Apple Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2

23rd November 2026

News / Information

This week it is all about rockets and space! On Tuesday afternoon the children will be treated to a rocket workshop with Catherine and Andrew, both ex-engineers, living in Batheaston. In the 1989 Catherine designed a satellite which entered space, staying there until the early 2000's. The children will be making small rockets, with the opportunity to launch them into the air!

Due to staff shortages we did not go on our road safety walk last week, we are hoping to go this Wednesday morning instead.

At the start of this term, we began our guided reading sessions with some groups of children in the class. We call this 'Cosy Time'. It is an opportunity to practise their early reading skills, within a group and led by an adult. It is also a time to have fun, adding expression and checking in with comprehension questions. We will also hear individuals read over the coming weeks to assess where they are at with their segmenting and blending skills.

Don't forget our lovely Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November. Hopefully you have pre-booked your Santa slots, if not I would ensure you do so this week as they do get booked up.

Phonics

Phase 2 – this week we will begin phase 2 in our phonics programme. The class will be introduced to 4 graphemes/sounds (sh th ng nk) Tricky word (she he of) *These are the last phonemes we will learn this term. Next week we will be focusing on segmenting and blending skills to read.*

What are we learning this week...

In Drawing Club, we are looking at the book 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jefferes (one of my favourite authors). The premise is that 'The Boy' finds an aeroplane in his cupboard (as you do!) and takes a trip to the Moon – there he meets and helps a Martian. We will be using junk materials to build our own rockets.

In maths we are focusing on the composition of 3, 4 and 5. The children are becoming more aware of the concept 'part, part, whole' where they are able to investigate the different parts of a number, that makes up a whole such as (2+2 / 1+3 = 4). These are the building blocks to the children's understanding of what makes four 4 or the fiveness of five. Again, we will use a variety of resources and models for the children explore this concept within different contexts.

On Monday, we will be creating dioramas, using art and collage to create small worlds based upon Space. These will be a collaborative project and will be proudly displayed on our classroom display.

On Friday, we will be entering the world of Space exploration, learning about the first moon landing in 1969.

Teachers Award

Olive and Henry

