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Co-op Academy
Woodslee

Dear Woodslee Families,

Headteacher's Message

What a wonderful start to our new academic year! The children have worked really hard this half term, and we are so grateful to you, our wonderful families and friends of Woodslee, you have made sure that your child is in school each day, on time and ready to learn!



Thank you for your exceptional commitment and contribution to our academy- you really are a fantastic group of parents and carers who speak so proudly of our brilliant school. It was wonderful to see so many of you attend the Love Learning Event and join in the Maths learning across the school.

The children have shown exemplary behaviour and attitudes this half term. Many children have been awarded the roles of Co-op Young Leader, Mental Health Mini, E-Cadet and our new Pupil Parliament have been voted in. We look forward to seeing the impact of their hard work this year!

Well done to the following children who have received a Headteacher's Award this half term: Cassius Y5, Indie Y6, Millie T Y3, Vinnie T Y1, Padraig Y4, Briley Y1, Oliver Y2, Chloe Y4, Elise Y3, Jay Y5, Harry Y2, Aaron Y5, JJ Y1.

Thank you to our superb staff. At Woodslee, we are very blessed to have the staff that we have. They are so committed to improving the life chances of every child and their hard work this half term, despite the difficulty to recruit and a rise in Covid cases during the last few weeks, has shown their flexibility and dedication to our children to make sure that not one second of learning time is wasted.

Thank you to our amazing PTA who have once again thrown a fantastic disco, raised funds through the sale of donuts and met to organise key events. Our Co-op Young Leaders have been so busy filling sweet cones and preparing posters to advertise the Hallowe'en Disco- great leadership!

We are always looking for new committee members and welcome parents/carers from any class. This is a voluntary role but has such a fantastic impact on our children and our school environment. Please contact our Chair of the PTA Miss Hollie Lindsay via email: pta@coopacademies.co.uk

We congratulate Miss Kelly in Year 5 who is currently 6 months pregnant. We will be holding interviews for a temporary Year 5 class teacher in the coming weeks and look forward to sharing news of the new appointment with you.

We welcome two new teaching assistants to our academy who will be joining us officially after half term. Mrs Williams will join Birch Class and Miss Heywood will continue in Blossom class.

Important Dates for your diaries:

All calendar events across the year can be found [here](#)- scroll down to 'calendar' and this is where parents will find out about Photo Day, Christmas performances, Pupil Progress conferences and key dates in the Spring and Summer Terms.

Squirrel Club is available during all half term holidays so if you're stuck for childcare, please give Mr Carrington a call to book a place: 07808248555

I wish you all a safe, happy and harmonious half term break.

We look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday 31st October 2022.

Susannah McShane

Headteacher

Our Half Term Heroes and Reading Heroes:



EYFS (Reception and Nursery)

In EYFS we have enjoyed getting to know each other as part of our 'All About Me' topic. We have had lots of new friends join Co-op Academy Woodslee this September and it has been a joy to watch everyone make new friends. We have been learning everyone's names and practising using different conversation starters with each other.

Apple Class



In Apple class, we have enjoyed learning to sing '1-2-3-4-5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive,' '5 Little Ducks' and '5 Cheeky Monkeys.' We have been practising our gross and fine motor skills in activities such as collecting conkers with tweezers and spoons, threading beads and writing in 'moon sand'. We thoroughly enjoyed taking turns to Hoover up after using the moon sand, this helped our pushing and pulling skills and we can help out more at home now too! Our story this half term has been *Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister, we have learnt lots of new vocabulary including *sparkling*, *amazed*, *shimmering* and *proud*. We talked about how we can be a good friend to others and the importance of sharing.



After reading '*Whatever Next*' by Jill Murphy we decided to use our own imaginations to create cars, boats and rockets but we promised not to take off up the school chimney!

We have enjoyed physical sessions with Liverpool Football Club Foundation this half term. We focused on moving in a variety of ways and balancing.



Blossom Class

This half term our book focus has been *The Gingerbread Man* by Mara Alperin. The children have enjoyed planning and making a bridge for the Gingerbread Man to use to cross the river in the Junk modelling and Construction area.



As part of Acorn Time, we have enjoyed taking part in Forest School. We worked as a team to create art from natural objects-look at one of our exceptional self-portraits!



During Forest School, we have enjoyed learning lots about our local environment around the school and how to care for it.

We have also been working on our teamwork and listening skills when we have built dens together.



In our PE lessons, we have been really lucky to work with Liverpool Football Club Foundation. In the sessions we have been thinking about and practising different types of movement.



Willow Class

Year 1 have had a wonderful start to the year and we are all really proud of how well they have settled into their new classroom and routines.

In Maths, we have been learning about ordering numbers up to 10. We have learnt how to create bonds to 10 using part-part whole models to help us write number sentences.



In English, we have been reading *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers and we have been thinking of ways in which we can help the little boy take the penguin back to his home. We created our own Lost and Found Office and used our phonics to help us spell the names of our animals.



Our Science lessons have taken us outdoors to our outdoor classroom a lot this term (which we have loved!) We have chosen a class tree that we are going to observe as the seasons change and explored evergreen and deciduous trees that grow in our Forest School area.

Ask our Year One children what makes a tree an evergreen tree!



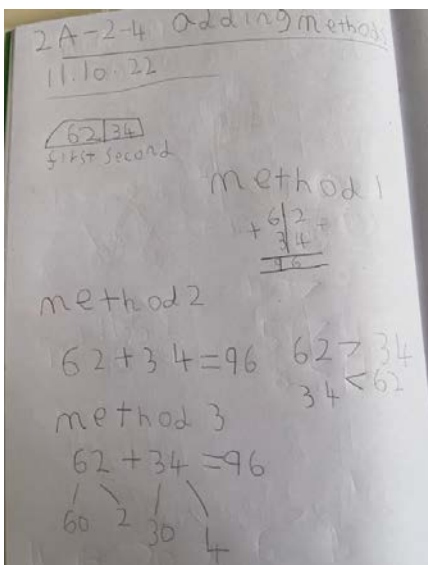
In Art we have been learning about the primary colours, mixing the 3 primary colours to see what new colours we could create.

What a fun and exciting start to the year we have had. We are looking forward to our new topics next term!



Cherry Class

Year 2 have made an excellent start to the academic year and it has been a pleasure having them back in school!



In Maths we have been focusing on place value and addition. Children have learnt that there are many ways to work out an addition question, and have developed an autonomy over their own preferred methods.



We have delved into the world of trolls by reading *Troll Swap* by Leigh Hodgkinson. Year 2 have worked incredibly hard to include question marks, expanded noun phrases and coordination in their writing!

We have blossomed as artists this half-term, and have been developing our use of rulers to draw buildings. We know that buildings are not flat, and we must draw the roofs and sides. Look at this fantastic example of perspective!

Children have shown a real interest in our History topic, 'Why do we wear a poppy?' We've really enjoyed being detectives looking for clues in sources to find out about the past.

We have been very busy in Science and have even planted our own bean plants! Our observation logs showed that bean seeds do in fact need both water and sun to grow. We particularly loved acting out the life cycle of a plant!



Rowan Class

Year 3 began the new academic year in style by visiting Liverpool World Museum to learn about the Ancient Egyptians. Children enthusiastically took part in a workshop where they re-created the mummification process. Did you know that Ancient Egyptians pulled the brain out through the nose before mummifying the body? Yuck!



We absolutely LOVE reading and we have been enjoying our class reader- 'The Dancing Bear' by Michael Morpurgo. Our books this half term have been based around the theme of animals. Children have been studying 'Seal Surfer' by Michael Foreman and the non-fiction book 'The Sea Book' by Charlotte Milner. Children were surprised and delighted to learn that the main character in 'Seal Surfer' was a wheelchair user- they realised that sometimes the only limits to our achievement are the ones we set ourselves.



In computing, children are mastering the art of logging on to their Chromebook and using it to support their learning. So far, they have used the internet safely to research Ancient Egypt, shown their creative side using the Paintz app and improved times tables and spelling on TTRockstars and SpellingShed. Remember to log on at home too- timetable and spelling practice at home makes such a difference to children's learning and attainment.



Dodgeball has been our PE focus this half term and we have benefitted from expert coaching from Mr Lewis, who is a PE specialist at Co-op Academy Bebington. As well as learning how to use tactics to aim and dodge the ball, children have been working on team spirit and togetherness, embodying our values of Succeed Together and Show You Care.



Our trusty litter-pickers have been showing they care about our environment by collecting rubbish from the outside areas. Well done team! Your endeavours have not gone unnoticed.



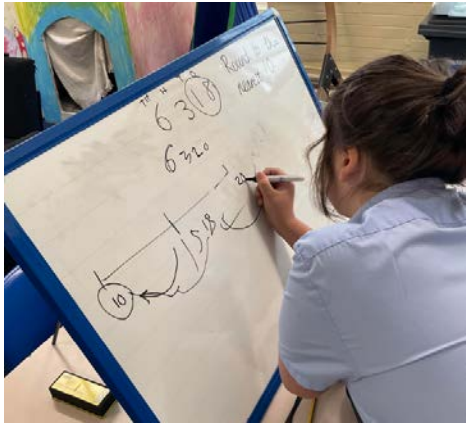
Towards the end of the term, we welcomed parents and governors to our first 'Love of Learning' event of the year, with a focus on maths. Parents picked up tips about how they could help at home as well as finding out how maths is taught.



It has been a remarkable half term and I couldn't be prouder of Rowan Class!

Birch Class

Birch Class have had an excellent start to the year. What an utter privilege it is to be their teacher!



They have engaged in lots of group activities and welcomed our newest 'Woodslee Wonders' to our Academy. They have been reading *The Colour Monster* Anna Llenas during story time and related each colour to a certain thought or feeling. Birch Class have been learning about forgiveness in different religions in RE and have debated the importance of forgiveness.



Birch Class have been enjoying learning about different materials in Science and taking part in many practical experiments! Birch Class



have loved learning about different shading techniques in Art and creating their own masterpieces using tracing paper and charcoal. They thoroughly enjoyed recreating the Mona Lisa using weetabix and rice krispies!



What a brilliant start to the year! I can't wait to see the progress and growth as the year continues! Have a wonderful break.

Hazel Class

Hazel class have had an incredible start to the year, promoting the Coop Values in all aspects of school life.

In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of place value and this has enabled them to round, compare and add four digit numbers using a variety of materials and methods to explain their workings out. Year 4 have loved reading 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne in English, writing expanded noun phrases to describe different parts of the story using the illustrations to help them. The children put themselves in the role of Hannah, the main character, writing diary entries about her exciting adventures with the 'colossal, friendly giant'. They have practised writing in first and third person, using fronted adverbials and emotive language to make their writing more interesting.



Hazel class loved learning all about series and parallel circuits in science and they can name and explain how different components work together in a complete circuit. They had lots of fun hunting for electrical and non electrical appliances around the academy. The children can confidently make simple circuits of their own and even created their own switches to turn the light bulbs off and on again!



This half-term, the children have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons through a range of primary and secondary sources. They began the topic by organising historical events chronologically from the Stone Age to the present day. Year 4 learned about the seven kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon Britain and how they were ruled. We studied the four claimants to the throne after the death of King Edward, debating which claimant we considered to be the most suitable candidate. The children were very surprised to discover that Harold Godwinson was crowned King, recognising him as the father of Magnus in our class novel 'Anglo-Saxon Boy'. From here, we used parts of the Bayeux Tapestry to unpick the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



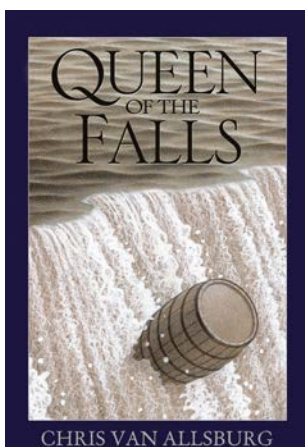
In RE, Hazel class have been learning the story of Rama and Sita as part of our topic on Hinduism. Good conquering evil was the moral of the story and this led us on to learning all about the festival of light 'Diwali'. The children really enjoyed learning all about what happens during each of the

five days of the religious festival and made comparisons between celebrations across different religions. We ended our topic by creating our own Rangoli patterns and making diya lamps ready to light on Monday 24th October in celebration of this amazing festival! Our PE topic has been health and fitness and year 4 have been completing a variety of different exercises and activities to improve their fitness, develop their understanding of what it means to be healthy. In PSHE, year 4 have learned that it isn't just our bodies that need to be kept healthy and they understand that looking after our mental health is important too. We have discussed how to cope with different changes that we experience throughout our lives and together, we have developed a classroom fuelled by positivity! Keep up the great work year 4, I am so proud of you and so lucky to be your teacher! Bring on the next half-term!



