



# THE MINSTER JUNIOR SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1 - OCTOBER 20 2023



**Half Term**  
Monday 23rd-27th October 2023

**Back to School**  
Monday 30th October 2023

**Parents Evenings**  
Tuesday 14th November/  
Thursday 18th November 2023

**Inset day**  
Friday 17th November 2023  
**No school for pupils**

## Responsibility



**OCTOBER**

## Peace



**NOVEMBER**

# ATTENDANCE STARS

The attendance stars for  
October:  
WITH 97% ATTENDANCE

**Wonderful Moorhens. This is superb!**

**Well done to Year 3 Moorhens  
on such a great start to the new academic year!**



# School Values

The school value of the month of October is Responsibility.



## Responsibility

How do we show responsibility in our school?

Learning to be responsible is an important aspect of life. Children learn how to be responsible from an early age by:

*picking up discarded toys, tidying their space, owning up to mistakes, taking care of school resources, taking care of their school jumpers and PE kits.*

The dictionary says:

## responsibility

Noun: something that it is your job or duty to deal with.

## RESPONSIBILITY

### Bible verse

'I will choose good over bad and I will accept responsibility for my decisions'  
Joshua 24:15

responsible  
Responsibility  
importance  
charge

## **R**esponsibility

Means that it is up to **you**...



Keep track of your belongings...coats, lunches, pens...



To do your homework and bring it with you to school



To ask questions when you don't understand

We will be celebrating the children who show responsibility in the classroom, in the playground and at home. Please email us if you feel your child has demonstrated this value at home and we will surely recognise this during our monthly Values worship.



# Eucharist

## *A whole school Eucharist*



The first Eucharist for the new school year took place in September. It was led by Father Alan Bayes, who also happens to be our Chair of Governors.

It was wonderful to hear songs being sung by the whole school after a break over the summer. Bible readings and spontaneous prayers were offered too while the pupils sat quietly and reflectively.

Some Year 6 pupils also took the Eucharist for the first time at school.

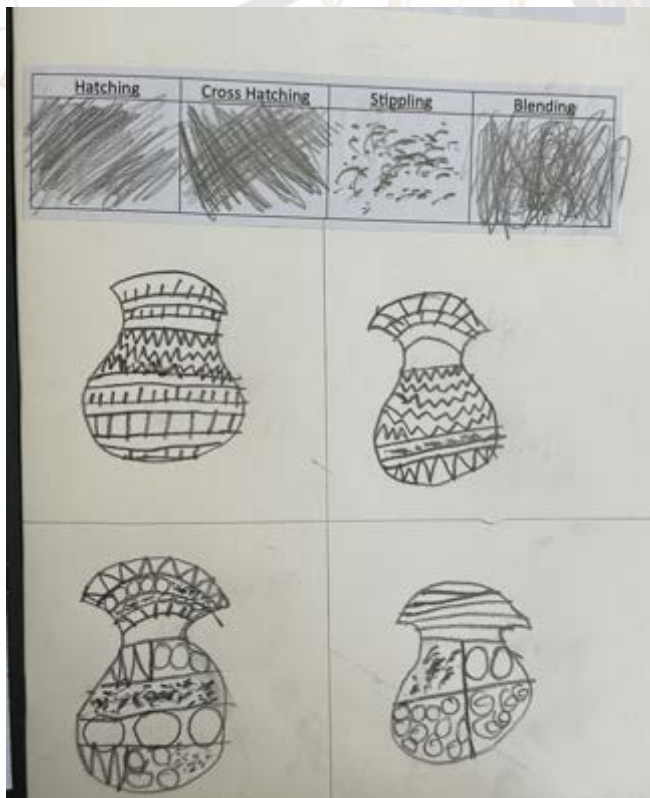
# Year 3

In Year 3, we have been engaged in our new project, 'Through the Ages'. The project primarily focuses on learning about the prehistoric era and how people used to live in the past.

In Art, we have been looking at various prehistoric pottery and Bell Beaker pots that were used during the prehistoric era.

Pupils had an opportunity to look closely and sketch the pots using the various sketching techniques that they have learnt in class. Following this, the children used clay to model and recreate their own version of the Bell Beaker pots!

It has been wonderful to see the children so focused and involved in their art lessons!



# Year 4

To investigate our current Topic of 'Invasion', Year 4 had an exciting trip to The British Museum to explore Ancient Civilisations.

We were intrigued by the amazing Roman artefacts the museum had, for example Roman coins. It was fascinating to observe and consider its link to our topic as Britain was invaded after the Romans left.

We compared how ancient Roman coins are different from modern British coins and used our mathematical knowledge of Roman numerals to unravel the mysterious numbers on the coins.



