

What's BUZZING?

 teachstarter

Curriculum-aligned Content

Issue 3



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In this informative article, learn some interesting facts about the island of Burano.



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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third edition of *What's Buzzing?* magazine! The Teach Starter team has been hard at work compiling this new edition, and it is ready and waiting for you to explore. We have a variety of new articles for you to delve into, along with the usual favourites.

How would you go about classifying a vertebrate as mammal, bird, fish, amphibian or reptile? Use our flow chart (p. 9) to help you make these decisions. If it's fiction you prefer to read, perhaps you would like to get caught up in the magic of "Hermes' Hocus Pocus" (p. 6). Poor Hermes has a lot of trouble preparing a potion!

Learning to manage feelings in an appropriate way is something we all need to do. If you're looking for ideas on how to calm yourself when you're feeling angry, check out our comic, "Angry Outbursts" (p. 18). Our information report, "The Moon of Planet Earth" (p. 16), is sure to boost your fascination with outer space.

Gather four of your friends together and perform the "Pet Rescue" script (p. 12). A family visits a dog shelter and has to make the tough decision on which dog they would like to take home. How will they make their choice?

There is plenty more to discover in this issue of *What's Buzzing?* We hope you enjoy the magazine as much as we enjoyed making it for you! We'd love to know what you think. Send us an email to support@teachstarter.com.

Happy reading!

Janeen



Hermes'

HOCUS POCUS



There were many rumours about the mansion in the centre of the black forest. Some said it was haunted; some said werewolves lived there. Children often dared each other to knock on the door. But no-one ever did. No-one was brave enough to get closer than eyesight of it.

The mansion was, in fact, a boarding school for wizards, who learned and practised their abilities and skills. The outside of it may have made it seem like a dark, cold and haunted place, but on the inside, it was well lit, warm and buzzing with intelligent, curious, happy people.

Hermes was one of the most enthusiastic students in his class. On one particular day, he had been trying to master an incredibly tricky potion. No matter how well he followed the recipe, it would not turn red. He read over the recipe twice, but could not figure out why it looked like a pot of boiling, green porridge.

Hermes decided to recheck all the instructions in the recipe. He stirred the pot clockwise and anticlockwise. Hermes tried using a whisk, a spatula, and even a cheese grater.

Next, he checked the temperature. It was definitely bubbling at 76.2 degrees Celsius like it was supposed to.

He looked across the room to his friend Athena. She was acing her potion! In fact, she looked like she was finished, with time to spare. Maybe Athena would have some time to help him, Hermes thought. "Hey, Athena, do you have a spare moment to take a look at my potion?"

"Sure, Hermes. My potion needs to cool for a few minutes before I bottle it, so I'm happy to help."

Hermes showed Athena his potion. "I have done as the recipe says, but all I get is lumpy, green porridge."

Athena looked at the potion carefully. "It does look a little thick. Maybe try adding some more nectar of bees. I added double in mine, and it seemed to make the potion much better. I learned that trick from my mother."

Hermes added more nectar of bees and waited for the potion to change.

Just when he thought it was working, it went... “Orange? I don’t understand! I have done everything I can!” Hermes complained, feeling defeated.

Finally, despite his best efforts, he thought it was time to ask the Professor. The Professor took one glance and chuckled. “It seems like you have orange porridge.”

“Please, Professor. I have tried everything. I have retraced my steps, tried different techniques and have asked an expert. What else is there to try?”

The Professor surveyed the potion. “Maybe start from the beginning, except this time, check each ingredient as you add it.”

Hermes did not understand. He had done everything right the first time. But maybe he might have some second-chance luck. He started to measure his ingredients.

Once again, he filled the pot with melted snow; once again, he sprinkled the pickled toadstool while singing “We Are Family”; and once again, he correctly measured the brown freeze-dried strawberries... Wait! Freeze-dried strawberries were red. Hermes could not believe it. The packet he thought was freeze-dried strawberries, was, in fact, porridge. The packages of the two ingredients were so similar, Hermes had accidentally grabbed the wrong one.

After fixing his little mistake, the potion did not seem so difficult to make anymore. Now that the potion was well on its way, Hermes even decided to take Athena’s advice and add double the nectar of bees. In no time, his potion was completed, cooled and bottled.

“Now,” Hermes said with a cheeky look. “What should I test this potion on first?”

By Royce Styles



DAYCARE

DISASTERS

My mother runs a daycare,
She's so wonderful with kids.
And every day, when I get home,
She tells me what they did.

"Scott put play dough in his ears,
Then ate a huge mud pie.
Mitch smeared lunch all down the walls,
Then rubbed some in his eye!

Cassie took some scissors,
Then cut off her teddy's ears.
And when they wouldn't go back on,
She collapsed in floods of tears!

Jill wrecked Kelly's artwork,
Holly washed her hands with glue.
Nathan poured his glass of milk
Into Jemima's shoe!

Bob bit Harry on the hand,
Ali kicked her toe.
Julie cried for hours and hours,
What for? I'll never know!"

My mother runs a daycare,
And she says it's really cool.
But secretly, I'm quite relieved,
That I can go to school!

Stephanie Mulrooney



Classifying Vertebrates

Does it give birth to live young?

Yes

No

Mammal

Does it have feathers?

Yes

No

Bird

Does it have gills?

Yes

No

Fish

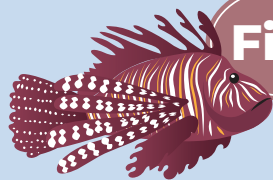
Does it lay eggs in water?

Yes

No

Amphipian

Reptile





10 Fascinating Facts About

BURANO

1 Burano is an island 7 kilometres from Venice, Italy. People need to catch a 45-minute ferry from Venice to get there.

2 The island of Burano is tiny! In fact, it is only 0.21 km², and you can walk anywhere on the island in less than 10 minutes.

3 Burano is home to about 2000 residents. Most of the island's population are fishermen.

4

By law, every house must be painted a different colour or shade. You will not see two houses with the exact same colour.

5

There are strict rules about painting your house. If you wish to paint your house a different colour, you must write a letter to government officials for permission.

6

The original purpose for the bright variety of coloured houses was to help fishermen find their way home on dark, foggy nights.

7

It is believed Burano was first established by villagers from the mainland of Italy, fleeing and hiding from Attila the Hun, an invading ruler at the time.

8

Burano's Leaning Bell Tower is 53 metres tall and has to be reinforced due to the sinking ground beneath it.

9

Burano residents have a tradition of creating handmade lace, which is becoming a dying art due to machine-made lace being less expensive and easier to produce. Burano is now one of the last places in the world to make handmade lace.



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By Tasha Cherkasova/Shutterstock.com

10

Even though Burano is small, it has a variety of restaurants, shops, art museums and even schools.

PET RESCUE

SCENE: The Zhang family are visiting a dog shelter. They are planning to adopt a dog as a family pet.

ROLES (5): Mr. Zhang (father), Mrs. Zhang (mother), Mei (elder sister), Cheng (younger brother), Holly (pet shelter worker)

READER AGES: 8 years and over

MEI: I can't believe it is finally happening! We're getting a dog! I'm so excited!

MRS. ZHANG: How many years have you been trying to convince your father to let you have a dog, Mei? Five years? Six years?

MEI: Eight years! Since I was three years old!

MRS. ZHANG: I still can't believe that Daddy has agreed to this whole plan. After all, he hates dogs.

MR. ZHANG: I don't hate dogs! I'm allergic to them!

CHENG: Daddy, what does 'allergic' mean?

MR. ZHANG: It means that my body doesn't like being close to dogs. They make my eyes itchy. My skin sometimes breaks out in a bumpy rash, too.

CHENG: Then why are we getting a dog, Daddy? Won't it make you sick?

MR. ZHANG: I sincerely hope not, Cheng. That reminds me... we can only look at dogs with short hair. Long-haired dogs are the worst choice for people with allergies.

MEI: Okay, Daddy. That sounds fair to me.

Holly walks over to join the family.

HOLLY: Good morning! My name is Holly. Is there anything in particular that I can help you with today?

MEI: We'd like a dog, please. One with short hair. My dad is allergic.

HOLLY: (*laughing*) I think I'll need a little more information than that! We have lots of different short-haired dogs. What type of dog are you looking for?

MEI: What do you mean? Aren't all dogs the same?

HOLLY: Good gracious, no! Some dogs are big, others are small. Some dogs are playful, others are calm. There are many different types of dogs!

MRS. ZHANG: Can you please show us some different dog breeds, Holly?

MR. ZHANG: With short hair, remember!

HOLLY: Of course. This is Bobby the Beagle. Beagles are happy, fun-loving dogs. They make wonderful pets for children, too.

CHENG: (*to Bobby the Beagle*) Hello there, Bobby. (*to his parents*) I love this one. Can we take him home?

MRS. ZHANG: Hold on a minute, Cheng. We have lots more dogs to see before we make a decision!

HOLLY: This is Chilli. She's a Chihuahua. Chihuahuas are very easy to groom and they are excellent watchdogs.

MEI: (*to Chilli the Chihuahua*) Well, aren't you beautiful! (*to her parents*) I don't need to see any of the other dogs. I want Chilli!

MR. ZHANG: But Mei, there might be a dog that's better suited to our family that we haven't seen yet. We should keep looking, just in case.

HOLLY: This is Doogie. Doogie is a Dachshund.

CHENG: No, he's not! He's a sausage dog!

HOLLY: (*laughing*) Yes, Dachshunds are sometimes called 'sausage dogs' because they are long and skinny, like a sausage. They're great hunters... and very cute, too!

MRS. ZHANG: Oh, I just love sausage dogs! I think we should take Doogie home!

HOLLY: I have one more dog to show you. Introducing... Daisy the Doberman!

MR. ZHANG: She's very big, isn't she? (*thinking*) Too big to live inside the house, don't you think?

HOLLY: Oh, yes! Dobermans are very energetic dogs. They need a large backyard so they can run and play.

MEI: She does seem lovely. *(to Daisy)* Hello, Daisy.

Daisy licks Mei on the face. Mei giggles.

MEI: Look! She likes me!

MRS. ZHANG: An outside dog is probably a good idea. Less cleaning up for me!

MR. ZHANG: And less itching and sneezing for me! *(to Cheng)* What do you think of Daisy, Cheng?

CHENG: Can I ride her?

MEI: Of course not, Cheng! She's not a horse!

CHENG: *(thinking)* I like her. She's the giant of dogs!

MRS. ZHANG: *(to Holly)* I think we've made our decision, Holly. There's only one dog for us.

MEI: Daisy the Doberman! Time to take you home!

- THE END -





Tricky Tongue Twisters

I thought a thought,
But the thought I thought,
Wasn't the thought I thought I thought.

If the thought I thought I thought had been
the thought I thought,
I wouldn't have thought so much.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked,
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled
peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers that
Peter Piper picked?

THE MOON

of Planet Earth

Our Magical Moon

If you gaze up into the sky on a clear night, you will see an illuminated object around 384 400 kilometres away from you! This is the moon of our planet, Earth. If you had to drive there, it would take 153 days of non-stop driving at a speed of 100 kilometres per hour! So what is our moon made from? How did it get there? And why does its appearance seem to change from night to night?

What Is the Moon?

The moon is a satellite of planet Earth. A satellite is an object that orbits (moves around) a planet. The moon's path around Earth is a slightly squashed circle shape called an 'ellipse'.

What Size Is the Moon?

Like Earth, the moon is a sphere. However, the moon is a much smaller sphere than Earth. In fact, the moon is about four times smaller than Earth.

Moons are always smaller than the planet they orbit. The surface area of the moon is about 38 million square kilometres. This is less than the surface area of the continent of Asia on Earth!

What Is the Moon Made From?

The moon is made from rock. It has mountains, craters, and flat planes called 'seas' made of hardened lava on its surface. Scientists believe that the moon was probably created around 4.5 billion years ago when a large object hit Earth. The impact blasted rocks out into space, which eventually came together to orbit around Earth. They melted together, cooled down and became the moon.

How Does the Moon Move?

Like Earth, the moon moves in two distinct ways. Firstly, the moon spins on its axis. This is called a 'rotation'. While the moon is rotating, it is also orbiting (moving around) Earth. This is



called a 'revolution'. It takes about the same amount of time (27.3 days) for the moon to rotate as it does for it to complete its orbit around Earth. This means we only ever see about 60% of the moon's surface from Earth! The part of the moon that faces Earth is known as the 'near side'. The part that we never see is known as the 'far side'.

Why Does the Appearance of the Moon Keep Changing?

Have you noticed how the moon appears to change shape each night? Although the moon shines brightly in the night sky, it doesn't produce its own light. We see the moon because it reflects light from the sun. As the moon orbits Earth, the sun lights up different parts of its surface. These different views are known as the 'phases of the moon'. Around once per month (every 29.53 days to be exact) the phases of the moon make a complete cycle.

One Giant Leap for Mankind

For centuries, humans have been fascinated by the mysterious moon in our night sky. Some of these mysteries were finally answered on 20 July 1969. Three American astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, landed their lunar module on the surface of the moon. Neil Armstrong was the first human being to walk on the surface of the moon. His historic words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" are still quoted regularly to this day.



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ANGRY OUTBURSTS



What's up, Chelsea?

My team just lost our game. Such a bunch of losers! They should have passed the ball to me more!

Hmmm... Maybe... How about we do some skipping? Someone over there has a rope. We could join in.

I suppose so... Let's go do some skipping.

LATER...

Maybe we could design it with four buttons.

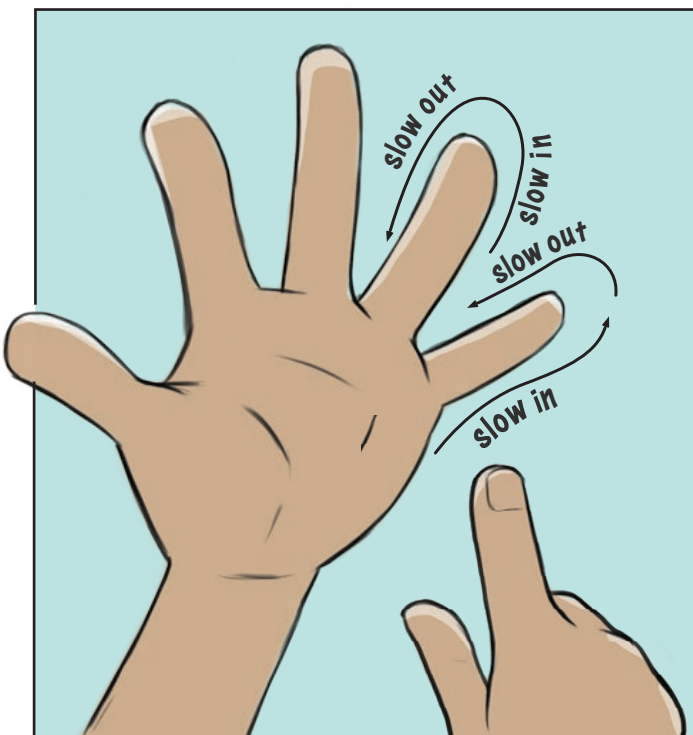
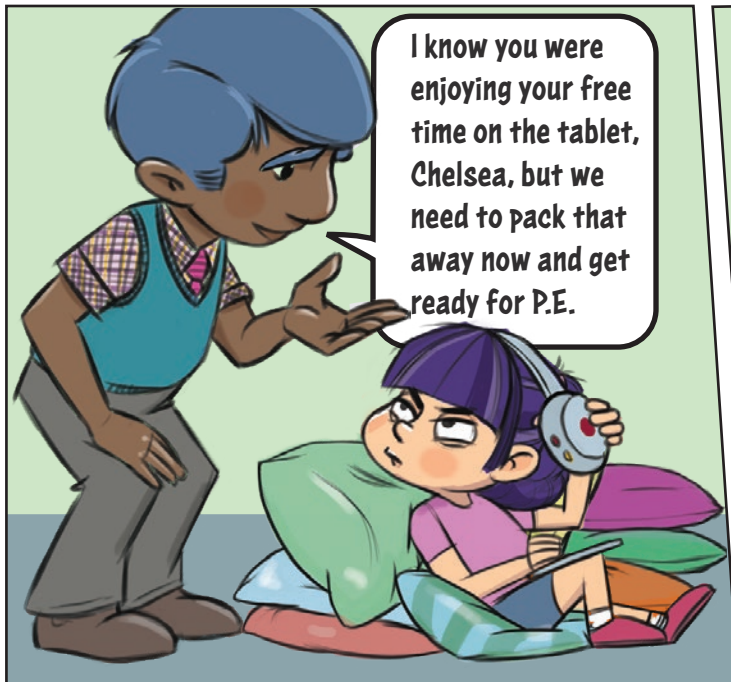
Yeah, that's a great idea. And then there could be lights on top.

