



Fortnightly Newsletter



3rd May 2024

The children have worked really hard over the last couple of weeks and are really enjoying our new topics set for this term. We have now enjoyed a few P.E. sessions with Gordon Fearn on Friday mornings and he has been really impressed with how well the children are listening and taking new information on board to be the best that they can be.

In history, we have spent time looking at and discussing the many royal residences dotted around the UK and comparing their size and structure. In addition to this, the children have also looked at the many features of a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I in detail and have then compared this to other royal paintings. This links well with our art topic where the study of different poses is the main focus.

In R.E. the children have been discussing the importance of belonging and have created a poster showing all of the many groups, teams and communities that they belong to. We have also discussed how a new baby is welcomed into a family and also into the church community.

The children have built on previous knowledge in science and have enjoyed learning about many different habitats – the ocean, rivers, rainforests, deserts, mountains and polar. On Wednesday, the children enjoyed exploring the school grounds in search of micro habitats – we found ants, beetles, worms, ladybirds and some snails (which we were then able to observe more closely back in the classroom) We have also been introduced to the meaning of an invertebrate and from this the children have classified invertebrates in different ways.

We have now reached the point in the year where every child has had their turn hosting the famous Moonbeam bear for the weekend – this has been such a worthwhile activity and I would like to thank all so much for your support with this. We now have a wonderful book bursting with writing, pictures and photos of all of Moonbeam's many adventures. Maybe I will show them their work to look back on when they are in Year 5 or 6! We now move on to DOUBLE BEARS for a few lucky children. This means that both Moonbeam and cousin Sunbeam could be coming your child's way for the weekend. Unfortunately, as there are only 10 weekends remaining of year 2, I will have to spin my wheel of names to select each child to make it completely fair. I have spoken to the children about this and they understand.

If your child would like to enter the 'Monster Acrostics' poetry competition, entries need to be returned to school by Friday 17th May. This is an optional activity and the information was sent home with your child by letter last Friday.

Homework:

Thank you for continuing to support your child with the maths activity sheets, regular reading and weekly spellings.

Your child should now be aware of the creative homework task that we have set for this term. It is both history and art based and we think that the children will really enjoy the challenge. As mentioned in the information that was sent, we would like their artwork to be returned to school on Friday 17th May and we look forward to sharing and celebrating their achievements across Key Stage 1 and also in an assembly before creating a wonderful, colourful display around school.

Maths:

The children have really enjoyed our unit of work about measuring using centimetres and meters. This was a short unit which we have now completed. After a short assessment to check understanding, we have now moved onto fractions for the next few weeks. We are also completing mental maths sheets each day to keep our addition, subtraction and times tables skills sharp!

English:

As well as spelling and handwriting, we are now continuing to enjoy our new Talk for Writing unit based around a suspense story called 'Kassim and the Greedy Dragon'. So far, the children have internalised the story structure, created a story map and have used some amazing, powerful adjectives and similes to describe the dragon from our text. We have also developed language to create 'build up' and suspense within a piece of descriptive writing.

Reading:

Please continue to encourage your child to read at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner – I really appreciate your support with this. As always, I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I am also happy for children to read their own books from home or the library if they wish to, I will continue to be checking diaries every Friday and will award stickers as a reward for regular reading. If books need changing in between your child's nominated book change day, they will need to let me know and I can organise an extra book.

Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for both Tuesday and Friday sessions – we now have P.E. with Gordon again on a Friday on the school hall.
- Monday 6th May – school closed (bank holiday)
- Portrait homework deadline – Friday 17th May
- Closing date for 'Monster Acrostic' competition – Friday 17th May
- Forest School dates – (Thursday afternoons) May 16th, June 6th, June 13th

Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey