



# Celebrations at Tenterden Primary Federation Term Four 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we approach the end of term, we enjoy reflecting on our term's curriculum and activities. I always enjoy speaking with your children and hearing the excitement in their voices when they talk about their learning.

We are always exploring how we can be more sustainable and environmentally aware. So far, 900 native trees have been planted on our school site; our gardening clubs are growing vegetables and fruit; we have our pre-loved uniform; we are reducing our food waste and Year 4 have completed a litter picking campaign to protect our wildlife! Please keep bringing into school small tubes and tissue boxes to support a local event supporting sustainability in Tenterden. To join in with our green initiatives, please join our TPF Walking Bus on a Wednesday, ask the office for details.

We have enjoyed several sporting events across our schools. Well done to Year 2 in the inter school multi sports event and good play was achieved by our junior netball team with their first huge winning score of 14-0! The football teams are enjoying their leagues with the local schools and have won several games. Good luck to the football team next term! The lower school and upper school hockey teams have played several matches in the Ashford league and shown great skill and teamwork. We aim to win but we are gracious in congratulating the other team players if they win, as that is their goal too! We are very proud of all the children and thank you to the parents/carers for helping with transport when required. We look forward to more sporting events next term and I would like to thank Mr Rogers, Mr Theobald, Mrs



Cripps and Mr Fraser for organising these PE events. We are proud to give the children many sporting opportunities, which could not be achieved without staff giving up their time to do this.

Everyone has been enjoying our celebration assemblies and it's always lovely to see parents/carers join in with our congratulations of the children's personal achievements. Well done to Year 1 sharing interesting facts about Japan and telling their adventure story with us all. We all enjoyed the colourful array of Easter bonnets and storytelling by our youngest children in Early Years. We look forward to the Year 3 and Year 5 class assemblies next term.

The Infant School children have made good progress in their phonic learning. Please keep practising their sounds with them and reading the Little Wandle books. The books are designed to encourage confident fluency and comprehension with your children being able to apply their phonic knowledge to new words. This sits alongside the reading for pleasure books that your child selects from the class libraries. Julia Donaldson is still a great favourite and it is lovely to hear the passion that children have for sharing these imaginative tales.

The lighter evenings and brighter weather are coming. The children enjoy their outdoor play and we look forward to using the grass areas again. If you have any outdoor equipment that you are clearing out please think of us and consider whether it would be suitable for our play boxes. Thank you.

In the lead up to Easter all classes throughout the school, have been looking at different aspects of the Easter Story through the Unit Theme of Salvation. Starting with our whole school Ash Wednesday service at St. Mildred's - where the children learnt about the burning of the last year's palm crosses to create the ash that was then 'crossed' onto their foreheads - the children have studied different things during the time of Lent. Year 3 have looked at the symbolism of different shaped crosses and answered why 'Good Friday' is called 'Good'. Year 4 have looked, in particular, at the Last Supper, Year 5 at why Jesus was called a Messiah and Year 6 have studied the crucifixion

through the eyes of Pablo Picasso and his 1930 painting, The Crucifixion.

Thank you to our wonderful parents leading TePTA and all parents supporting events. The junior children looked amazing in their disco outfits and fun was had by all at the junior disco! We enjoyed World Book Day and thank you to everyone for supporting Comic Relief.

I would like to end with thanking all the staff, children, parents and governors for a great term as we support each other developing and enjoying our teaching and learning. Please keep reading the Dojo with upcoming information about our parent workshops, SEND support and all school news and celebrations. Have a refreshing Easter break and we look forward to term 5.

**Kind regards**

**Mrs McIntosh, Executive Head Teacher**

Together, we learn, grow and flourish with love, respect, perseverance and faithfulness

As part of Tenterden Schools Trust, we are striving for excellence in education; please celebrate with us our term's work and look forward with us to next term's delights.



# Reception

## Our Celebrations

This term we have had our 'Spring has Sprung' Topic where we have been noticing the signs of Spring all around us. We went onto the field to look closely at the daffodils that have started to grow. The children did some wonderful still life pencil drawings of the daffodils, they noticed the different shapes and colours and translated this into their art.

We have been growing lots of plants in our classrooms and also in the outdoor garden. Our runner beans, which are getting very tall, will soon be ready to plant outdoors. We are also growing sunflowers, sweet peas, lupins, onions, broccoli and cress! The children have been learning about what plants need to grow and looking after them well. As the plants grow we are developing our observation skills through noticing and describing the changes that are happening.

We have looked after several caterpillars in each class and have been watching closely as they grow, they are just beginning to make

their cocoons. It has been interesting learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and we are looking forward to seeing the caterpillars hatch from their cocoons, transforming into butterflies. It will be fun to release them.

