

At Oasis Academy Temple we reach for the...

# Stars

Academy Newsletter



October 2019 | Issue 4



# Welcome

## Another fantastic half – term at Oasis Academy Temple!

The children and staff have had a great start to the new school year – enjoying their new curriculum projects and welcoming lots of exciting visitors into school. You can read about all their learning under the News and Events and Learning pages on our school website.

The children have settled quickly to their learning and are filled with enthusiasm about their new classes. They all look so smart and are full of determination to succeed. This year our number 1 priority is reading. Being a fluent, confident reader is the key to future success in all subjects and research has shown that the more a child reads, the easier it becomes. It will really help if your child can be encouraged to read at home at least three times a week.

We have won our first competition of the year – well done to 6K who won the Oasis Sumdog competition last week showing that they are amazing at mental maths. In fact, we nearly swooped first second and third places. Let's make this the first of many achievements for this academic year.

## Attendance

Our attendance target for this year is a minimum of 97%. There will be regular attendance awards for any children whose attendance is at or above this magic number so please do everything you can to help your child to attend every day. I know we can do this through continuing to work together. In fact we are currently exceeding our target and have had some days when attendance has been over 99% which is a fantastic effort – Thank you!

If you need any help with attendance, please contact Ms Ford in the office and along with Mrs Sattar and Mrs Parvez they will be happy to support in any way they can.

Thank you again in advance for all your support this year – it does mean a lot to us and we appreciate your kind comments in conversations, of which they are many.

By working together we will ensure that your children are happy and achieving their full potential at Oasis Academy Temple.

**Mr Simpson and Mrs Crew**

## Contact us anytime at...



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# Early Years

Our main topic for learning has been Autumn

We have all made a fabulous start to the school year in the Early Years Department.

Our new Nursery and Reception children have settled in really quickly, and are all ready to learn! We have been learning about our school family, and making lots of new friends. Our main topic for learning this half term has been Autumn. We have collected Autumn objects, and explored and described them using lots of language.

Vocabulary is a major focus for us this year in the Early Years, and we have been learning lots of new words, including hibernate, harvest, and orchard, the names of different trees and animals, and combine harvester! Reception have shared lots of stories, including Leaf Man, by Lois Ehlert, Funnybones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, Ten Apples up on Top by Dr. Seuss, and After the Storm by Nick Butterworth.

The Reception classes have begun their guided reading sessions, and their phonics learning. We have explored number, and pattern in Mathematics – we made repeating patterns with apple prints. We are also learning to retell the story of the Gingerbread Man, and will be writing our own versions of this. We are looking forward to reading the story of Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne and to celebrating Diwali together on the last day of this half term.

The Nursery have also enjoyed sharing lots of stories, including Owl Babies by Martin Waddell. They too have explored Autumn, and the children have shown a real interest in the spiders which they have discovered in Nursery, and have enjoyed finding out all about them.

In celebration of Black History month, all of the children attended a Zulu dance assembly presentation, which we all loved – it was very exciting and noisy! Nursery played the African Drums themselves for their music session, and are looking forward to making African masks! Reception are looking forward to reading the story of Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne and we are all celebrating Diwali together on the last day of this half term.

After the holidays, amongst other things, Reception will be learning about Bonfire Night, reading Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper (a lovely story about sharing) and exploring pumpkins and squash. Nursery will be learning lots of Nursery Rhymes, and we will all move on to learning about Christmas and how it is celebrated around the world.



# Year 1

We've been reading  
'Little Red Riding Hood'

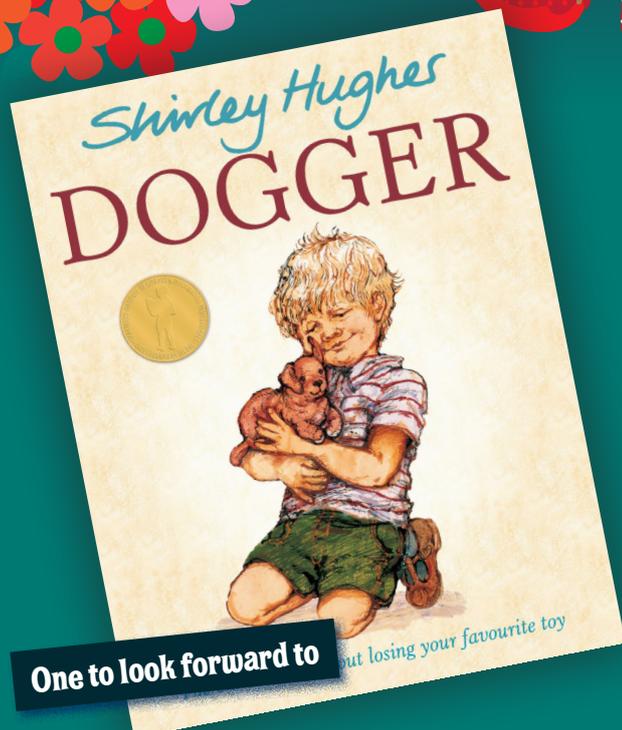
In year 1, we have made a fantastic start this half term and have settled well into new routines.

