

Carr Infant School Newsletter



23.05.25

End of term... already!

As we reach the end of this half term, we're delighted to share some of the brilliant progress the children have made. It has been a truly exciting term, and we're so proud of how much the children are achieving – especially in reading and phonics. The progress across the school has been fantastic, and Year 1 in particular has shown inspiring knowledge and enthusiasm. It's a joy to see our children's confidence growing day by day, and many parents have shared with me how impressed they have been with their emerging knowledge. Well done to all our children.

This term has also been packed with exciting experiences. We've enjoyed Oak Class's assembly, the Reception Singalong, and even welcomed a whole farmyard of animals into school! The children in Year 1 also had a wonderful time on our trip to the Arboretum. We've also loved welcoming parents into school for our open afternoons, both for reading and to share the children's work – thank you so much to everyone who came along.

For our Year 2 children, transition to the Juniors is already underway. They've had their first online meeting with the Junior team, and there will be plenty of opportunities to visit in person after half term. We're looking forward to supporting them every step of the way.

We have plenty to look forward to next half term, so please do check the dates on the next page.

Wishing all of our families a restful, sunny, and enjoyable half term. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 2nd June, ready for more exciting learning ahead.

Dr J Canniford
Headteacher

Drop-off and pick-up Reminder:

We kindly ask that children do not play with or move school equipment such as tyres, bricks, and balls before school starts in the morning. We are working closely with the children to help them understand boundaries and responsibilities during playtimes, including showing care and respect for our equipment. Your support and supervision with this in the mornings would be greatly appreciated.



Our Learning

Nursery

In Nursery this week, we explored Handa's Surprise through related play and discussion, and enjoyed the non-fiction text *Where Does Fruit Come From?* to deepen our understanding of food origins. Our Rhyme Time focus was *Incy Wincy Spider*, with children joining in enthusiastically with actions and rhyme. We continued our Love of Reading with the book *Would You Rather...* by John Burningham, sparking lots of imaginative conversations, with a focus on verbs. In Phonics, we focused on the sound 'z', encouraging careful listening and blending. In Maths, we worked with numbers to 5 and explored the properties of cubes and cuboids, linking this to everyday objects such as cereal boxes and dice. The children also enjoyed shape-spotting in their environment and developing their mathematical language through play and investigation.

Reception

This week in Science, we wrapped up our learning about different types of weather and seasons. We also had a special moment as we released our butterflies after watching them grow from caterpillars—what an exciting journey!

In Maths, we focused on numbers 1–10. We practiced putting them in order, explored what comes before and after, and revisited the ideas of "more" and "less" within 10.

In RE, we learned about special books, especially the Bible, and why they are important to many people.

During our Jigsaw lessons, we talked about friendship. We discussed how it's normal to sometimes fall out with our friends and that it's okay to feel sad, angry, or cross—but we also thought about kind and helpful ways to fix things when that happens.

Well done to all the children for another fantastic week of learning and growing together!

Attendance

Saplings **94%** **93%** Whole School

Acorn **90%** **92%** Chestnut

Oak **94%** **95%** Birch

Alder **90%** **96%** Willow

We are aiming for 95% minimum attendance. Missing more than 10% throughout primary school is the same as missing over 6 months of school.

Year 1

Year 1 students have wrapped up a fantastic half term filled with exploration and creativity. In Science, they have delved into the world of plants and in writing lessons they crafted informative texts based on their newfound knowledge. In Maths lessons, they have explored fractions, position and direction.

Their Design Technology skills blossomed as they learned various fabric-joining techniques to create imaginative Little Red Riding Hood puppets. In Music, children experimented with dynamics, rhythm, and pitch, while PE sessions had them grooving to weather and pirate-themed dances. In RE, they explored how different religions celebrate the welcoming of babies into their families and communities.

Oak Class's assembly was a resounding success, showcasing their confidence in speaking and performance. Looking ahead, both Year 1 classes are eagerly anticipating their upcoming trip to the Yorkshire Arboretum to further their understanding of plants.

Year 2

This half-term, Year 2 have been busy with a wide range of exciting learning! In English, we've been reading Meerkat Mail and exploring information texts.

The children have enjoyed researching and writing their own fact files all about meerkats. In maths, we've been learning to tell the time using an analogue clock. Our science lessons have focused on plants—we've observed their growth and discovered what seeds need to germinate.

In RE, we've explored the special objects and clothing used in prayer across different religions, including Islam, Judaism, and Hinduism. Our history work has taken us back in time as we investigated what schools were like beyond living memory and compared them to our own classrooms today. The children also had their first playtime visit to Carr Junior School, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to a fantastic final term in Year 2!

Dates for the Diary

Dates in bold show parent/carers involvement

Red indicates changed dates

----- 2024 - 2025 -----

June

2nd - School opens for all pupils

3rd - Oak & Birch classroom visits 2.30pm

3rd - New Reception Starters Parent/Carer Meeting 5.30pm

3rd & 4th - FOC Fathers Day Stall 3pm

12th - Monthly School Tour for prospective parents

19th - Reception trip to Howsham Mill

20th - FOC Non-Uniform Day - Prize for the Summer Fair

29th June - FOC Summer Fair at Westbank Park

July

1st - Nursery Sports Day 1-2pm

1st - Reception & Sycamore Sports Day 2-3pm

2nd - KS1 Sports Day 2-3pm

3rd Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm

7th - Nursery September starters stay & play 3.15pm

10th - Monthly School Tour for prospective parents

14th - Nursery end of year picnic

15th - Year 2 Leavers Performance 2.15pm

18th - School closes to all pupils for the summer holidays

Will my child do SATs in Year 2?

No, your child will not be sitting official Year 2 SATs.

As of 2023, the legal requirement for Year 2 SATs has been removed. **However, as an infant school, we still use the new non-statutory optional tests** as a helpful tool for teachers to assess pupils' progress. These assessments are not carried out under traditional exam conditions, and we spread them out over the course of a month in a calm and familiar environment where most pupils do not even realise they are doing an assessment.

These optional tests help to inform the teacher's final assessment of your child's attainment at the end of Key Stage 1. This final teacher assessment is what will be shared with you in your child's end-of-year report. There will be no SATs-style scores or formal results reported to parents.

In previous years, some parents have requested example papers. Teachers are happy to share these on request (they are also freely available online), but we do not expect families to practise them at home. We believe it's important that children at this age are not put under unnecessary pressure, and that assessment should support learning, not cause stress.

This is our current plan for administering the optional tests:

- Week beginning 2nd June - Reading Paper 1
- Week beginning 16th June - Maths Paper 1 & Maths paper 2
- Week beginning 23rd June - Reading Paper 2

If you have any questions about the optional SATs, please do get in touch!