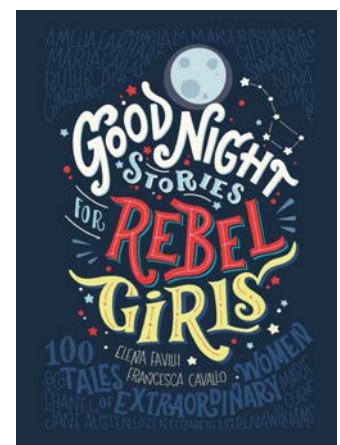
Holly Class

What an amazing start to Year 5, Holly Class have made! From conducting many experiments in Science to learning all about Annie- Edson Taylor who was, and still is, the only woman to go over Niagara Falls alone in a wooden barrel in English, there has always been something new to learn.



In maths, the children have explored rounding, addition and subtraction and started their journey to understanding multiples and factors. They have been developing their review skills by working out the errors in other people's calculations to build their understanding of checking their work thoroughly.

Science has been a flurry of exploration and experiments this term, with the children building their knowledge of the properties of materials. This term, we have tested which materials would be best to create a lunch box which keeps items cool; we have also experimented with soluble and insoluble materials and looked at the impact of different liquids on metal.



In English and Reading Response lessons, Year 5 have looked at the impact of some remarkable women. From Annie Edson Taylor, the 64 year old daredevil who went over Niagara Falls in a custom-made barrel in 1901 and survived to women such as Malala Yousef and Miriam Makeba who have overcome incredible injustice to make a difference in the world. These stories have demonstrated how perseverance, dedication and belief can make a difference in the world.

PE has given us the opportunity to improve our tennis skills with coaching from the LFC Foundation. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to serve, return and control the tennis ball this term.



Finally, Holly Class have continued to develop their skills in violin lessons. They have continued to perfect pieces they started last year as well as beginning to learn some more complex pieces ready to perform this year.



It has been a pleasure to teach and get to know Year 5 this half term and I am excited to see what the next term brings.

Oak Class

What an incredible start to a year we have had! Our Year 6 cohort are certainly showing us what it means to be 'Mighty Oaks'. From learning about evolution and inheritance in Science to perfecting our backhand swing in tennis, we have been non-stop! I have been so proud to see how each and every child has risen to the challenge of developing their writing skills through a range of writing activities including a monologue and story writing. Our English text, *Star of Fear, Star of Hope* by Joe Hoestlandt, a story about two young girls in World War 2 France, has provided a thought-provoking stimulus and conversation. I have loved how deeply we have explored the thoughts and feelings of each character! This linked nicely to our Reading Response text, '*When We Were Warriors*' which has explored the journey of different children in World War 2 Britain as well as our history topic of the 'Women in History' where we have investigated the role of women before World War I and after, the Suffragette movement and the Representation of the People's Act.

In maths, the children have worked hard to deepen their understanding of place value, BODMAS and master long multiplication through both partitioning and written column methods. We have been focused on long division and continue to practise this skill during our maths fluency time along with our times tables.

As part of their research in evolution and inheritance, the children conducted an experiment which explored which finch 'beak' would be most suitable for picking up different types of 'seeds'. The pupils loved working out which beak was most effective and could articulate the reasons why. The children developed their understanding of adaptation researching different animals which have adapted to their surroundings and exploring ones which have become extinct.

Through R.E, we have looked at the rites of passage within the Christian church and how faith shapes people and their lives in our topic 'Is Life Like a Journey?'. The children have been able to articulate how life holds many different paths and we must learn how to adapt to the choices we make.



In Art, we have been studying the graffiti artist Banksy and discussing the morality of whether graffiti is illegal or art which must be celebrated. Year 6 have been developing their

own graffiti with a message which is centred on a belief or message the pupils believe in such as: animal cruelty, deforestation, the cost of living crisis and the NHS.

Finally, we have had the pleasure of welcoming the LFC foundation in for our P.E. sessions on Thursdays. They have been helping us improve our tennis skills from the correct techniques to learning how to build our team communication skills. The children particularly enjoyed playing 'King/Queen of the Court' where they got to show off the skills they had learned over the past 6 weeks. Thank you LFC Foundation!



We have not stopped this half term and I can say how incredible it has been to teach such inquisitive young people, each and every member of Oak class shows so much potential and I can't wait to see what else they can do next term!