We have been learning about the local area in our Geography lessons and have looked at the different jobs people do. We have created our own leaflet about some of the things you can do if you visit Manchester. We have also been drawing and labelling our own maps. In Science, we have been looking at and sorting different animals along with exploring the different environments that animals live in.

After reading 'Little Red Riding Hood' in English, we created our own stories using a story map. We then used sentences and our phonics to help us write a story. After that, we explored our outside garden area for signs of Autumn and then wrote our own Autumn poems. We certainly have some budding poets in Year 1!

In Maths, we have been looking to gain a deeper understanding of number through counting, comparing and ordering. We have also been problem solving using addition and subtraction along with investigating 2D and 3D shape.

In art we have been exploring textiles and to celebrate Black History month, we watched a creative dance group from South Africa. They were fabulous and it was great to see the children enjoying music and dance from a different culture.



#### Next half term:

Next half term the enquiry question will be 'How is my life different to children from the past?' This will be a History focus and the children will be learning about timelines and looking at artefacts from the past.

In English, we will be doing some work around the story 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes, along with writing some instructions for toys.

In Maths, we will be doubling and halving and using our number bonds to help us solve 1-step problems.

We will also be celebrating our anti-bullying day in November.

We can't wait to start our learning!

# Year 2

We've been improving our map reading skills

The children have had an excellent first half term in Year 2!

We have been learning about the human and physical features of Manchester and Pakistan and we have compared their similarities and differences. We have been discussing continents, countries and cities and used our map skills to locate these in an atlas.

In English, we have written a meeting tale based on the story of 'Little Charlie' and then we wrote instructions on 'How to Get to Grandma's House'. We have also written a journey tale based on 'The Papaya That Spoke'. Alongside this, we have been identifying materials and discovering their properties. We have investigated the suitability of different materials in everyday objects. In D&T, we have designed a prayer mat that we have started to create using our sewing skills and binca.

As Mathematicians, we have been working very hard on our place value and number skills. We have been learning to compare and order.

We will be learning about the artist L.S. Lowry



## Next half term:

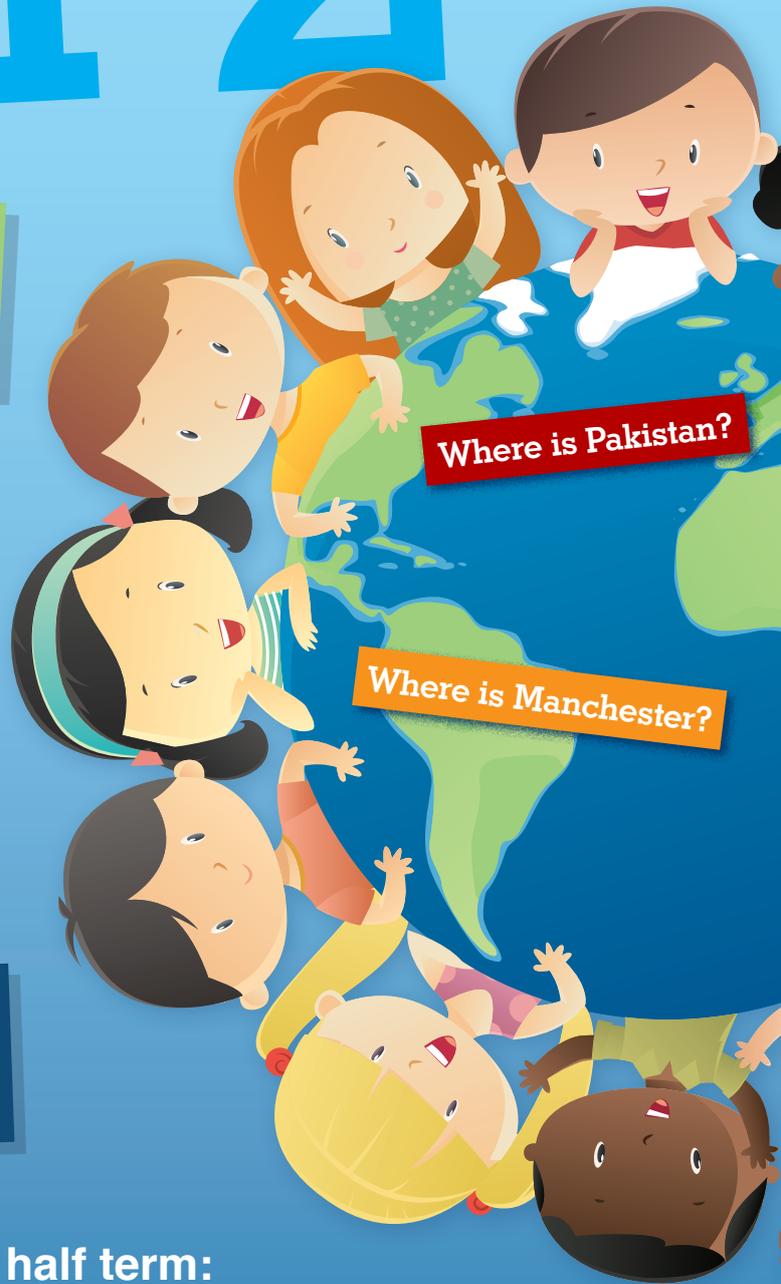
Next half term our enquiry question will be 'How has Manchester changed over time?' and we will be visiting Quarry Bank Mill to have a closer look at machinery that provided jobs and clothes for Mancunians. We will also visit the school that is based at the Mill for the children that lived and worked there.

