



Fortnightly Newsletter



27th January 2023

We are now well into the swing of things once again and your children have been extremely busy, working hard and most certainly enjoying all our new topics for this term.

In science, we have discussed the four seasons in greater detail and all the children should be able to talk about the changes we might see as we move from winter to spring. They have also created a montage of the four seasons with related pictures to show the differences.

In art, we talked about all the different weather symbols, and from this, created motifs using a wide range of different materials to depict various weather types. The results were very impressive – you can view the wonderful work on my class page of the school website.

In R.E. the children enjoyed listening to a song 'You are a Star' (apologies if some children have been singing this at home – we couldn't get the tune out of our heads last Friday!!) The song highlights that we are all unique and should be accepted for who we are. From this, we wrote our own verses by changing some of the lyrics.

Our geography work over the last couple of weeks has been about human and physical features of the United Kingdom – this builds prior learning in year 1. We have also focused on the features and characteristics of a city.

We have listened to and appraised various styles of music and found different ways to move our bodies rhythmically to the beat of the music – the sessions have proved to be quite a workout!

So far in ICT, the children have revised how to log in and out correctly on our school laptops and have created their personal profiles with their own avatar. They will be accessing Purple Mash regularly in these sessions. It would be helpful if all children could have their Purple

Mash login details with them in school on Thursdays – this should be in their diary. We do have a master copy if they do not have it.

Your child may have mentioned that we are collecting small tissue or mini cereal boxes over the next weeks in readiness for our project in Design and Technology next half term. The plan is for the children to work in pairs to create a London taxi with fully working axles and wheels. The boxes will make an excellent chassis! If you happen to have finished with any boxes described above, I would be very grateful if you could send them into school – thank you for the ones that have already appeared!

I have been so impressed with the homework that many children have completed from their topic grid! There have been some amazing paintings, pictures and pieces of writing! We enjoy looking at each other's work on a Friday morning and lots of teachers from Key stage 2 have popped in to have a look. They are equally impressed with the quality of the children's efforts!

Maths:

We completed our unit of work on money last week and all the children completed a short assessment to check their understanding. Although working with money can prove to be quite tricky, I was really pleased with the outcome of the assessment. As with all units, we will revisit this again in the summer term. We have now started quite a lengthy unit of work on multiplication and division. This focuses mainly on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, introducing the formal symbols and lots of doubling and halving. It would be very useful if you could reinforce learning at home from time to time by asking your child to count backwards and forwards in jumps of 2, 5 and 10 from different starting points or asking them to double and halve a variety of even numbers. The previously mentioned 'Top Marks' app is an excellent resource to consolidate learning through games.

English:

As well as spelling, handwriting and reading comprehensions, the children have been really enjoying our text 'Katie in London' which links perfectly to our current topic 'Bright Lights, Big City'. The story is about how two children experience all of the different landmarks of London whilst riding on the back of a lion. So far, we have internalised the story through drama, repetition and story maps. We have also looked at different ways to begin our sentences and found alternative words for 'said' to make our writing more interesting. All these skills will then be applied to our 'hot write' story when we write about our own adventure in London over the next week!

Spelling:

I have been very impressed with how well the children have performed in their weekly spelling tests. Although we do work on spelling rules during the week, I appreciate the support and encouragement from home which is clearly helping – thank you!

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, but it is important that any reading is still recorded in their diary so that the children are able to earn their gold and platinum reading certificates later in the year – thank you! 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 Tuesday and Friday sessions (we now have P.E. with Gordon on a Friday)
- Monday February 20th – Partake Theatre Workshop – Great Fire of London.
- Wednesday 29th March – Thursday 30th March – Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – information imminent!
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey