d'Auvergne Weekly Update 16.10.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Head Teacher's Comments

Reading for Pleasure

We had an amazing turnout for our Parent Drop-Ins this week, with very positive feedback for the staff – thank you!

My key message to those who I caught up with was the children, each year, need to **"Read to Their Knees"** i.e. every year, the children should be reading a pile of books at home that would stack to knee-high. These should be books / comics / magazines that the children have chosen and, preferably, be fiction (stories). At least 10 minutes, every day, will help children develop the **will to read**, as well as the **skill to read**.

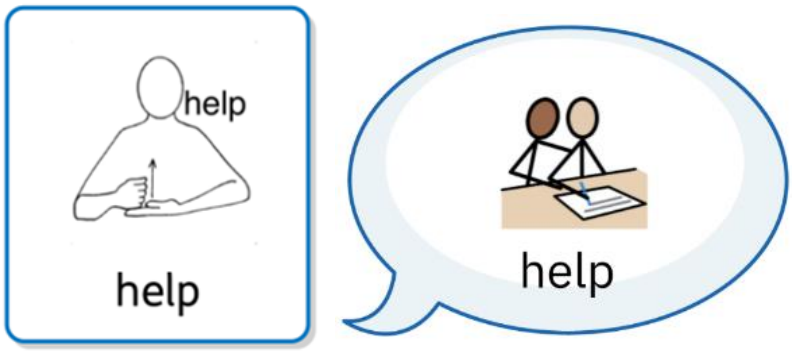
Have a great weekend everyone.

Kind regards,
Mr Cooper

Year Group Updates

Futures

This week our Core word has been 'help' (see Makaton sign and visual symbols below).



We have enjoyed listening to the story 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson, as well as practising our Makaton signing to the song 'Help!' by The Beatles.

We've explored cause and effect using a variety of different toys which we had to manipulate in lots of different ways to make things light up, make sounds or move. We also extended our shape hunt to include shapes of different sizes and colours.

During the afternoons we have been adding stickers to our 'My Special Things' boxes, explored toothpaste in our sensory tray and have stuck our grandparents photographs into our 'My Family' books.

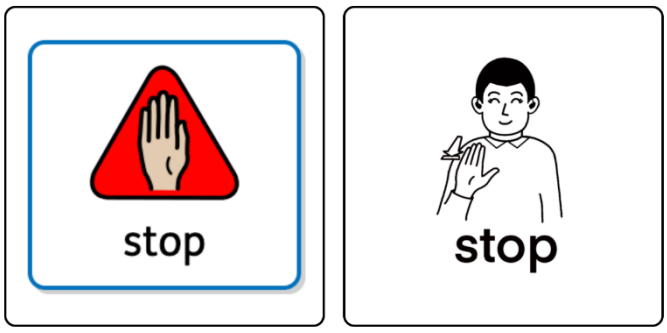
On Thursday we had a visit from Bernadette, from the Super Smiles Team, who helped us learn about the importance of keeping our teeth clean. She showed us how to brush our teeth correctly and even gave us a bag of toothbrushing goodies to bring home!
Have a great weekend.

Mrs Mason and the Futures Ash/Oak Team

This week we have started learning about Autumn and using our senses to explore it. Pupils were thrilled to see a squirrel in the playground and we discussed how fluffy it looked. Some pupils also went on an Autumn scavenger hunt, looking for items such as conkers and crispy leaves. We also enjoyed using musical instruments and exploring different ways of making sounds using them. Some great turn-taking and sharing took place!

Tying in with the Autumnal theme, we have made silhouette art using outlines of pumpkins and acorns. Pupils had lots of fun and also explored colour mixing at the same time. In cooking, we made a new recipe - fruit pizzas. Pupils mixed yoghurt and honey together, spread it on a rice cake, peel and sliced bananas, then arranged it on the rice cake. We will practice this again next week to develop independence with the skills.