And maybe the lights could flash.

And we could add a siren to the ...

Listen to ME! You keep interrupting whenever I have an idea.

I AM SO ANGRY!



To the Editor

Dear Editor,

My mum keeps telling me to go and play outside. She says I need fresh air, sunshine and physical exercise. I don't think I should be forced to play outside when I like indoor play much better. I never get sunburnt or bitten by insects when I play inside. I have easy access to all my toys and craft materials. The games I play inside may not exercise my body, but they are great for exercising my mind!

Indoors is such a comfortable environment for play. Does a thunderstorm ever interrupt your game when you are playing indoors? No, it doesn't! Do you ever get sunburnt when you are playing indoors? I don't think so! Do insects buzz around you or bite you when you play inside? Never! Being inside is the safest choice for play.

Some games are simply better suited to inside play. Drawing and painting are easier to do at a desk. Reading is much more relaxing when sitting on a comfortable chair. It makes much more sense to do art and craft on a big table where you can lay out all of your materials. It makes no sense to do these things outdoors when they can be done indoors.

I agree with my mum that physical exercise is important. But exercising your mind is important too! Indoor games such as puzzles, board games and card games are great for children's learning. They help with concentration, boost language skills, and teach kids about teamwork. Who needs to play outside when indoor play has so many benefits!

There are so many advantages to indoor play. I hope my mum changes her mind about making me play outside!

Sincerely,

Susie McDonald

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About Us

Our Vision

Teach Starter creates brilliant teaching resources that save teachers hours each week preparing for the classroom.

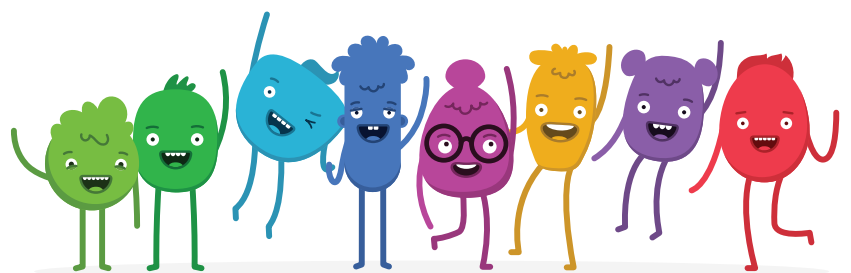
Hundreds of thousands of teachers around the world rely on Teach Starter to help engage their students and make their classrooms buzz!

“We believe in a world where every child is inspired to build a purposeful and happy life through learning.”

Our Story

In 2012, Teach Starter began as a humble email packed full of free resources. Twelve months later, the Teach Starter website was launched.

Fast-forward to today and members can download from over 100 000 pages of purposefully designed, premium teaching resources.



// You've read the magazine...
▷ time to complete the activities!

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What's Buzzing? Comprehension Strategy Task Cards

The Mysterious Medallion's Paradox

Before Reading – Predicting

Use the title of the text and the background illustration to predict what this narrative might be about.
Share your thoughts with a partner.

During Reading – Monitoring and Clarifying

As you are reading, list any challenging words that you encounter.
Use clues from the text to clarify the meaning of each word.

After Reading – Making Connections

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What did you do well to do?

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