



Term One Celebrations at Tenterden Primary Federation

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we approach the half term, we enjoy reflecting on Term One's curriculum and activities. The staff and children have worked together following our school routines and procedures to settle into enjoying their learning. The children were welcomed into their classroom with their transition work from last year and have marked the place in their English and Maths books to show how their work continues to progress. This is always a positive action to ensure children take ownership and feel comfortable in their new classroom. It was great to welcome so many of you into the 'Welcome Parents' to speak with the class teacher and for you to see some of the work your children have already done in the first two weeks. We are looking forward to Parents Evenings on 13th and 15th November – sign up will be open soon. It is always lovely to welcome you to our special Celebration Assemblies. This makes it extra special for the children receiving their certificate. Thank you.

I would like to say well done again to the Junior Multi-Sports team that took part in a friendly schools' sport festival led by Miss Timmins. We are also pleased that the children are really enjoying using the Outdoor Classroom. Mr Lilly is developing this area of the curriculum across the school and Year 5 have been making

some creative sculptures. Year 6 used the outdoor classroom for inspirational poetry. We are planning that all classes will have lots of opportunities to be enthused using this great space. It is always very special when learning can be taken outside into the environment. Thanks to the Brissenden Trust and TePTA for providing and equipping this space. All clubs have been well received and the children in Late Birds always share their activities with enthusiasm with me when I pop in. I would like to say thank you to all staff leading clubs, the children always look forward to them and appreciate the staff's great ideas.

Part of my responsibility is monitoring attendance and punctuality figures and working with the whole school community aiming to achieve the 97% target that Kent schools are working towards. This is to ensure that children receive all their lessons. I would like to say thank you to you for working with us to achieve this goal for your child. Punctuality has improved. This term has been blighted by illnesses and I would never want a child or member of staff to come to school if they are ill. Health and well-being come first and illnesses are authorised. We still have some unauthorised holidays which is really very disappointing as this means there is lost learning, but our attendance figures to date are: Infant

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School 94.6%, Junior school 95%. During parents evening you will be given your child's attendance sheet so you can see your child's individual attendance. I will be available if you wish to talk to me and if I can help in any way.

We are also focusing on the progress and joy of reading. This has meant that teachers have been working on improving their book corners and the libraries so your child has a great choice of high-quality text to take home to share with you. The Foundation and Year 1 Phonic Workshops were well attended, led by Miss Every and I could see that you enjoyed the

phonic activities with your child. We have a plan to include spelling and reading workshops for all age ranges and the dates for Term 2 will be shared early next term.

We have a planned talk and tour of the Junior School on 23rd November 2023 at 3:30pm. This is aimed at all Year 2 parents and your children, as well as in the wider community and is something that we will repeat next year.

This term we started a Newspaper Club and I have two reporters who would like to share their first report:

Latest news... Year 5 went on a Geography field trip around Tenterden which included a walk through the park, the Millennium Gardens, visiting St Mildred's Church and looking at the buildings. They compared the shops and building with those in Innsbruck in Austria. Year 5 found out that both towns have: hotels, sport centres and have festivals. Year 5 found out that Innsbruck was bigger than Tenterden with a population of 135,247 people. Other breaking news...Year 4 were shocked to find their Year 4 area destroyed! The children became investigators and interviewed suspects to solve the mystery. They found out who had done it by finding out where everyone was at the time of the event. It turned out it was the one and only Mrs Debrett!" Reported by Millie and Emily-Rose

Thank you, reporters! Please enjoy reading all the celebrations from each Year Group and discovering what they are looking forward to next term. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, Mrs McIntosh
Executive Head Teacher



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EYFS: Our Celebrations

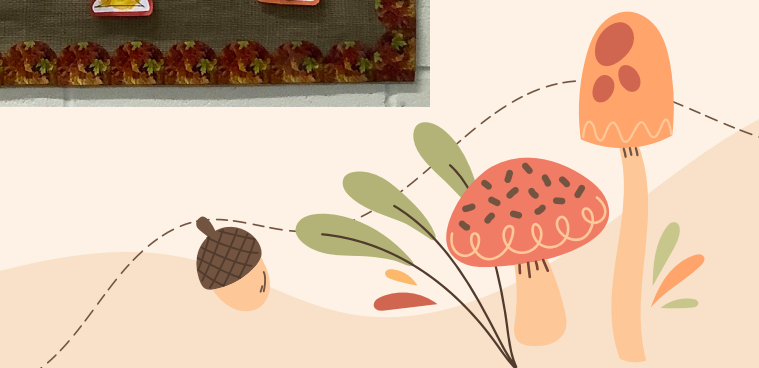
This term we have welcomed the children into Tenterden Infant School to begin their school journey. We have been so impressed with how all of the children have settled into the school routine and expectations.

