

# Anstey First School

# NEWSLETTER

BACK TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2022 | NO. 1

A belated welcome back to school to everyone and welcome to our new monthly newsletter! I hope we have all gotten back into the swing of things and settled into a school routine by now. Walking around the school over the last few weeks and seeing all the children engaged in their learning, happy and settled in their new classes – it was like they had never been away and it was delightful to see. The expectations I have of everybody at Anstey are high – this includes my staff, you (as parents), the children and of course myself. The education of your child is a shared responsibility between the school, the child and the parent. To help this we aim to continue to develop our strong culture of co-operation and trust between home and the school. This helps to foster a positive attitude towards education and school life that acts as a catalyst for developing motivated, independent learners. We want the best for our children!

I would like to remind everyone of our parent forum/coffee chat coming up on the 4th of October at 2.45pm (just after the EYFS Phonics session). I hope to be able to talk with some of you if you are able to join us.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Tuesday 4 October in the Village Hall

2pm Rocket Phonics Workshop for Fledglings families

2.45pm Parent Forum – everyone welcome

### Thursday 13 October

9-11am Reception to Year 4 Flu Immunisations (only if permission received)

### Friday 21 October

Inset Day – no pupils in school

24 – 28 October HALF TERM

### Monday 31 October

Inset Day – no pupils in school

### Monday 21 November in the Village Hall

from 8.30am School Photos – details to follow (siblings and pre-schoolers not in school are welcome with parents at 8.30 if wished)

Remember Term Dates and whole year's diary dates are available on the Office/Parent Information tab of our website

## GENTLE REMINDERS



- Year 1-Year 4 please remember to read each night and record in reading record
- Warm joggers, waterproofs, hats and gloves on Forest Fridays
- Please ensure children have the right type of coat for the days weather
- Please name your child's possessions – we have lots of unnamed jumpers
- Nursery and Reception Parents if you do check the weeks learning notices on Tapestry on Monday and Friday please "like" so we can see that you are getting the updates
- Please no chocolate or crisps for morning snack or lunches
- We have had pleas from families that walk into school or scooter for those driving in to please make sure to slow down from Lincoln Hill and the stretch of road up to the school especially passing over the bridge

P. S. Did we mention, naming your child's possessions .....?



# Key Stage 1 News (Year 1 and Year 2)

## MISS, WHEN DO WE GET TO PLAY!?!?



Miss, when do we get to play?" If we had a pound for every time we were asked this by a Year 1 child at the beginning of a new school year we might even be able to afford to put on the heat on this winter!

All joking aside the transition from Reception to Year 1 is quite significant for a child who is used to a play-based free flowing learning experience. They are used to being guided by staff but also being able to choose what, whom and when they could play. Children would gravitate towards the things they enjoy doing and how they spent their time was largely in their own hands.

Year 1 can be somewhat of a culture shock and there's a whole new set of skills that they're expected to master in Year 1. A huge challenge for many newly transitioned Year 1 pupils is being able to sit still and pay attention for longer lengths of time. One of our main jobs is teaching the behaviours for learning and supporting children to develop higher levels of self-control and promote independence as the level of work also becomes harder. The focus is more on formal skills like reading, writing and maths. Children will sometimes pine for the good old days when they could just run around and let off steam or play with their favourite toy alongside a friend. We do try to build in opportunities for active learning and enrichment time in our Year 1/2 class to bridge the two settings as they transition and settle. Our enrichment time is learning led but more practical and "fun" and gives children the opportunity to use a session in the day for choosing their learning activities.

The Reception to Year 1 transition can be tough for some parents, too. In Reception, there's usually quite a lot of contact with the Fledglings staff and you receive updates and photos through our online Tapestry programme. Moving to Year 1 there are typically longer units of work which last a half term (approx. 6-7 weeks). Teachers will post a curriculum map on their class web page so our Year 1 parents can access the topics. You can also use the class timetable posted on the class website to talk to your child about the learning of the day- and hopefully avoid the "What did you learn today? - Nothing" scenario! Eventually when teachers build a bank of photos, as the weeks roll on, they will compile a gallery to share events and our learning.

Usually, any teething problems settling into Year 1 are minor, but if you're concerned about your child after the first month or so bring please bring it to Miss Fell's attention so we can help support your child in having a positive start to KS1.



Little Owls have been busy reading 'Here Comes Frankie' as part of their English lessons. They have enjoyed exploring the colourful illustrations and descriptive language. This led to them writing their own short story based on the book, creating their own character, musical instrument and ending.

Little Owls have taken some of their maths lessons outside, creating their own number lines to help their understanding of place value. They have also been enjoying getting started on 'Animals including Humans' in science and exploring their senses.



Some of our Lovely art work from our About Me Unit



Please read with your child every night and record this in their reading record. They get to add a sticker next to their name on the reading challenge every 5 times they read at home!

