



# Year 1 Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## What is going on in the classroom?

### English

We have been looking at our focus text "The Story of Pirate Tom". We have tried to learn the text by heart using actions and a story map we created as a class. We wonder if your child can perform the story to you using the story map below? (Hint: we have broken the story down sentence by sentence)

Next, we moved on to writing a more detailed description of a Pirate which included using adjectives. We used a mind map to share our ideas and then had a go at saying our sentence out loud and then writing it down. We did a similar activity with describing the setting "Skull Island" and describing a treasure chest. Here are some examples of our fab writing below:

As a class, both of us were really impressed with how hard the children worked on their sentences. In our next focus text we will be working on:

### Maths

For the first part of this term (4 weeks) we will be working on Place Value within 10. Our White Rose Maths scheme breaks this down into small steps. Some of the key learnings over the past two weeks have included:

**Counting Objects and counting objects from a larger group:** The aim of this small step is for children to be able to fluently count to 10 when counting objects. The one-to-one principle: Children assign one number name to each object that is being counted.

- The stable-order principle: When counting, the numbers have to be said in a certain order.
- The cardinal principle: The final object in a group is the total number of objects in that group.
- The abstraction principle: Anything can be counted, including things that cannot be touched, such as sounds and movements, for example jumps.
- The order-irrelevance principle: The order in which they count a group of objects is irrelevant. There will still be the same number.

**Recognise numbers as words:** Children should now be confident representing and counting numbers to 10. They can say the numbers to 10 verbally, represent objects and images using counters and cubes, and write the numeral to match. In this small step, children learn to recognise each numeral as a word.

**Counting on from any given number within 10:** In this small step, children count on from any number while staying within 10. For example, they may be given a starting number of 4 and asked to continue "5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10".

**Counting backwards from any given number within 10:** In this small step, children learn to count backwards within 10. Children can find counting backwards tricky. The use of songs and rhymes can be particularly useful to help develop this skill.

### Topic

We introduced our new topic, Movers and Shakers. This project teaches children about historically significant people who have had a major impact on the world. They will learn to use timelines, stories and historical sources to find out about the people featured and use historical models to explore their significance. This topic has several companion projects which we have also introduced. The children had great fun visiting our in class Art Gallery and having a go at sketching their own pieces of artwork. In Science we have looked at what a habitat is and observing living and non-living features which we may find there.

### Family Box

Ada shared her favourite clothes including her sparkly party shoes and party dress, she wanted to share these as they are really pretty. Ada brought in her books called 'The monkey with a bright blue bottom' - this made the children giggle and a Paddington Bear pop-up book. Ada also shared her family tree which included her grandparents, mummy, daddy and her brothers and sister. Ada enjoys making slime out of school. Ada also shared photos of her on holiday in Tenerife, on a cruise and also on a camel whilst in Tunisia. Ada also has a dog, called Bear who loves water! Ada shared photos of what she likes to do out of school including: swimming, riding her bike and playing at Grump's lake. Thank you for sharing Ada.

Amelia brought us some photos from her Summer holiday. One of the best memories she had was when she went crabbing but unfortunately the crabs had started eating her net! She went with her mummy, daddy and her sister Holly. She shared her favourite pink, rainbow unicorn dress and has worn it to some of her friends' parties. She loves swimming and goes for swimming lessons every week. Amelia brought in her tennis ball as she also goes to a tennis club on a Monday. It was so lovely to see some of the pictures of her family and when she was a baby. Thank you Amelia.

### Top Tip

Each newsletter we'd like to give you a range of top tips to help your child be even more of a superstar. This week we'd like to focus on Reading. Once you have shared a book with your child, ask a range of questions. We have created a little bookmark to help with the types of questions you could ask which your child should have brought home in their planners.

### Dates for your diary

- Individual Photos: 26<sup>th</sup> September (am)
- PTFA Back to School Disco: 27<sup>th</sup> September (5.30 – 7.30 – book in advance)
- Image Theatre in School: 3<sup>rd</sup> October (pm)
- Harvest Festival in Church: 10<sup>th</sup> October (10am – everyone welcome to watch)
- 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> October: Parents Evening

Thank you for reading, Mrs Lewis and Miss Evans ☺