**Oak Class Newsletter 5**  **Friday 09.06.2017**

This week, we have been practising subtracting using skittles! When we use them, we look at the total number of skittles at the start and we take away the number of skittles that have been knocked down to find the number that are still standing. You might hear your child saying, “7 skittles...knock down three skittles...will leave four skittles.” We are beginning to recognise the difference between the addition and subtraction symbols but sometimes we *add* because we have been practising adding so much! At home, you might like to practise adding and subtracting two small numbers. See whether your child notices the + or -.

Our PE lesson was rained off this week but we are looking forward to our Forest Adventure today with Mrs Rees, Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Gilmour and two of our lovely parents. Thank you very much to Harry’s Mum and Niall’s Dad for joining us. We really are very grateful!

In Language and Literacy, we have written our half-term news and we read a non-fiction book called ‘My Bean Diary’. We then wrote sentences to describe how our *own* bean plants have grown. They are becoming quite tall and strong and we were thrilled to see how much the leaves had grown during the half term.

We’ve also enjoyed listening to a range of texts including ‘Handa’s Surprise’ - a wonderful story that helps us to understand about fruits that grow in Kenya and the animals that live there. In our ‘small world’ play, we have been using African animals and in our puppet theatre, we have been performing the story for our friends. In our creative time, we used clay to build small models of Handa’s mud hut. We gathered sticks from outside to make our roof. We will continue to work on our models next week. We also read a folktale called ‘Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain’, which also originated in Kenya. The children discussed the story brilliantly and they have enjoyed looking at images to see how life in Kenya might be different than our lives here.

Today, with Miss Rickards, we talked about the future. We discussed how things might be different and we learnt a dance to a song that we loved (called ‘The World’s Greatest’)!

**NOTICES**

**I have copied the following information from Hanley Farm Shop’s website – as I noticed that they are doing Open Farm Sunday this weekend. I haven’t attended the event before but it might make an interesting family day out as the children in Oak Class have been learning about how things grow.**

**Open Farm Sunday: Tidenham, Chepstow.**  **Sat Nav: NP16 7NA**

**Sunday 11th June 2017** Take time to listen to the birds, soak up the magnificent scenery, experience the sights and sounds of the farmyard, get close up to the cows, calves and pigs, see the cows being milked in the milking parlour and really get in touch with the land that feeds us. See for yourself the tractors, machinery and equipment that we use on our modern organic farm today as well as a display of vintage farm machinery from years gone by. Feed your senses at a working family farm, just 400 yards from Hanley Farm Shop, on ‘Open Farm Sunday’: 11th June 2017, 10am – 4pm. Farm tours, tractor & trailer rides and a wide range of children’s entertainments and activities will be available throughout the day. It’s a good idea to bring your wellies just in case! Don’t forget your camera. **Entry, as always, is free.**

**There may be other (more local) Open Farms, as many, many farms take part in this fabulous initiative. ☺**

**School Website**

The new school website is up and running. You can find it at [www.**ellwoodschool**.co.uk](http://www.ellwoodschool.co.uk). Over the half term holiday, I updated our class page with photographs. I will aim to keep adding more each week.

**Lost Property**

Please check to see if your child has brought home Esme or Faith’s PE tops. They are both named. Thank you.

Please let us know if you would like anything added to the newsletter.

Don’t forget that I am available at the end of each day (when all of the children have been safely collected) if you wish to discuss anything.

Many thanks,

**Mrs. S Breakwell**