During British Science Week, we were looking at the connections that are all around us. We have been learning about how all living creatures are connected and how they help each other. We have thought about how water is connected to all living things and we talked about how and why it rains and how clouds are formed.

Next Term our Topic will be 'The Deep Blue Sea'. We are looking forward to: finding out which creatures live in the sea and why protecting the oceans and the ocean life is so important. Our creative writing and art will focus on thinking about what it would be like to take a journey out to sea!

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to a fantastic Term 5.





# Year 1

## Our Celebrations

We have had great fun this term learning about Japan. In geography we learnt about physical and human features. We have compared life in London and Tokyo and learnt the names of some Japanese food. We particularly enjoyed designing and making our own Bullet trains, using wheels and axles to make them move. We were all superstars performing in our Japan assembly. We enjoyed singing a song in Japanese. Our story this term was a traditional Japanese story called 'Little Inchkin.' We retold our story and changed the villain into a monster creation of our own. We also learnt to use subheadings in our non-chronological reports about the Japanese giant salamander. In maths we learnt about measuring length, mass and

capacity. We discovered that the salamander can weigh the same as us! During Science week, we carried out some fun experiments using bicarbonate and vinegar to blow up a glove and making parachutes to keep our eggs safe. We have sorted animals into reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds and fish. We are beginning to learn about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores as we find out the food that each animal eats.

Next term we are really looking forward to our new topic 'In the garden.' We hope to learn lots of new plant names and grow some flowers of our own. We look forward to going on a plant hunt and drawing maps of our school and local area.



## Year 2

# Our Celebrations

It has been a truly scrumptious term! The children have enjoyed making (and of course eating!) sandwiches and pitta pizzas. Having learnt about the different food groups, we designed a healthy lunchbox by selecting healthy options, with plenty of colourful fruit and vegetables. In art, these fruits and vegetables took on an entirely different role as the children created their own printing blocks and used them to print a pattern. They also created the most amazing portraits in the style of Guiseppe Arcimboldo. Great work Year 2 artists!

In geography the children identified fruits and vegetables that grow in the United Kingdom and researched where more exotic fruits come from, including bananas from Costa Rica and mangoes from India! The children could explain why these fruits do not grow in this country, using the correct vocabulary, such as "climate" and "conditions".

As spring arrives, we look forward to our new topic "Spring Watch". Weather permitting, we will be outside, planting, sketching and making a geography trail around the school grounds. Fingers crossed!





# Year 3

## Our Celebrations

We are pleased to share with you the latest news and updates on the progress of our Year 3 children. This term, the children have been actively engaged in various learning activities, and we are excited to report on their achievements.

In Maths, the children have been focusing on length and measurement, as well as fractions. They have shown great enthusiasm in understanding these concepts and are looking forward to continuing their learning of fractions next term. In English, the children have been writing their own finding tales. Many children enjoyed creating their story around Nemo or Dora and you will be glad to know they were found! The children are currently completing their newspaper reports about a mysterious bird that had entered the Year 3 area and built a nest! This creative writing project has created excitement amongst the children as they investigated what had happened by interviewing members of staff. The children produced questions and held a press conference where they asked their questions to key witnesses. Look out for the final reports in our next Book Look. We have been

impressed with the children's musical skills using the pentatonic melodies during our celebration of the Chinese New Year. We are looking at how emotions are conveyed through music, which has initiated some lovely caring discussions.

The children have completed their units of work on soils and looked at the three types of fossils. They have shown great curiosity in exploring these concepts and have been keen to share their findings with their peers.

Our history investigations have led the children to focusing on Skara Brae and Stone Age settlements. They have been exploring the way of life during the Stone Age and how people lived during that time.

Next term we will be starting our new units on plants and we will be looking at our new enquiry question, 'Is Kent still the Garden of England?' This will involve developing our geographical skills. We will also be learning to use cross-stitch and our Design Technology will include designing and creating bridges. We look forward to seeing Year 3's continued growth and development in the upcoming term.



# Year 4

## Our Celebrations

We have continued on our learning journey about Ancient Egypt. We mummified apples to explore part of the process of mummification and how it worked. We were stunned to see the results and the smell was pretty revolting too! We used a range of sources to find out about the lives of the Ancient Egyptians and compared them to our own. We used our art skills to model death masks using a wide range of materials, including pastels. To finish the term, we've created double-page spreads to showcase everything that we have learnt about the Ancient Egyptians. In Terms 5 and 6, we are excited to start learning about the achievements of the Romans and how their legacy continues to influence our lives today.

