



Year 1 Newsletter

17th May 2024

The time is really flying by now. I can't believe we are approaching half term already! At least we are now experiencing some warmer weather and it is beginning to feel a bit more like summer! We strongly recommend that your child brings a sunhat as well as applying sunscreen for playtimes/lunchtimes now that we are moving into the summer months.

We have had the pleasure of Miss Woffinden and Miss Tucknott (First Year Teacher Trainee Students) for the last 6 weeks. They have been an absolute delight to have in class with us and myself and Mrs Lewis and the children will all miss them. The children have all been taught by them, either in small groups or whole class. We wish them all the success in the future!

In History, we have continued to enjoy learning about some different monarchs and over the last couple of weeks, the children have placed a selection of key monarchs onto a timeline to help them understand that a historical period is the duration of each monarch's reign. We have been very impressed with the lovely portraits that the children have created of themselves as a monarch – we are looking forward to sharing these across key stage 1 and also in achievement assembly. Also, a big well done to the children who had a go at the acrostic poem that was set as an optional activity – there are some super efforts!

In R.E. we have spent time discussing and looking at different examples of baptisms and next week, the children will use their knowledge to create a card for someone who is about to be baptised.

The children are continuing to build on previous knowledge in Science and as well as enjoying our first forest school visit where we were able to look for examples of micro habitats, we have also spent time learning the correct names of a range of animals and their offspring – there were some that were new to me! We have also looked more closely at some life cycles as well as discussing how we can help protect microhabitats. Although our Forest School session was incredibly wet, the children had come prepared in waterproofs and it provided the best conditions to see lots of minibeasts out and about. Most children enjoyed holding them. We were impressed with their resilience and bravery! We also spoke about how, in some countries, learning outside in the mud is encouraged and spoke about how the rain makes it the best conditions to go mud sledging!!!

What is going on in the classroom?

English

Over the past few weeks the children have been working really hard on creating suspense stories. We have thought about how we would react in a tense situation, focusing on what might happen to our heart rate. We also thought about how to build suspense when describing the creature our main character met by using the power of 3 and short snappy sentences.

Something blood-thirsty.

Something ravenous.

Something terrifying.

Mrs Lewis and I were so impressed with their HOT Writes which demonstrated beautifully everything they had learnt. We are really noticing progress with their creative ideas and the vocabulary they are using.

We then moved on to our next unit of learning which focused on information texts. We based our model text on a mythical creature – 'a snow dragon'. We have been looking at how we can group information into sub-headings, use topic vocabulary and include interesting facts. We are building up to our HOT Write next week where we will be creating our own information text about our own fantasy creature.

Maths

The children have been doing some fantastic learning in Maths. At the start of the term we looked at multiplication and division. We counted in 2s, 5s and 10s and looked at ways we could help find the answer. One of our favourite methods for division was the sharing method. We have also been looking at fractions of shapes and have begun to apply our learning of this to fractions of numbers, linking to our work on division. Over the next week we will be looking at position and direction.

Sharing our Favourite Reads

Thank you to all the children who have been sharing their favourite books so far. It has been lovely seeing a range of books and the children have loved hearing the stories.

Phonics Screening

Well done to all the children who have been working hard on their phonics. We are seeing amazing improvements and the children have been really proud when they have realised how well they have done! Please continue to practise the words at home with your child as these will boost their confidence for the phonics screening.

Thank you for reading,
Mrs Lewis and Miss Evans