In Art and D&T, we will continue to create our prayer mats and begin to look at Lowry's artwork of Manchester that will link to our Project topic.

In English, we will be reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and writing our own version of this story. We will then write a recount about our visit to Quarry Bank Mill.

In Maths, we will be learning to measure length in metres and centimetres using different equipment and creating graphs in the form of pictograms, tally charts and bar charts. The children will learn to multiply and divide using the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables in written and mental methods.

In Science, we will be continuing our learning about materials and their properties. We will be investigating which material would make the best umbrella for a teddy bear and creating and evaluating these.



# Year 3

Year 3 have had a great start to KS2, settling into the new routines and expectations. Many of our children have had the opportunity to attend recorder and ukulele club and are enjoying learning a new skill and working towards a performance in the next music assembly.

In our English this half term, we have written folk tales inspired by a storyteller and our geography topic. All Year 3 classes enjoyed listening to Ian the Storyteller and learnt about how stories used to be told. We read the story 'The Lancashire Giant' that was about a boy from Lancashire who wanted to be bigger. The children then made up their own folk tale stories in which their character, from Manchester, made a wish.



Our Science topic this half term has been light. As part of this we have identified natural light sources and artificial light sources and we have investigated how reflective different materials are. To link our learning with our Science topic, in DT we have enjoyed making shadow puppets based on folk tale characters.

Throughout school, we have celebrated Black History Month and Dyslexia Awareness Week. To raise awareness of Dyslexia, the children wore green and joined in with activities to help them understand that all ways of learning are important and valued. We also discussed how those with Dyslexia experience the world around them. To celebrate Black History Month, Year 3 have learned about and researched the lives of significant people throughout history who have faced prejudice based on their background or skin colour. In addition to learning about the lives of these people, we had the opportunity to experience the aesthetics of the Zulu Theatre Company. We were treated to singing, dancing and cultural clothing.

Next half term, Year 3 will be learning about the Stone Age to the Iron Age in history and rocks in Science.



In our Geography lessons, we have been comparing Manchester to the rural town of Keswick in the Lake District. We have learnt about the differences between cities, towns and villages, identified counties on a map and looked at Manchester and Keswick from 100 years ago!

The Stone Age



# Year 4

We have been exploring the physical and human features of Italy & UK

What an incredible term it has been for Year 4! We have been comparing the human and physical geography of the UK to Italy. We are becoming increasingly confident with using our map skills to locate cities and describe their position.

## English

In English, we have been focusing on using a wide range of sentence structures and rich vocabulary to write a fear tale based on the book *Wolves in the Walls*. Furthermore, we have developed our persuasive writing skills and created a persuasive leaflet in our non-fiction unit. Year 4 has also focused on different forms of poetry and we even wrote our own! Let's not forget the amazing publishing that has been going on. We are all very proud of the work produced this half term and look forward to more.

