



Our parents experiencing a year 4 maths lesson

Ofsted...

As you all know, we had an Ofsted inspection last week. It was part of their routine cycle of inspections and we had been waiting for the call for a long time.

I will share the feedback with you when I have it (they said it could take 18 working days) but what I can say is that you should be proud of your children because lots of them got to meet our inspector and talk to her about a range of subjects - they were amazing. I know that she also came out to speak to quite a few of you too, so thank you for taking part.

Maths workshop

Well done to everyone who came to our maths workshop this half term. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and our teachers enjoyed



it as much as all of you who came! It really was a fantastic opportunity to show you what a maths lesson looks like at Coombe Road, and how we use concrete resources and get the children up and moving in an interactive way.



May - Polling station

Good news! After years of lobbying, the polling station for our area has moved from Coombe Road Primary School to the Community Room at Student Castle. This means that the school will not need to partially close to accommodate the polling station.

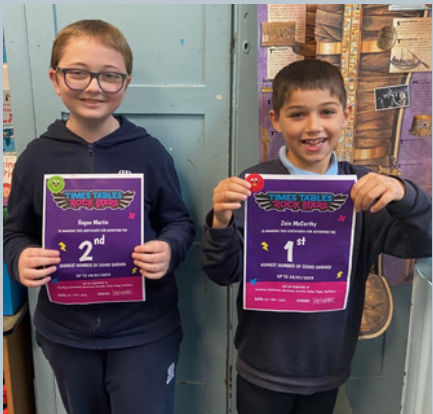


Parent conferences

Parent conference appointments will be available after school on:

- Reception, year 1, year 2 and year 3 on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March.
- Year 4 on Monday 27th and Wednesday 29th March
- Years 5 & 6 on Tuesday 28th and Thursday 30th March.

We will contact you nearer the time so that you can book an appointment.



Unfortunately Abubakar missed the photograph but well done to Regan and Zain.

Times Table Rock Stars



Our whole school focus on maths fluency and learning times tables continues. Thank you for helping your children at home.

Well done to these children who worked the hardest and got certificates: 1st Zain, 2nd Regan and 3rd Abubakar.



Our maths assembly

<https://ttrockstars.com/>

PLEASE PRACTISE TIMES TABLES WITH YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME

Our basketball team



Basketball success

Huge congratulations to our Coombe Road basketball team!

We're enjoying an exciting year of sport at Coombe Road, with lots of upcoming events, including School Games, Albion in the Community and a program of sport in our local area.

Here, four children from Amethyst Class went to Bevendean and took part in a friendly, inclusive and enjoyable game of basketball, where they demonstrated all of our sporting values... and even won the match! Well done to Tyler, Oscar, Finlay B and Lenny.

We are immensely proud of all our Coombe Road athletes!

Cricket

We are also very excited to have a cricket specialist from Sussex Cricket in school to improve our KS2 cricket skills during PE lessons and lunchtimes.

He has been teaching the children during the school day but there is a free after school cricket club on Wednesdays if any KS2 children want to join.

Attendance

Attending school is required by law. If a child's attendance falls below 96%, we will make you aware.

If your child's attendance is poor, we will invite you in for an Attendance Support Meeting to discuss it. We will follow the attendance policy and you are at risk of a fixed penalty notice of £60 per parent per child if your child's attendance falls below 90%.

Holidays will not be authorised but you will need to fill in a 'Leave of Absence' form for safeguarding purposes (so that we know you and your family are safe). If we are unable to contact you, we may refer the case to Front Door for Families. There are only very exceptional circumstances when leave of absence can be granted so if you book a trip away during term time, your case will be referred to the local authority.

Please continue to call us each day your child is absent from school on 01273 077130. This is a safeguarding procedure so that we are aware your child and family are safe. We may ask for medical evidence if your child's attendance is poor due to illness. In some cases we may seek support from the school nurse.