We have been focussing on social skills and daily routines, developing lots of different skills including: sharing, turn taking, listening and following instructions. For some children coming to school means sharing a classroom with lots more children than they have encountered at Nursery or Pre-School. Navigating, this can be exciting and challenging in lots of different ways, we have been working on identifying, understanding and expressing our emotions and using these emotions when talking about disagreements or problems that may arise during the day.

We have been talking about ourselves and our families and thinking about how everyone is different and unique. Celebrating the things we enjoy and the things we are good at, makes us feel special and interested in others' talents.

We have been learning about how the seasons change and thinking about Autumn; what happens during Autumn and the changes in the environment and weather. The children have enjoyed our Pumpkin Patch and Potion Mixing Role play areas. We have been mixing colours in our water tray to make different 'potions' and have explored the scents and textures of different fruits and herbs.

Next Term we will be looking forward to our Celebrations topic, thinking about different celebrations around the world as well as Christmas. We will be looking at how the weather changes as we move in to Winter and will be exploring the properties of ice and how ice is made.



Year 1: Our Celebrations

We have had a fantastic start to Year 1 this term. The children have all been super Action Ants and have engaged so well in their learning. Our topic began in the woods where we looked for the characters from our new story 'The Gruffalo.' We enjoyed retelling it and making puppets to act it out. We also learnt about recipe writing and made our own Gruffalo Crumble. It was very tasty. We made our Scrambled Snake recipe back in the woods where we chopped up green, noodle snakes and added woodland ingredients! Our writing has been amazing. Well done. Our term ended with the discovery of an escaped gruffalo which had been seen in our school grounds. We went down to the woods to dig a trap and successfully caught the Gruffalo!

In Maths we have learnt to sort objects. We have compared numbers using the greater, less than and equals symbols. We used part whole models to help us to understand fact families.

We discovered the commutative law when we swapped the parts in addition. They made the same total! We are learning to recall our number bonds to 10.

In Geography we looked at atlases and learned the names of the four countries and capital cities that are a part of the UK. We enjoyed experimenting with line and mark making in Art and we enjoyed looking at the work of famous artists such as Bridget Riley.

In Science we have learnt about the seasons. We went on a leaf hunt to identify the trees in our school grounds.

Next term, we are looking forward to finding out about different celebrations. We will name events that we celebrate and create a time capsule about ourselves. We will be investigating materials in Science and learning about addition and subtraction in Maths.



Year 2: Our Celebrations

Year 2 have had a brilliant first term! We have been learning all about the history of Tenterden and how it has changed in the last 100 years. We have looked at different sources of information, including some fascinating photos and even went on our own historical walk. Our trip to the museum was excellent, and we were able to see how the trainline, farming and a home would have been different in the past.

In Science, we have been learning all about the properties of materials. We explored different properties and their suitability for different roles. We have then investigated how we can bend, twist, stretch or squash materials to change their appearance. We also had brilliant time learning about Rachel Whiteread and her clay houses, which inspired us to create our own clay house tiles.

Next term we'll be learning all about our wonderful world. We will be learning about the oceans and continents, as well as the 7 wonders of the world. We will be focusing on habitats in Science, investigating the ways animals are adapted to their habitats and the food chains found in each one. We will also be focusing on composition in Music and sewing our own Christmas decorations in DT.



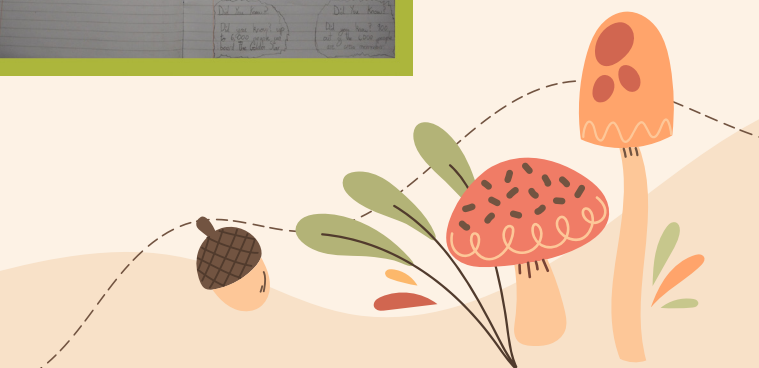
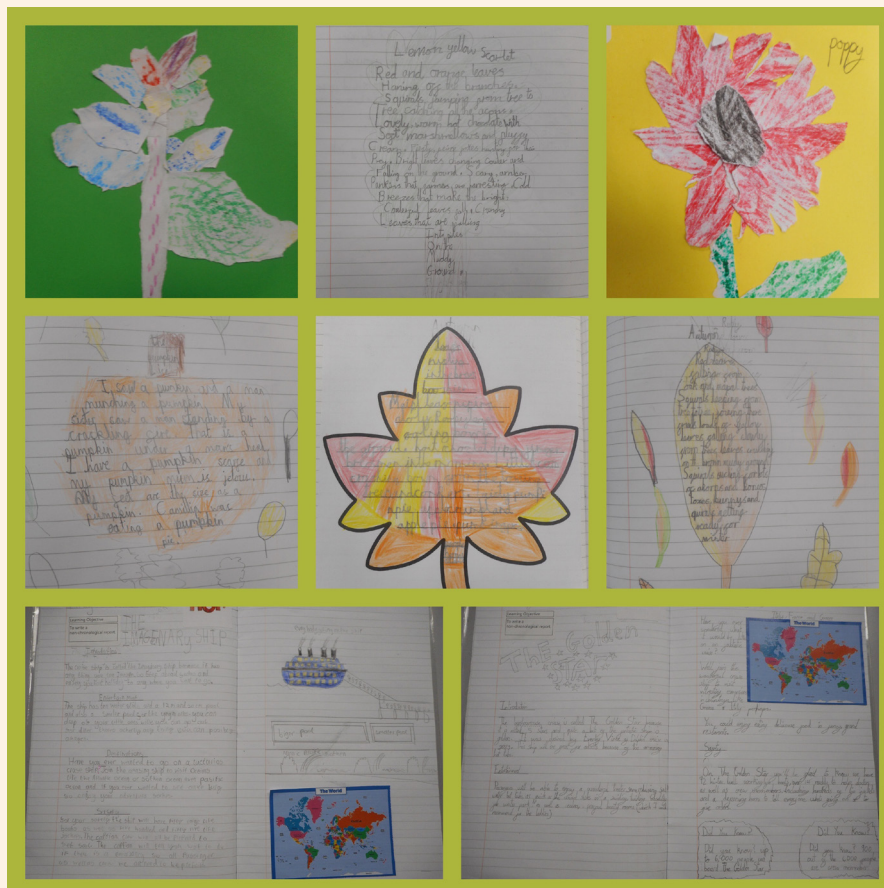
Year 3: Our Celebrations

The children have settled in extremely well and have demonstrated such confidence at the Junior School. We have been incredibly proud of their perseverance and Growth Mindset attitude to learning. Well done to everyone!

We began our term in English focusing on journey tales, centred on Mary Poppins! Our writing was based on a small extract from the book, where Mary and Bert jumped into a chalk picture that Bert had painted. The children really enjoyed using these characters to go on a journey, jumping through a picture frame and describing new settings using some superb vocabulary to create noun phrases. We also explored similes and we were very impressed with the children's use of language such as 'as fast as Sonic the Hedgehog', and 'as tall as a skyscraper'.

Following on from our journey tales, we looked at the history of the Titanic. The children have really enjoyed writing non-chronological reports and were fascinated by some of the facts they discovered; such as two bathtubs for 700 passengers in third class! The children then researched and wrote their own non-chronological report based on their choice of creating their very own cruise ship or chosen animal.