## Maths

In Maths, we have been working hard on our written methods for addition and subtraction. We have also been working on how to answer word problems and reasoning questions clearly and systematically. Furthermore, we have also been using our mental strategies to add and subtract. Please ensure your children continue to learn their times tables in preparation for the Times Tables test at the end of the year!



Wolves in the Walls

Italy

## Science

Our focus in Science this half term has been 'States of Matter'. We have been using our Working Scientifically skills to investigate solids, liquids and gases. We have also been learning about the properties of these states of matter.

## Black History Month

As part of celebrating Black History Month, we have been fortunate enough to watch an incredible performance by the Zulu Nation Company. We also got involved with an art workshop in which children were able to use their sketching skills to sketch different items that represent the Zulu Tribe. Furthermore, we learnt a Zulu song about happiness and even a dance routine! A superb experience!

## Next Half Term

We have a really exciting half term to look forward to! We will be moving on to History in which we will be learning about what the Romans did for us. We will be continuing with the topic of States of Matter in Science and moving on to multiplication and division in Maths. In English next half term, we will be writing a quest tale as well as focusing on how to write a non-chronological report for our non-fiction unit.



England

Zulu Nation



# YEAR 5

**In year 5, we have made a fantastic start this half term!**

We have been exploring the physical and human features of South America and comparing them to the UK and becoming really confident in our map skills when locating features.

In English we have been discussing the issue of deforestation and looking at different perspectives to be able to write a discussion text, even taking part in our own debate. Alongside this, we have been investigating life cycles of plants/reptiles/insects/amphibians from the Amazon rainforest and the woodland in the UK and researched about a national naturalist treasure - David Attenborough, who is an inspiration!

In Art, we have used the stimulus of the story 'The Tin Forest' to create a rainforest scene in the style of Henri Rousseau and currently designing and making our own mosaic of tropical animals.

As Mathematicians, we have been working very hard on our mental strategies for addition and subtraction to enable us to move onto more formal methods and reasoning and problem solving questions.

**We have been exploring the physical and human features of South America**



**Next half term:**

Next half term the enquiry question will be 'how did the Anglo Saxons shape Britain?' and will be having our own super learning day where we will live like an Anglo-Saxon for the day! Linked to our history, the children in DT will be using their textiles skills to produce a product which will be useful for an Anglo-Saxon – such as a rune bag! In English we are writing a defeating the monster tale similar to the famous myth of Beowulf and writing a non-chronological report on the Anglo-Saxons. In Science we will be learning about materials and their properties. We will also be celebrating our anti-bullying day in November. **We can't wait to start our learning!**



# Year 6

Our project is: How has immigration shaped the UK?

Year 6 have had a fantastic start and settled in well to the pace and expectations of their final year with us at Oasis Academy Temple. We appointed students to their roles as Monitors, our Head Students and class Academy Councillors. The Debate Mate team are up and running and looking forward to preparing for their first debate- we wish them the best of luck. Many of our children are enjoying Monday evening Football club and we have lots of children representing us in Tuesday evening choir. Both steel pans and keyboards can be heard rehearsing regularly and we are proud of all of our children who are pursuing their talents.

In our English lessons we read all about Mo Farah's amazing life; starting out as a refugee fleeing war-torn Somalia and reaching the peak of his career as a quadruple gold medal winner for Team GB at the Olympics. The children were fascinated by his life story and enjoyed writing their own biographies of the sporting hero.

Our project has been 'How has immigration shaped the UK?', in which we have been looking at what makes people move from their country of origin: both push factors out of a country such as war or natural disaster and pull factors to a new country such as education or job opportunities. The children have enjoyed reading stories of people travelling across continents and were lucky enough to attend the Children's Book show at HOME in Manchester where they listened to a first-hand account of a man's immigration from Beijing during the Cultural Revolution. Following this, the children made their own kites with messages of hope and all received a copy of the book 'Little Leap Forward' to take home. After reading 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna, the children have written their own poetry contrasting War and Peace; written setting descriptions of a country turned upside down by a natural disaster and then expanded on these settings to write a short story of a character fleeing their country as a result.

In Maths, after securing a solid understanding of place value of numbers to ten millions, the children have been working hard on the four operations for calculation and will be moving on to studying fractions, decimals and percentages after half term.

Throughout the term, as scientists, the children have been learning about inheritance: how species adapt, how variety occurs and they have read about Charles Darwin's theory of Evolution, which was an excellent opportunity for children to apply their knowledge of writing biographies into writing the life story of the famous scientist.

Next half term, our topic will be **The Vikings** and we look forward to an exciting adventure into Viking times, learning all about their history, their and legends, their traditions and their conquests.





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