Year 4 learning cricket from a specialist coach

Broadening our offer of clubs

Lumina has been working hard this term to broaden our selection of clubs to better reflect the curriculum.

We have already introduced 'Rocksteady', science club, young engineers club and craft club.



Our science assembly to promote the new club



Year 3 djembe drumming



Djembe drumming

Year 3 have been enjoying a series of djembe drumming workshops over the course of ten weeks.

Taught by 'Create Music', a specialist has been in class working with the children to develop their instrumental techniques and performance skills.

On Wednesday 29th March, between 13:15 and 13:50, parents and carers of year 3 children are invited to watch their grand finale in a 'goldfish bowl' type setting. You will have the opportunity to see what they have learnt.

Teamwork

Year 2 have been improving their teamwork and communication skills by doing tasks together in a group. This has included learning and performing the Macarena Dance!



Equality and diversity

This week, the children have been learning that everyone is different.



We had an assembly on equality and diversity, which focussed on people being treated fairly and not to be discriminated against. The law was discussed in terms of what protected characteristics are and how it is important to respect each other.



There were some follow up lessons in classes, where children made friendship bracelets and wrote some amazing poetry.
One of our poems.



Happy Mountain competition

The school continues to develop close ties to Happy Mountain community group. They came to assembly to speak to the children about their work in the local area and launched a competition to design a new logo for them.

There were lots of high quality entries and we are pleased to say that Felix in year 1 won!



Some of the entries.





Years 3 & 4 have been learning about sculpture and using clay

Art and Design

As sculptors, year 4 have been creating peppers from clay.

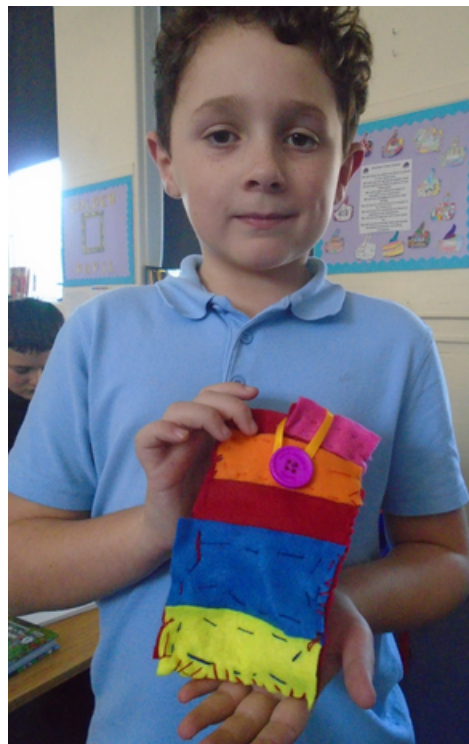
Having studied them carefully and used their observation skills, they drew them in charcoal first before having a go at using and developing their sculpting skills.



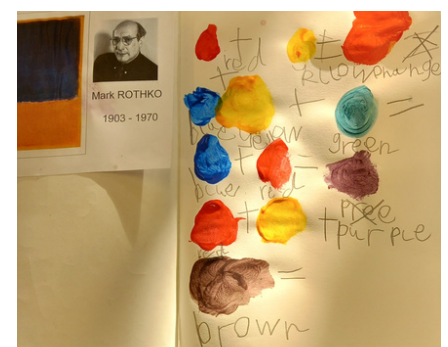
The results have been very detailed and impressive. Well done year 4!



Years 5 & 6 have been learning how to sew. They started with different stitches and look what they progressed to making.



Sunflower Class have been learning about primary & secondary colours by colour mixing and finding out about the artists Piet Mondrian and Mark Rothko.



GOLDEN PUPILS THIS HALF TERM

Golden Pupils are selected each week by their teachers for demonstrating the school values of commitment, opportunity, respect and excellence. They are given certificates and the House with the most points can celebrate by having a no uniform day on the following Monday.