We are focusing on communication, and this includes pupils using their ipad with Grid on it. Please ensure this is in school each day if your child has one, and encourage them to use it at home. Additionally, we are focusing on one core word each week. This week was stop. The symbol and sign is below:



The Willow Team

Nursery

It was fabulous to see so many smiling faces at the first **Drop In** Session this week. I appreciate I am biased but the atmosphere reflected where I feel we are at with your children: calm and settled, happy and busy (most of the time!). Thank you for your support.

Mr Cooper mentioned "**reading** to the knees" which is a cool way of thinking about 3 and 4 years olds and their love of books. I can honestly say that reading to your children every at 11am and sporadically throughout the day is a genuine highlight of my day.

Property & Pegs were mentioned too and I can assure you all that we are as diligent as possible with retuning garments to you guys at the end of the day. More importantly we are channelling huge efforts into the children's autonomy and encouraging, guiding and teaching them to use their own levels of organisation. We do have a list of missing items that turn up in the weirdest of places.

Finally, if you are putting **grapes** in your children's lunchboxes - please may they be cut in half? Thanks!

Have super weekend,
Mr du Feu & Team

Reception

This week, the children have been exploring the life cycle of a pumpkin, learning how pumpkins grow from a tiny seed into the large pumpkins we see in autumn. As a whole class, we worked together in our Understanding the World book, discussing and recording what we discovered about pumpkin growth and change.

The children particularly enjoyed becoming pumpkin investigators! We cut open pumpkins and explored what was inside. We talked about the seeds, pulp and outer skin, using our senses to describe what we could see and feel. The children used fantastic vocabulary to explain that the pulp was *slimy*, *squishy* and *stringy*, and they carefully observed the different colours, textures and shapes inside the pumpkins. They were fascinated by the number of seeds and enjoyed discussing how these seeds can be planted to grow new pumpkins.

We were delighted to welcome Bernadette from Super Smiles, who visited Reception to talk to the children about the importance of keeping our teeth clean and healthy. The children learned why brushing their teeth twice a day is so important and enjoyed finding out how to look after their smiles. A reminder that if you signed the tooth-brushing consent form included in your induction pack, your child will take part in our supervised tooth-brushing programme at school.

Next week, we are looking forward to meeting you for Parent Consultations. If you have not already done so, please make sure you sign up for a 10-minute appointment. These meetings will take place in the main hall and are a valuable opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into Reception and celebrate the progress they are making.

On a final note, we would like to say how lovely it was to see so many of you at our 'Reading for Pleasure' pop in on Monday. The children were delighted to share books and stories with you, and we hope you enjoyed spending this special time reading together in the classroom. Please continue to share stories and a variety of texts at home. Your child's new school planner will be provided during next week's Parent Consultations and will be used to record and celebrate their reading journey at home. Please use the planner to keep a record of any reading, stories or texts shared together, helping us to support and encourage your child's developing love of reading.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to another fun-filled week of learning.

Mrs Lutkin-Clarke and Mrs Wilkinson (The Reception Dream Team)

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Year 1

We have had another wonderful week in Year 1! In English, we have continued our work based on 'Kassim and the Greedy Dragon'. The children have now started to innovate and change parts of the original story to create their own characters and ideas. They have particularly enjoyed using their imaginations to develop their own versions of the story. We have been encouraging the children to think carefully about their characters and events, while continuing to focus on writing clear sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

In Maths, we have been finishing our work on place value to 10. The children have been developing their understanding of numbers and have started learning about number lines and how they can be used to represent numbers. We have also been comparing numbers within 10 and explaining which numbers are greater than, less than or equal to one another.

In Topic, we have learnt about our final explorer, Amelia Earhart. The children have enjoyed finding out about her incredible explorations and comparing her achievements with those of Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. We have also been learning about the different vessels used by each explorer and thinking about why they chose their particular method of transport. The children have enjoyed discussing how the different vessels were useful and why they were suitable for each explorer's journey.

A big thank you to all the parents who attended our 'Reading for Pleasure Parent Drop-In' on Wednesday. It was lovely to welcome you into the classroom and give you the opportunity to see your children enjoying their learning. We hope you enjoyed spending some time with us and seeing what we get up to in Year 1!

Reminder: Zoo Trip

We are very excited about our upcoming **Zoo Trip on Wednesday 18th November!**

Please remember that children will need to bring:

- A **packed lunch and snack** that they can eat independently.
- **No hot lunches**, as these will not be available during the trip.
- **Suitable waterproof clothing**.
- **Wellies**, if possible, as the weather and ground conditions may be wet or muddy.

Floating Moon

On **Tuesday 24th November**, we will be walking down to **The Methodist Church** to see the **Floating Moon** from **9:30am–12:00pm**.

This is an exciting opportunity for the children to see a close-up model of the Moon and links beautifully with our learning about Space and Neil Armstrong. We are looking forward to exploring the Moon in a different and very special way!

A reminder that our PE days are Monday and Thursday. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on these days and have suitable footwear for taking part in physical activities.

As always, thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We really appreciate everything you do at home to support your children's learning and help them to develop a love of reading and learning.

We are incredibly proud of all the children and look forward to another exciting week in Year 1!

Kind regards,

Mr. Worthington and Miss McEnery

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Year 2

Year 2 have had another fantastic week of learning!

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our reading for pleasure drop-in on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see so many of you, and the children really enjoyed sharing their reading with you in school.

Writing

This week, we have been exploring similes to make our writing more interesting and descriptive. Using the story *Kassim and the Dragon*, we identified similes in the text and wrote them down. We then had a go at creating our own similes to describe a knight and a jester. The children did a great job thinking of creative ways to describe their characters!

Maths

In maths, we have begun learning about addition. We have been adding multiples of 10 to two-digit numbers using a range of methods, including the part-part-whole method,

splitting numbers into tens and ones, and column addition. We are continuing to develop our understanding of how these methods help us solve addition problems.

Topic

We have continued our learning about castles, focusing on why they were built in particular locations. We discussed how building castles on hills helped people spot attackers from a distance and made it harder for enemies to approach unnoticed. We also explored the advantages of being near water, which was especially important during a siege, as well as the benefits of building castles by the sea or on the edge of cliffs, making them more difficult to attack from certain directions.

Science

In science, we have continued exploring materials. We have been identifying different types of materials, discussing their uses and learning about which materials can and cannot be recycled. The children have been developing their understanding of how materials are used in everyday life and the importance of recycling.

School Planners – A Gentle Reminder

We now have our school planners! Please ensure that your child practises their spellings every day and that their daily reading is recorded in their planner. These regular routines are an important part of supporting your child's learning and development.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,

Miss Aubert and Mr Henderson

Year 3

We have had another wonderful week in Year 3, with the children showing great enthusiasm and confidence in their learning.

Thank you so much to everyone who came to our Parent Pop-In this week. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying reading for pleasure together and asking thoughtful questions to develop the children's thinking.

In reading, we have been using our summarising skills to create comic strips showing the key events from *Beasts of Olympus* so far. We also used our inference skills to work out what a character might have in their suitcase and carefully thought of clues for our friends to guess which character we had chosen.

In writing, we have been exploring how our senses can improve our descriptions. We created a class senses poem before writing imaginative descriptions of what we might see, hear, smell or feel when peering into Poseidon's temple or a hydra's murky swamp. We were also thrilled to receive another letter from Sapphire Scaly, who told us that the battle between the Scalys and the Silkys is finally over and that she would like to collect her egg now that her family is safe. She said thank you so much to us for looking after her 2 babies so well!

