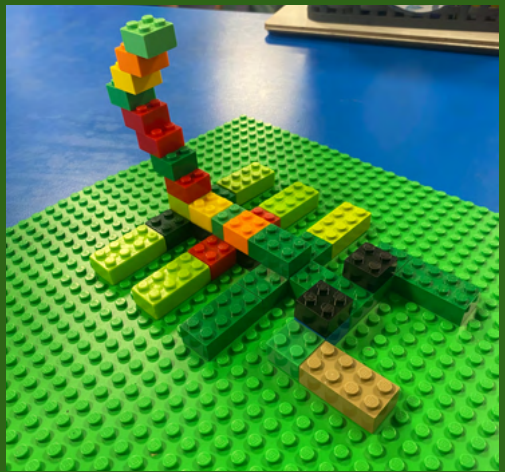
Our meetings are held online via Microsoft Teams, making it easy to fit the role around work, family, and other commitments. There is no requirement to attend meetings in person.
Our School Values
At Muscliff Primary School, everything we do is underpinned by our values of:
Aspiration • Curiosity • Kindness • Resilience • Responsibility
As a Trustee, you'll help ensure these values continue to inspire and guide our school community.
Interested?

This is a voluntary position, but the impact you can make is invaluable.
For an informal chat or to find out more, please contact:
paula.harvey@muscliffprimary.co.uk

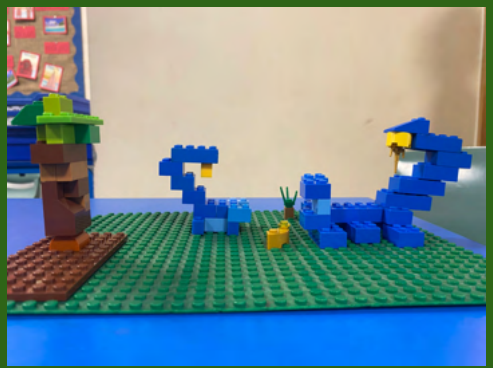
Join us and help make a lasting difference to the children, families, and future of Muscliff Primary School.

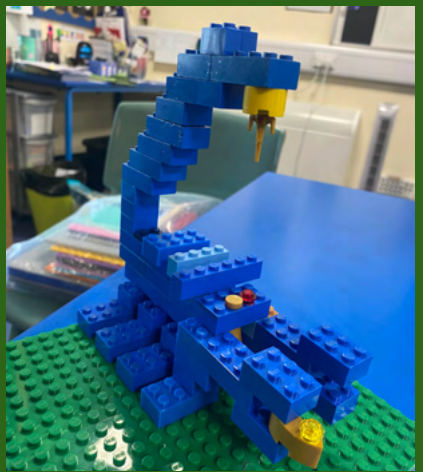
Reminder

Please remeber when collecting your children from school, not to park across or partially obstruct driveways. There has been a significant increase in vehicles parking over residents' driveways during school drop-off and collection times. This has resulted in some residents being unable to access or leave their properties, causing unnecessary disruption and inconvenience.
We would be grateful if parents could be findful to park considerately and ensure that driveways remain clear at all times.
Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping to maintain positive relationships with local residents.



LEGO CLUB





Support & Events



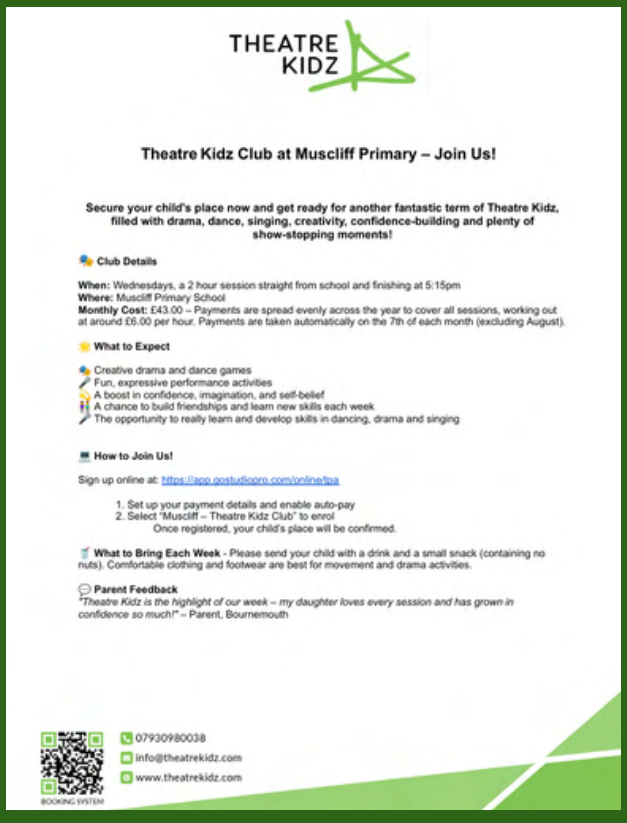
















And finally a message from Mrs Fenby....

This half term has been a wonderful opportunity to focus on the values that sit at the heart of life at Muscliff: Responsibility, Resilience, Curiosity, Kindness and Aspiration.

Through our assemblies, class discussions, daily interactions and the rich texts that have inspired learning across the curriculum, pupils have explored what these values look like in action. They have considered how resilience helps us overcome challenges, how curiosity drives learning, how kindness strengthens our community, how responsibility shapes our choices and how aspiration encourages us to aim high and believe in ourselves.

Whether learning about inspirational individuals, taking on leadership opportunities, supporting charitable causes or contributing positively to school life, our children have continued to show what it means to live our values every day.

At Muscliff, we believe that these values are central to creating a genuine sense of belonging. When children feel valued, respected and connected to others, they are able to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. The strong partnership between home and school plays such an important role in nurturing these values and helping every child feel that they truly belong.

We wish all our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the second half of the autumn term.

Mrs Fenby
Headteacher

