

**Melton
Primary
School**

MELTON VOICE

October 2022

Perseverance

Responsibility

Courage

Reflection

INSPIRING LEARNING

OWLETS & ROBINS

Below are a few of photos from Robins and Owlets. We walked to the local greengrocers to buy vegetables, and made autumn vegetable soup and hedgehog bread rolls.



PUFFINS & PARROTS

Jane, a very experienced sea pilot, came in to talk to the Puffins and Parrots about her many adventures and explorations. The children enjoyed asking her lots of questions and learnt lots about the skills and role of a sea pilot.



Over the past few weeks in Art, the children have been studying the work of artist Alfred Wallis. They took a trip to Melton Boatyard to draw pictures of boats in the style of Alfred using learnt drawing techniques.

EAGLES & WOODPECKERS

Eagles and Woodpeckers were able to show off what they have learnt in their Invaders topic by going on a trip to Colchester Castle. Once there, the children took part in a variety of activities including building a Roman Villa, trying on some togas and taking part in some chariot races. They even travelled back in time and went beneath the castle to look at some artefacts including some Roman coins. Some of them really got into character when holding the Roman shields!



Paired reading: Year 5 have made the most of the autumn sunshine, practising their paired reading in the great outdoors.



Furthermore, we put the children's Tag Rugby skills to the test by taking part in a competition. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork and were able to pass the ball effectively to score!



PENGUINS

Music sessions: Year 5 have had an external music teacher this half term and they have had some very dynamic sessions, learning about drumming and rhythm.

OWLS

A production by Wolsey Theatre

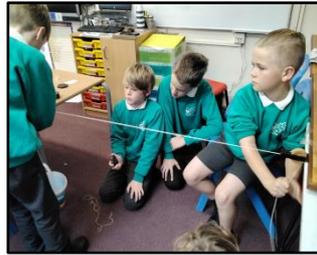
Year 6 were really lucky to have a play production by the Wolsey Theatre come to our school on Monday 3rd October. It was a story about a teenager that moved to a new school and town from London. He tried to fit in with cool kids by lying but it didn't work out and he got into trouble. Finally, he did the right thing and told his Uncle and Auntie what he was feeling and what had happened.

We really liked the way the story was told and how truthful it was. It was also funny and had really good music which made us emotional. We came away learning strong messages about sharing worries and always telling the truth, sharing problems and being proud of who you are.

Written by Amelia Rogers and Caleb Waters

Ancient Greece Cross-Curricular Learning

In class, we have been enjoying developing our knowledge of Ancient Greece and finding out about how some of the developments during this era have had profound impacts on how we live today. Linking our science, design and technology, and historical learning, Owls Class explored the effects of using pulleys and most recently how levers can be used to assist us in everyday life. From this we have begun to plan scientific investigations into the forces at work and try to measure how changes affect outcomes.



IT'S COMING HOME!

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 girl's and boy's football teams. Both enjoyed success recently at Whitton Sports Centre, with each team winning their group and not conceding a goal during their games!



INFORMATION

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB CLOSURE

On Wednesday 30th November and Wednesday 7th December, after school club will be closed, so all school staff can attend statutory training. We understand this may cause a problem to some of our families, but hopefully we have given you enough notice to speak to family and friends, to organise alternative childcare for those two days.

STAFF CAR PARK

If you are collecting your children outside the usual school collection times, and use the staff car park, please be considerate to children and parents' safety. We have had a few pedestrians share their concerns about the speed of cars leaving the car park during the school day.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

We are all very aware of the rise in costs in all of our households. There is some information for families on financial help available to you at the following website. Please also speak to the school if you are struggling and we will do all that we can to help: <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1?ptia=n>

ONLINE VIEWING

Over the past few weeks, we have had several children telling staff about films or clips they have been watching, which have a film certification of 18 years old. If your child uses a tablet or mobile phone unsupervised at home, please ensure you have the family filters switched on, to avoid your child viewing any distressing content. You can speak to your child's class teacher or find further information here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#advice>

REASONS TO BE PROUD

We continue to celebrate the children's achievements on our 'Reasons to be Proud' board in the school hall. If your child has won awards out of school for their sporting achievements or out of school activities, then please let us know so that these can be celebrated in school too.

END OF SCHOOL DAY

Thank you to all the parents who are collecting their children promptly, at the end of the school day. Once you have collected your child/ren, please leave the school site promptly. As the school grounds are classed as private property, we still have a duty of care to any children still on site, even if we have handed them over to a parent. Any children and parents playing football after school, will be asked to leave the premises. Thank you for your understanding.

ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education have announced a nationwide focus on attendance in schools for this academic year. Schools have been instructed to monitor and question all absences in an attempt to improve attendance for all children. If your child's absence falls below 95%, you will receive a letter from the school making you aware of this and offering support. If your child's absence falls below 90% we would write to suggest a meeting to discuss ways to improve this attendance.

While we understand that children get poorly from time to time, repeated absences due to ill health will now be monitored and marked as unauthorised without supporting evidence from the GP or hospital. It may also be necessary to contact the school nursing team who can come in and discuss the child's ongoing health issues.

All schools (in conjunction with County Councils) have been instructed by the DfE to introduce and implement penalty notices where required. Your local council can give each parent a fine of £60, which rises to £120 each if you do not pay within 21 days. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.

As a school, we are here to support the children in any way we can to obtain their best outcomes. It is widely acknowledged that good attendance supports children's emotional and social, health and development. According to Ofsted, children whose attendance is lower than 90% are less likely to achieve good results in their SATS and later on GCSEs.

WEBSITE UPDATE

To support events in the local community, we have added a 'Community Links' tab onto our school website. Parents can look here for some school holiday activities or Friends of Melton School upcoming events. <https://www.melton.suffolk.sch.uk/community-links/>

SAFEGUARDING

If you need support during the half term holiday, please contact Customer First on 0808 800 4005, as school emails will not be regularly monitored during this time.

STAFFING

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Cain who is starting her maternity leave. We are hoping she will come and see us soon, with her new addition to the family. Mrs Cain has been teaching in Puffins, Eagles and Robins this academic year. Mrs Cavignac will be teaching these classes after half term.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I can't quite believe how quickly this half term has gone! I am slowly getting to know children and their parents, whilst moving the school forwards to make improvements. All the staff are excited about the introduction of our new book system, Accelerated Reader, and are looking at ways to increase children's love of reading to support progress.

Also after October half term, we will be busy preparing the school building for our Open Morning, which includes replacing some of our display boards with new framed pin boards. We are hoping this will reduce future costs of replacing backing paper and border, whilst also giving a smarter appearance to our communal areas.

I wish you all a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 31st October.

Caroline Richardson

Important Dates

Tuesday 1st October
EYFS Trip to RNLI Aldeburgh

Friday 4th October (weekly until Christmas)
Year 6 Swimming

Thursday 10th November
School Photographs

Tuesday 8th November
Owlets trip to Sutton Hoo

Wednesday 16th November
Girls U9 FA Festival at Ipswich Town FC

Thursday 17th November
Year 6 Height and Weight Measurements

Tuesday 22nd November
Year 6 Mandarin and Spanish Workshop at Woodbridge School

Thursday 24th November
Rev Paul in school for advent and St Andrew Assembly

Monday 28th November
Open Morning 9.15 – 12.00

Friday 16th December
Last day of term