Year 1 Newsletter

10th November 2023

We hope you have had a lovely half term break and are coming back refreshed and ready for the Christmas Countdown. A shorter half term this term but lots of exciting things happening. We will be having two first year students joining us for a number of serial days before they start their block placement with us in the Spring.
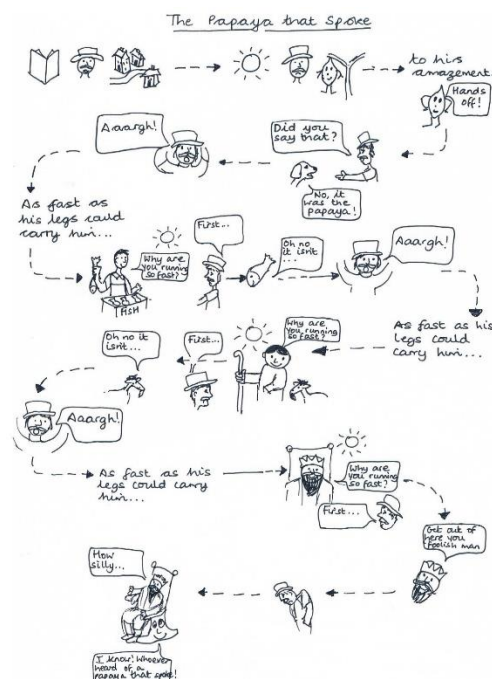
What is going on in the classroom?

English

This week was assessment week. We have been looking at their HOT Writes from last half term and carried out a small reading comprehension with all the children individually. We will be feeding back about their strengths and areas to improve on during our Parents Evening appointments.

Next week we will be starting our unit of work on The Papaya that Spoke We will be looking at creating our own story map to help us internalise the text and begin to structure the story into a clear beginning, middle and end. An example is below:

The children will then look at the text in greater depth by answering a range of different questions. To make our writing more exciting, we will also be focusing on different words to replace 'said' e.g shouted, cried, roared. We will introducing the grammatical term 'adverb' and use these to think about how the different characters could be saying their lines e.g. "Hands off me!" the papaya growled angrily.

Maths

In Maths we have carried out an Arithmetic Paper and a Reasoning and Problem Solving Paper. Again, we will feed back on key areas but they impressed us with how hard they tried to answer all of the questions.

Next week we will resume our learning on Addition & Subtraction. We will be looking at;
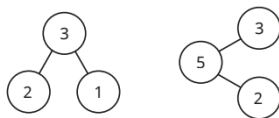
Subtraction - Finding a Part

The structure of all the questions is partitioning. The only difference is the way in which children represent their findings. They are still required to use their knowledge of number bonds to find parts, but represent them using the subtraction symbol.
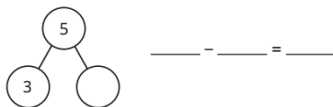
- Complete the number sentences to match the part-whole model.

$7 - 2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

$7 - 5 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

- Write two subtraction sentences for each part-whole model.

- Ann has 3 red pens and some blue pens.
  She has 5 pens in total.
  How many blue pens does she have?

$\underline{\hspace{1cm}} - \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

Fact Families – the eight Facts

Now that children have been exposed to both addition and subtraction, in this small step they build on their knowledge of addition fact families to find all eight facts within a fact family. An example of such a fact family is: $3 + 5 = 8$ $8 = 3 + 5$ $5 + 3 = 8$ $8 = 5 + 3$ $8 - 5 = 3$ $3 = 8 - 5$ $8 - 3 = 5$ $5 = 8 - 3$ Initially, the focus is on identifying the facts from a completed part–whole model or number sentence. Once children are secure in this, they can start to use questions in similar structures to those they have seen previously, to complete a calculation and find its related fact family.

Subtraction – Taking away/crossing out

In this small step, children are introduced to the structure of subtraction that is "taking away". This is the first time within this block that they will have seen such questions. In the same way as they were introduced to partitioning, this is done within this step without the use of the subtraction symbol. Use of the subtraction symbol follows formally in the next small step. Taking away is often the structure of subtraction that children are more familiar and comfortable with, as they can physically take things away to support their understanding. They can then move on to crossing out on diagrams and pictures. In each question, children are required to find out how many are left.

In this small step, children formalise their learning from the previous step. They again focus on subtraction questions that require them to take away, but this time record their findings in a number sentence. The use of "first, then, now" stories can aid understanding and help children to relate the question to the number sentence. For example, for the story "First there were 5 birds in a tree. Then 2 of the birds flew away. Now there are 3 birds in the tree", the related subtraction sentence is $5 - 2 = 3$. Encourage children to recognise that the 5 represents the number of birds at the start, the 2 represents the number of birds that flew away and the 3 represents the number of birds that are left.

Topic

This term we will be looking at our new DT topic, 'Remarkable Recipes' and our new Science topic 'Huamn Survival'. We will be thinking about Where Food Comes From, looking at Emmeline Pankhurt as a significant activist and thinking about the Human Life Cycle. Unfortunately, we were unable to go to Forest School this wee kdue to the clay mud being very slippy and sticky. We will keep you updated as to whether we pause for the rest of this term or we are given permission to go again by the land owner.

Family Box

Remi shared some of her special pictures which make her happy. One of her family (Mummy, Daddy and sister Marni), a picture of when she became a big sister and one of her dog 'Belle'. She has two dogs, 'Belle' and 'Gigi'. Remi brought in her headphones because she loves listening and dancing to music. Her favourite artist is Taylor Swift and her favourite songs are "Shake it Off", "Wildest Dream" and "Blank Space". One of her fondest memories has been going to Legoland where she managed to pass a driving test! Outside of school she goes swimming, tap dancing and does ballet. Remi has taken part in two shows. She also brought in her favourite book to share "Mummy Cuddles" which we enjoyed reading as a class.

Martha shared her favourite teddies – Bob, the minion and Little Man that she has had since she was a baby. Martha shared a toy phone that speaks Greek, she said one of her cousins is from Greece. Martha shared photos of her and her family including her sister Gabby. Martha went to Greece this year and she saw her cousin, Eleanor. Martha's grandad is from Greece. Martha supports Everton because it is her daddy's favourite team. Martha also drew her 'family tree'. Thank you for sharing

Top Tip

Encourage your child to help you with the cooking this term. Read and follow recipes together. Allow them to cut, chop and grate a range of different foods. Talk about the different food groups and why we ned to eat foods from all of the different groups. Most importantly, get a little messy and have fun!

Dates for your diary
- 11th November: Mr T Super Quiz Night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust (organised by Mrs Marston)
- 21st/22nd November: Parents Evening
- Remaining Forest School dates: **26th October and 9th, 16th November** (see separate letter that was sent home with your child for full information

Thank you for reading,
Mrs Lewis and Miss Evans