In Maths, we have explored place value and number bonds to support addition and subtraction. We have been using lots of manipulatives to help our learning. The children are becoming more independent in choosing which manipulatives would help them, and that has been brilliant to see. We have begun to really push our knowledge of times tables with the use of Times Tables Rockstars and have been using Mathletics to support both learning at home and at school.



Year 3: Our Celebrations continued

In Science, we completed our unit on movement and nutrition, which included investigating the length of our own bones, identifying different parts of the skeleton, finding out about the 7 nutrient groups, and planning a healthy, balanced meal. We also found out about some scientists who helped improve scientific knowledge about nutrition: Christiaan Eijkman and Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins who both won a Nobel Prize for discovering vitamins, as well as Flemmie Pansy Kittrell who worked to improve children's nutrition. This linked very nicely with our History question, 'How have children's lives changed over time?' as we have been exploring what it was like for Tudor and Victorian children, making comparisons with modern day. The children were very surprised to discover that Tudor children would often start work from the age of 7!

This term in Art, we have been sketching plants from close observations, based on the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, observing tone and texture. We used magnifying glasses to look closely at the detail on each leaf or flower and the children used their prior learning to add tone through shading. We have also created textured pictures of flowers based on the artist Max Ernst. In Music the children have had lots of fun composing a soundscape (background music) for a short clip entitled 'Escape' to reflect a mountainous setting using percussion instruments. In French, the children have learned how to greet each other in different ways, as well as ask and questions about feelings. Excitingly, the children finished the unit by making finger puppets to perform a French nursery rhyme, 'Deux petits chatons visitant Paris' in which we meet and greet two kittens in Paris.

During the final week of term, we have been focusing on performing and writing poetry; using simple grammar structures to create spine poems. It was lovely to see the children flourish and exude confidence in performing the poem 'Our Cat Likes the Vacuum' – each group took a verse which then joined together to create an amazing and lively class performance! The children also worked hard to create shape poems based on the theme of Autumn and considered their illustrations and colour choices carefully.

We look forward to starting our Geography topic next term in which we will be exploring why people choose to live near volcanoes. Music will focus on Jazz, where we will have lots of fun 'scat singing' and exploring the changes to Jazz music over time. In English we will be kicking off the term by writing alternative traditional tales based on 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs', followed by diary writing. We will be using 'stop frame animation' to help write our next Talk for Writing piece on traditional tales, which will include 'Little Red Riding Hood'. In Maths we will be continuing to solve problems involving addition and subtraction, as well as multiplication and division. This will involve exploring different written methods and considering how manipulatives can help us demonstrate number facts.

Have a restful half term!



Year 4: Our Celebrations

Well done to Year 4 for great start to the year. They have applied themselves and produced some fantastic pieces of work!

Our genres in English this term have been a persuasive letter and a newspaper report. For the persuasive letter we used the model text 'The Great Kapok Tree' where the children wrote letters to the man in the story persuading him not to chop down the tree and for the newspaper report we used the model text 'The Vanishing Rainforest' where the children created a news report on the what the Yanomami tribe are facing in the rainforest.

In Maths this term, the children developed their understanding of addition and subtraction by using column method to solve 4 digit calculations. The start of the term saw the children recapping their understanding of place value and comparing and ordering 4 digit numbers.

In Geography this term, we have learnt about Rainforests and it was kicked off by an exciting trip the Big Cat Sanctuary. We have delved deep into this topic and the children have been completely engaged. The children have learnt about different biomes, the layers of the rainforest, deforestation and endangered animals that reside in the Amazon.

In Science, we have focused on Living things and their habitats. We have categorised and group animals depending on their characteristics using Venn diagrams and have looked into environmental dangers that affect wildlife worldwide.

In Art this term the children have been inspired by an American artist and have used the poem 'Tyger' to inspire them to create a mono print tiger using different tints and shades.

In RE, the children have learnt about the Creation Story and what Christians have learnt from the teachings of The Old Testament.

Next term, we will be learning about the Romans in History where we will be creating our own mosaic art work and in DT we will be designing and creating our own Roman Structure. In English, we will be writing a detailed setting description with a focus on reasoned discussions and using the model text 'Escape from Pompeii' to write diary entries. In Maths, we will be building on our knowledge of addition and subtraction and learning about perimeter in shapes.