In maths, we have worked hard on addition, using our problem-solving skills to complete our maths journalling activities. We have now finished our addition unit and will be moving on to subtraction, while continuing to practice our 3 times tables alongside this.
In art, we created some fantastic realistic pumpkin paintings, carefully using colour and shading to make them look lifelike.
In PSHE, we had lots of enjoyable discussions about what a "nightmare school" might be like. The children came up with all sorts of amusing ideas before deciding that, actually, we are very lucky to have such an amazing school!
A huge thank you also goes to all of the children who have either been our 'Book Champions' and shared their favourite book with the class, or who have confidently presented their 'My Story, Our World' presentations so far. You have all been incredible and have shown excellent confidence, presentation skills and oracy throughout.
Have a lovely weekend!
Miss Morris – t.morris@dauvergne.sch.je
Mrs Davies – r.davies@dauvergne.sch.je

Year 4
We have had another busy and enjoyable week in Year 4, with the children working hard across the curriculum.

In Writing, we continued developing our story-writing skills by creating engaging opening paragraphs. The children have been working hard to apply our recent sentence work, including carefully chosen adjectives, metaphors and personification, to make their writing more vivid and interesting for the reader.

In Maths, we have started learning how to add and subtract numbers up to 10,000. The children have explored a range of methods and have begun applying their skills to different problems, explaining their thinking and checking their answers carefully.

In PSHE, we discussed how our actions have consequences and explored how the choices we make can affect both ourselves and others. The children contributed thoughtfully to our discussions and considered the importance of making positive and responsible choices.

Last Friday, the children were very fortunate to take part in a Ballet d'Jerri workshop. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience something different, be active and enjoy learning through dance.

We are very proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm this week and look forward to continuing our learning next week.

We hope you all have a lovely and restful weekend.

Best wishes,
Mrs AB and Mrs Hyde

Reminders

PE Days

- **4AB:** Tuesday and Friday
- **4H:** Monday, Tuesday and Friday

Musical Instruments

- Please ensure that children in **4AB** bring their clarinets to school on **Mondays**.
- Please ensure that children in **4H** bring their violins to school on **Wednesdays**. Can we please also ask that any extra shoulder pads (they look like sponges) that were given to the children, are returned to school.

Laptops

- Please ensure that laptops are brought to school every day and are fully charged before arrival.

Water Bottles

- Please ensure that your child brings a refillable water bottle to school each day so that they can stay hydrated throughout their learning.

Year 5

We have had a productive week in Year 5.

This week, we have continued creating our Victorian Tunnel Books in Makerspace with Mr Livesey. After spending the last two weeks designing them, the children have now started building their books and adding watercolour paint to bring their illustrations to life. We look forward to displaying the finished books in school next week.

In RE, we have been exploring the question, "What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?" The children learned about holiness, love, justice and forgiveness, discussing Bible passages and reflecting on how these beliefs influence Christian worship. They then designed their own stained-glass window artwork.

In Maths, we have continued our addition and subtraction unit. The children have been practising counting forwards and backwards in 10s, 100s, 1000s, 10000s and 100000s, using number lines to support their understanding. We have also been developing our column method skills during arithmetic sessions. Please encourage your child to practise and explain this method at home.

	Th	H	T	O
	8	9	3	2
–	4	1	5	7

In History, we have been learning about the Industrial Revolution, exploring important inventions and comparing them with the technology we use today. The children have also enjoyed beginning to write in their handmade Victorian books.

In Writing, we have been using onomatopoeia to make our descriptions more effective. The children have started writing their own version of *Kassim and the Dragon*, applying the writing skills and techniques learned in class.

In Reading, we have been making predictions using evidence from our new class book, *Street Child*. The children investigated clues from an old suitcase found in the classroom, asking questions and refining their predictions as they learned more about the story.



We look forward to meeting you at parent consultations next week.

Weekly school Reminders:

- PE: Wednesday
- Swimming: Thursday
- Spelling test: Friday
- Arithmetic test: Monday or Friday
- Please, please, please read every day!