In English lessons, we have learnt about the features required when writing a biography. We read some great examples of biographies and researched famous individuals to collect interesting facts. The children have written two biographies, one about Cleopatra and a person of their choice. There was a fantastic variety of biographies, from David Attenborough to Messi! During Book Week this year we focused on poetry. We used, 'A Kid in my Class' by Rachel Rooney. This book is filled with poems that depict a range of emotions, some poems had us roaring with laughter and some poems were heart-breaking. We created our own poetry book, with unique poems and illustrations that represented each of us. Finally, we have been writing creative stories and putting our descriptive writing skills to the test. Next term, we will be writing detailed instructions and narratives.

Fractions have dominated our Maths learning this term. Our journey started at understanding what a fraction is and developing an understanding of the key vocabulary. Following this, we learnt about

converting improper fractions and mixed numbers and equivalent fractions. We finished off our unit with adding and subtracting fractions. Next term, we will be learning about the place value of decimals and solving multi-step problems using money.

This term we had Science Week, which was focused on connections. We conducted a range of fascinating investigations, including erupting volcanoes and using index cards to create bridges. One of our bridges was so strong it held all of the weights we had and 8 dictionaries and it still didn't collapse! We have also been learning about sound. Through the use of tuning forks, water, salt and drums, we learnt how vibrations cause sound to be created. We've also investigated and learnt about the anatomy inside of our ears. Next term we will be continuing with our work on sound by conducting a range of experiments. We also had fun creating rhythms and using body percussion inspired by our study of Samba music.



# Year 5

## Our Celebrations

Since February, Year 5 have been making admirable progress! They have kept a positive mindset towards their learning and have embraced new topics while reinforcing their prior knowledge. As well as tackling fractions and decimals in maths we have looked at various genres of writing in English, focusing in particular on the writing of dialogue and how to use parentheses to add information. During World Book Week, we wrote our own poems inspired by the Kid in Our Class by Rachel Rooney, and it was an incredibly rewarding experience.

In PSHE the children have learned how to stay safe online and have also examined their own resilience and how to increase it. In Science, we have explored how humans change from gestation to old age over time. This has linked into our French curriculum, where we have been focussed on learning numbers and being able to retell our birthday. In history we have been consolidating our knowledge on migration and looked at the enquiry question

'How settlers have shaped Britain (410 AD – 793 AD)'. We have explored the Anglo-Saxons and the changes and impact they brought to the country.

In Design Technology, we have finished building and evaluating our bird boxes, which will be sold via an exciting sealed auction at the May Fair! This linked nicely with a visit from Tenterden Museum, who brought along an exhibit of bird eggs. The children collectively told the story of an escaping bird, and then created origami birds; these will be displayed at the Museum from the 22nd of April. In Physical Education we have been utilising some of our basketball skills from last term in our current netball unit. We have been inspired by Rock and Roll in Dance, practising the hand jive, spins and travelling.

Your children have worked extremely hard and proved themselves yet again to be an inquisitive group of learners with a great appetite for new knowledge, and we look forward to our topic next term on...The Sixties!





# Year 6

## Our Celebrations

This term we have enjoyed continuing our learning about The Americas, learning about the topography, produce and trade. We thoroughly enjoyed our Exploration Week in which we worked in crews to sail to the Americas. We tried out many skills that would have been necessary on board a ship including boat-building, semaphore, the use of flags, weathering a storm, keeping a log of our adventures and then participating in a final trading game to see which crews could make their fortune! Well done to the Blue Tiger crew for earning the greatest number of points across the week and therefore making it to their destination first. Congratulations also to the Diamond Pearl crew who made the most money in the trading game. The crews enjoyed writing and singing their sea shanties to each other.

In English, we have learnt a Cherokee creation myth and enjoyed innovating it to include other animals that could be found in the Americas. We also enjoyed reading poetry from the book "A Kid in my Class" by Rachel Rooney during Book Week, working towards writing and performing our own poetry to slot into the book.

In maths, we have also worked very hard, learning about area, volume and perimeter and have learnt some key concepts involved in statistics. We also incorporated symmetry and coordinates into our Exploration Week.

In science, we have been learning about animals and their habitats, in particular, classification of animals, plants and micro-organisms.

Next term, in Maths we will be revising our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages. In English, we will be learning about writing emotive language, mystery stories using suspense and developing our use of the passive voice. The focus over the next two terms will be "Moving On" and our PSHE will include concepts around growing up and moving to secondary school. It will also be "full steam ahead", learning lines and songs for our production of Mary Poppins.

We wish you a happy and restful Easter break. We look forward to seeing you all next term.



**We wish you a happy and restful Easter Break and we look forward to seeing you all next term. From all the staff at Tenterden Primary Federation**

With God as our companion, we learn, grow and flourish with love, respect, perseverance and faithfulness.