Well done to all of these children who have worked so hard this half term:

Kashvika, Tyler, Nomi, Elliot, Loojayn, Erik, Reo, Codii, Winter, Kasey, Theo, Farah, Charlie, Felix, Liliana M, Oliver, Maddie, Ethan F, Evie, Hauwa, Ivy, Ella, Preston, Baker, Frank, Rowen, Ayana, Luca and Oscar.

Reading at home expectations

As you are aware, we encourage all our children to read regularly at school and at home. This enables them to make more progress in all areas of the curriculum. However, our monitoring of reading diaries suggest that a lot of parents and carers are not reading with their children at home on a regular basis.

Your child has a 'Reading Diary' in which we ask that you record the date they read, the book title, a comment and a signature. If your child reads on their own, they can write in the diary but we need you to sign it too please.

We fully appreciate that finding time to read can be tricky but we suggest that you try to read at least 4 days per week:

Day 1 – Read to your child.

Day 2 – Your child reads his or her book to you.

Day 3 – Read to your child.

Day 4 – Your child reads his or her book to you.

To help you, all of this information can be found on the inside cover of your child's reading diary.



Invitation to read with your child in EYFS, year 1 and year 2

Feedback from our reading workshop was that you loved being able to come into school to read with your children. In response, we will trial an open invitation to parents or carers of children in Poppy, Buttercup or Sunflower Class to come and read with their child on the first Monday of each month.

We will provide more details nearer the time but the first day will be Monday 6th March.



World Book Day

Due to planned industrial action, Coombe Road will have World Book Day on Friday 3rd March.

Children (and staff) are invited to dress up as a character related to a book or they can wear a onesie. We will have a day celebrating books and have a special assembly.

Buddies after school club tariff

The pricing structure for 'Buddies' will be changing after half term.

Smaller increments have been introduced to provide you with more flexibility and some of the prices have changed to reflect increases in costs to run the club.

15 Minutes = £1.50

30 Minutes = £3.00

1 Hour = £6

1 Hour & 15 Minutes = £7.50

1 Hour & 30 Minutes = £9.00

1 Hour & 45 Minutes = £10.50

2 Hours & 15 Minutes = £13.50

2 Hours & 30 Minutes = £15.00



Our teachers making sure that their voice is heard

Industrial action

The National Education Union has further strikes planned for:

- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

Based on projected staffing levels and with the safety of the children being the priority, I will risk assess each of these proposed strike days individually with the chair of governors and keep you informed as to whether the school will be fully open, partially open or closed.

As far as it is possible, I will give you as much notice as I can but please be prepared that plans may change.

EVENT INVITATION

COME TO OUR SPELLING AND HOMEWORK COFFEE MORNING



We would like to invite you to join us for a 'Spelling and Homework Coffee Morning' in school on **Thursday 9th March from 9.00 to 10.00.**

We will explain the words that your children need to spell at each stage of their education, how we teach spelling rules and how this learning improves the children's writing. We will also explain how we teach and assess writing in school and what our expectations are in terms of homework.

Please complete the SchoolPing form if you would like to attend. It would be great to see you there.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 22nd February - The postponed and rescheduled year 3 & 4 museum trip
Thursday 2nd March - Industrial action by the NEU
Friday 3rd March - World Book Day
Monday 6th March - Parents of EYFS, year 1 and year 2 children invited to read with their children
Wednesday 8th March - Reception R.E. trip to St Martin's Church
Thursday 9th March - Spelling and homework coffee morning
Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March - Industrial action by the NEU
Friday 17th March - Red Nose Day
Monday 27th March - Parent conference appointments available for year 4
Tuesday 28th March - Parent conference appointments available for years 5 & 6
Wednesday 29th March - Parents of year 3 children are invited to watch the children drumming
Wednesday 29th March - Parent conference appointments available for Reception and years 1, 2, 3 & 4
Thursday 30th March - Parent conference appointments available for Reception and years 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6
Monday 3rd April - No school, Easter holiday (Return to school on Monday 17th April)