Year 5: Our Celebrations

What a great start to a new school year! The children have settled well in their new pods and shivers, proving themselves to be incredibly resilient, and returning to school full of enthusiasm and ready to learn.

This term saw Year 5 get to grips with setting description in Conquering the Monster stories, as well as telling the future. Year 5 have thought about how to live next year with some terrifically detailed instruction writing. They have also been focusing on their handwriting, which has improved vastly. So well done Year 5!

We have been refining our understanding of place value and basic calculation in Maths, and learning how to use our knowledge to solve multi step problems. Our investigations in Science have ranged from attempting to dissolve a variety of materials to making our own water filters from recycled plastic bottles.

In our Geography lessons, we have been learning about What Life Is Like In The Alps. We took a field trip looking at the different leisure activities that are on offer in Tenterden, while also collecting data on the subject from people they knew at home. The children then compared Tenterden with Innsbruck in Austria. After their comparisons, the children decided that they would prefer to live in Tenterden as their friends are here and they felt we had lots to offer.

Our Design and Technology sessions have involved the learning of many food hygiene and preparation techniques, including peeling and chopping: potatoes, onions and leeks. We adapted a recipe from the Alps and made healthier Tartiflettes. Mrs McIntosh did a taste test and agreed they were scrumptious!

We are already looking forward to next term, and preparing for more creative ways to enhance our learning. Ancient Greece will be our focus in History, using the Athenian and Spartan city states as our gateway to learn about democracy and

beliefs. Our English work will be further honing our technical writing skills using our class text, 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd as inspiration for a Non Chronological report. We will also be exploring biographies. In Maths we will continue to refine and extend our understanding and application of the four operations, particularly multiplication, as well as starting our first fractions unit of the Year. In Science we will be continuing to explore materials and their properties. We will also be moving our focus from DT to Art next term and looking forward to the children having a continued opportunity to express their creativity.

A fantastic term to start Year 5, and a terrific one to come – and as always, thank you for your support.



Year 6: Our Celebrations

This term we have enjoyed learning about World War Two. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Tenterden Station for a Second World War Evacuation Day. The pupils heard about experiences from real evacuees, discovered more about rationing and had a short train journey as if we were evacuees too. We have also made our own model Spitfires and learnt about the impact of this aircraft on warfare in the Battle of Britain. In History, we have learnt about the build up to the declaration of war on Germany and the leaders of the main powers involved. We have also considered the concept of "Make-Do and Mend", encouraging people to reuse or adapt items to create new ideas and learning about clothing rationing.

Our music lessons have explored the impact of entertainment and singing on morale and the "Blitz Spirit". Children have learnt about key figures such as Dame Vera Lynn and the importance of wartime songs.

Our English this term was linked with our topic and we have written narrative setting descriptions set during the Blitz. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the life of Anne Frank and her family and we have written diaries from her point of view. We were very impressed with the quality of writing and the children's empathetic response to Anne's situation.

In Maths, we have also worked very hard, revisiting place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of large numbers using formal written methods.

Our Science has involved learning about evolution and adaptation which we have linked with our RE lessons, which sought to address whether or not science and religion can coexist.

In Science, we will be learning about living things and the human body including the main systems e.g respiratory, skeletal and circulatory. This will be linked with our learning in PSHE and taking care of our physical and mental health. In French, we will be learning vocabulary relating to

football following on from Term 1's unit on sport. Our Geography unit, "Where does our energy come from?" will look at different types of energy and mapwork related to Britain.

In English, we will be working on new units including poetry linked with Remembrance, a unit on the study of character and a unit learning about atmosphere using a beautiful, emotional film called "The Alchemist's Letter".

In Maths, we will be working with fractions including adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing and well as ordering fractions and converting fractions and then measurements including conversion of metric and imperial measures.

We are looking forward to the build-up to Christmas, which is always fun and is an exciting part of Term 2. We will be able to enjoy making decorations and cards as well as some artwork.

Have a very restful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all next term.



Best wishes and have a lovely half term break. From all the staff at Tenterden Primary Federation.