The Year 5 Team

Mrs Harris and Mrs French

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Year 6

We've had a great week in Year 6. We kicked the week off with you parents dropping in on our reading lesson where children were invited to explore a range of different book genres,

note down some favourites, and then add these to your Christmas wish list! We've already heard from some children that their parent has bought them one of the books which they sampled on Monday. Great stuff! Please do not forget that the Jersey Library is an *incredible* resource. Buy ***Borrow*** any book imaginable! Thank you for all parents who came in. It has a huge impact on the children, knowing that our d'Auvergne parents are so involved with their learning.

In writing, children have been over-learning one of the great features of all writing: vocabulary. Words must *earn their place* in a sentence. We never settle for:

- a dull word - rain hit the capstone of the cave rain **pelted** the capstone of the cave
- an over-used word - he saw he glared at
- cliché - the cave looked mysterious No, the throat of the cave ***invited*** Kassim to scavenge what hidden wonders may linger inside

With our *Talk For Writing* journey, we encourage children to write words which would best serve their purpose, thinking about their audience, whether they can spell it or not. "***Never skip a good word!"*** Incidentally, some of the best ways to explore and use new vocabulary are through *reading for pleasure*. The more we read, the more exposure we receive to unfamiliar, technical or sometimes simply beautiful vocabulary. We have the overly-convenient technology of Google to help us learn and define words, but a thesaurus is a classic and ready-to-go tool which all children should be using. Consider adding to their book list a thesaurus and let's see these children who write become ***authors who publish.***

In *Skellig*, Michael has slowed down his visits to the strange man in his garage and is instead focusing on his new friend, Mina, and his nameless baby sister. We've focused on retrieval and inference a lot, thinking deeply about whether Michael's staying home from school was him being physically ill or if he was actually seeking to bond with his over-worked, over-worried and distant father. This is what we mean by show not tell! Children are recognising that what the author writes may be purposely ambiguous. It gets the reader thinking!

In maths, we have doubled-down on our multiplication. Children have been on a long journey with multiplication since they learned their 2, 5 and 10 times tables in Year 2. Four years on, we're expecting children to multiply 4-digit numbers by 2-digits (e.g. 23 x 1,457 = 33,511). It has never been more crucial for children to be secure with their times tables. Separate to the arithmetic test home learning, children should be practising multiplication as often as possible. Next comes division, where children can use their knowledge of multiplication to help. Remember, multiplication and division are opposites! Asking ***How much money would I have if I did 23 lots of 1,457?*** is the opposite of ***How much money would 23 people get after I have shared 33,511 between them?***

Science has us exploring Galapagos finches. We are exploring why so many finches (which are all the same species) differ so greatly? Some with broad and large beaks and others with pointed, narrow beaks. Interestingly, one type of finch - nominally the vampire finch - is the only blood-sucking bird! The species is so greatly varied because of natural selection. On an island abundant with large seeds, we may expect more large-beaked birds. Children have been very creative with their exploration, some writing stories to explain these differences, some creating slideshows, and others drawing artistic and scientific drawings.

A reminder that parent consultations are next week! We're looking forward to seeing you to talk about oracy, reading for pleasure, and their general well-being at this early point in a busy yet fantastic year.

Home Learning Diaries

The news we've all been waiting for... They have arrived! In Year 6, we are really pushing the home learning agenda. We have shared the following message to all children:

Home learning diaries are brought to school **every day** and brought home **every day**.

I will check your diary whenever you like. **I want to see them!** I will check them **every Friday** to see how you have done with your home learning.

Spellings

Each word must fit within the textbox on your page. This means your writing must be small, neat and consistently sized.

Reading

On your reading log, write:

- The name of the book
- The chapter you read
- Your thoughts on the chapter

Maths

Opposite your reading log, there is a **Notes** page. On this page, you can show your **arithmetic practice** which has been your home learning for the week. The style of question you should be practising is on your arithmetic test, circled in green pen. You must show your working out, so I can see your thinking. **Practise with a grown-up**.

Have a wonderful weekend!

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