# Key Stage 2 News (Year 3 and Year 4)

We have been very busy already in Wise Owls! Children are working hard and have been using their imagination, particularly in English and art.

In English, we have enjoyed "Here Comes Frankie!" by Tim Hopgood. The story has inspired us to write sensory poetry. Children might remember the morning we thought about the idea of synaesthesia - we learned about the way Frankie's brain connected touch, taste, colour and sound and then had a go at making these connections ourselves!

"Here Comes Frankie!" inspired us to start a 'Big Art' project. It is still going on and we look forward to sharing it with you when it's finished. We have also written beautiful sense poems. The children are very proud of their work and are excited to bring these poems home.

If your child is humming 'Purple Rain' by Prince this week, then let me explain. I have chosen pieces of music for us all to listen to each week. This is part of our music curriculum, building a broad knowledge of different styles and genres of music. Just like story time, we try to make music listening part of every day at Anstey.

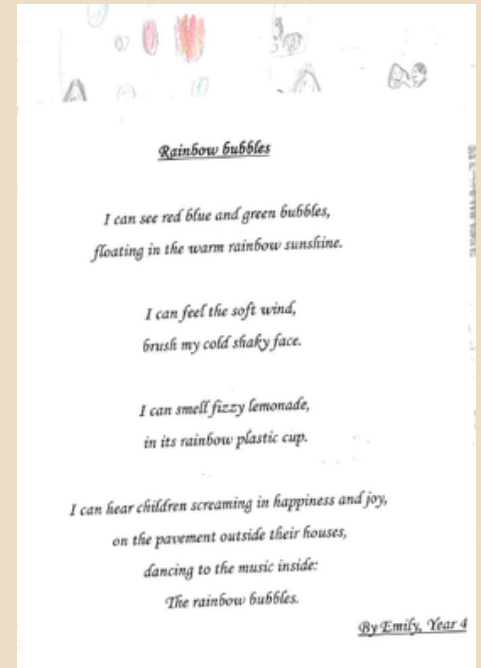
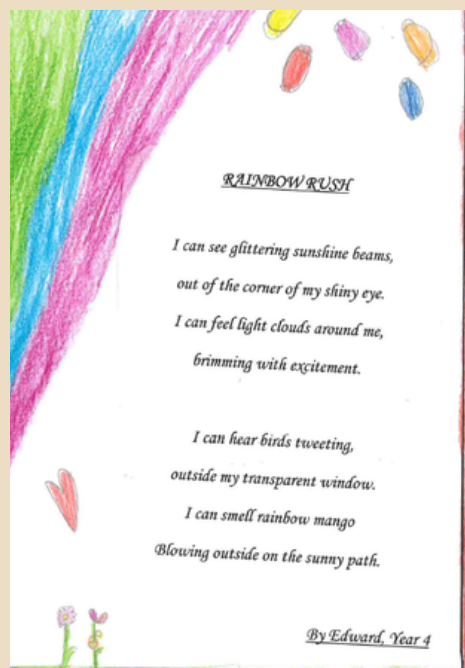
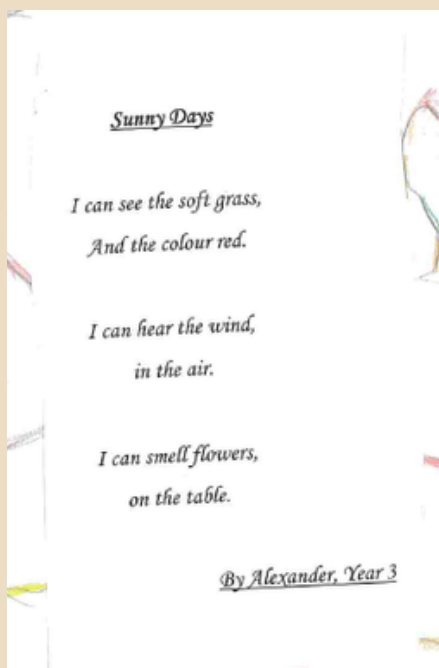
This month, we have been listening to:

"So What" by Miles Davis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIXk1LBvIqU>

"The New Four Seasons: Recomposed" by Max Richter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6T0MFCX9SLI>

"Purple Rain" by Prince, covered by Cory Henry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8j7XJxew7s>

We'll keep you updated with the listening project. I hope you're enjoying these at home as much as we are here!





# Fledglings News



Our Fledgling class is going from strength to strength- learning the routines and rules of school. Its a lot to learn and get used to but the standards and expectations we set now will support their behaviour for learning ongoing. We are starting to see the children working a little more independently. They are anticipating and following the rhythm of the school day settling into their new class.

Our Reception children are now working more formally with their phonics and Miss Joel is impressed! We have also now completed the statutory baseline testing for the reception children and we are happy to share them in our parent meetings after half term.

Please could you continue to read with your children every day and support their learning by introducing letters/sounds in everyday life for example road signs, food packaging and bedtime stories.