**This year's Cross Country was a success! It was a pleasure to observe many enthusiastic pupils striving to run their very best. We would like to congratulate the top 5 boys and 5 girls for Year 4 as follows:**

**Girls top 5:**

Ekuase  
Bella  
Cleo  
Jaya  
Dashana

**Boys top 5:**

Ilerie  
Moses  
Mason  
Ayeye  
Abraham



# Year 5 visit wonderful ceramics!



Did you know the Victoria and Albert museum has one of the most comprehensive and important collections of Chinese art outside East Asia, with pieces dating from 3000 BC to the present day?

During the trip, Year 5 were in role as art detectives. They navigated their way round the museum looking for primary source artefacts from the Chinese Dynasties.

One particular item was searched for high and low! A Taotie vase from the Jingdezhen dynasty. To the delight of all pupils, a big cheer was heard when they finally discovered the vase on a very high shelf amongst all the ceramics!



## Taotie

A taotie is a gluttonous creature in Chinese mythology, which is always hungry no matter how much it eats. Its name translates to 'legendary voracious beast'. Images of taotie appear on ancient Chinese bronze artefacts, such as masks and ritual vessels called *dings*. It is unclear why the people of the Shang Dynasty used the taotie motif. It could have symbolised greed, warned people against seeking wealth and power or helped priests and shamans to communicate with dead ancestors during religious rituals.

# Year 6



## Learning to Learn Week:

Our first week back focused on revisiting key skills in reading, writing and mathematics that the children had learnt in Year 5. We read and understood our school vision, values, school prayer and behaviour policy. We also learnt how the 4 Rs help us to develop our learning muscles – please ask your children what these are to see if they remember!

### Parents' Information Meeting:

We were pleased that so many of you were able to attend: it shows what a committed group of parents and carers you are. Thank you. We spoke about our curriculum, uniform expectations, behaviour, healthy snacks, PE days, swimming lessons, secondary applications and so much more. The presentation has been put on our school website in case you were unable to attend or to check something you may have missed. More parental meetings will be scheduled in the future in regards to SATs and the Year 6 residential.



# Year 6

## Assessment week:

In Year 6, we like to assess the children to see how we can create bespoke teaching that ensures all our children have the best possible chance of reaching their potential. In light of the results, we ask that you help your children by reading with them as much as possible and ensuring quick mental recall of their times tables. This is essential to accessing the curriculum at this stage.



We created a timeline to show where in history different civilisations were.



In Science, we asked the children to think of a way to prove or disprove that light cannot travel around corners.

# READING!

## Reading at The Minster Juniors

Return to  
SCHOOL



Our return to school has been busy, we have started to recruit new librarians from Year 5, our Year 6 reading advocates have been hearing readers in Year 3, new poetry books have been shared across classes and poem of the week has been popular once again! Here are some photographs sharing reading in school.

Librarians needed!



### Visits to Croydon Central Library

We are excited to announce visits to Croydon Library: teachers are booking in their visits. This will allow children to join the library during their visit. The children always enjoy these trips, which gives them access to thousands of fantastic books, as well as audible books!



# MATHS

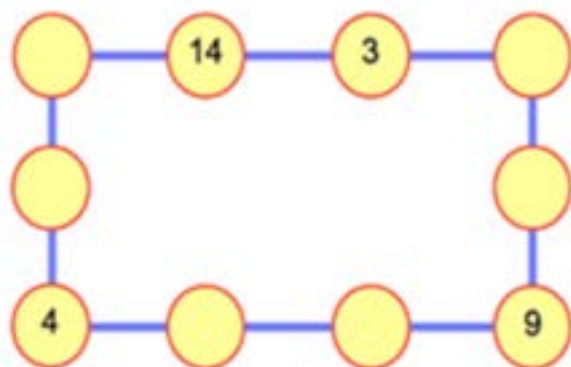
“Maths is an essential skill that helps us to make sense of the world around us.”



## Puzzle time

Add up to 20

Using any whole numbers as many times as you like make each line of the rectangle add up to 20.



Can you find more than one way to do this?

Can you make up your own puzzle like this?

Mathematics is the  
**music  
of  
reason.**

—James Joseph Sylvester

Why not practise your Maths problem solving skills?

Do you know your number bonds and shapes?

Are you up-to-date with your multiplication and division strategies?

**Let's start practising...**

## MATHS WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

<https://uk.ixl.com/maths>

IXL is personalised learning

- Comprehensive curriculum**  
Maths - English
- Trusted by educators and parents**  
Over 90 billion questions answered  
More than 12 million students use IXL
- Immersive learning experience**  
Analytics - Recommendations  
Real-Time Diagnostic - Awards

# A message from the Head

Dear Parents,

I feel honoured to start this term with your children. Together we work rigorously to set the standards for our pupils to be successful learners. This comes with great challenges but we choose this job because we are committed to making a positive difference. Our local area has experienced tragedy beyond words and we hold all families who are suffering the loss of loved ones in our prayers. It is with this though that I ask you to say this prayer with me:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Please appreciate every day of your life. I look forward to the next half term when we have several family events. Please do join us. Enjoy the holiday.