

# Fortnightly Newsletter

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

I hope you all had a lovely half term break – as ever, your children returned to school full of news and enthusiasm! The first day back was very exciting as we had our drama session with Steve from Partake Theatre Company! The workshop was amazing, and the children learnt all about the Great Fire of London through drama, music Steve was really impressed with the children's behaviour, knowledge and listening skills and he thoroughly enjoyed working with us!



We really enjoyed 'World Book Day' yesterday. There were some amazing and creative outfits on show! (I will place photos from the day shortly, onto my class page) The day was filled with book related activities, stories and songs.

In art, the children enjoyed exploring and describing different materials and textures. From this, they were able to create a collage using materials such as cotton wool, hessian, foil, straw to name a few. The results were great! We have now finished our art topic for the spring term to make way for design and technology!

In history we have been looking at famous London landmarks in more detail, both old and more modern buildings such as The Shard and The Gherkin. The children have also been able to view these famous buildings from an aerial view to see how different they can look from above.

In science, we are continuing to learn about the four seasons and how different animals behave through the yearly cycle. We focussed in detail on the grey squirrel and looked at how it behaves and lives in winter, spring, summer and autumn.

We are now well into our design and technology topic named 'Taxi' and the children are loving it! So far, we have looked at lots of examples of moving vehicles, identifying the key vocabulary – axle, wheel and chassis on each one. (You can see photos of these on my class page of the school website) From this, the children then created a moving vehicle out of Lego, making sure they had each of the features visible on their model. They have also planned their own model of a London black taxi cab and most boxes (chassis) and wheels are painted and ready to go! We hope to complete and evaluate our model taxis over the next couple of weeks.

I continue to be utterly impressed by the super homework that many children have completed from their topic grid! We enjoy looking at each other's work on a Friday morning – thank you once again for your support and encouragement with this. As always, homework is optional – I completely understand that your children lead busy lives out of school. Therefore, there is no pressure on any child to complete tasks.

### Maths:

We have now almost completed our unit of work on multiplication and division. The children are improving all the time with their speed of recall when using their 2, 5 and 10 times table and we are practising as much as possible when we have a few spare minutes each day – in fact we are also chanting our times tables in the good old fashioned way as that method certainly worked for me! Over the last couple of weeks, we have looked at the relationship between doubling and halving as well as completing a variety of one and two step number

problems that require multiplying and dividing. After a short assessment of this unit, we will move onto measuring length and height as well as a range of SATs revision questions.

#### English:

As well as spelling, handwriting and reading comprehensions, the children are really enjoying our new text "Vlad and the Great Fire of London" by Kate Cunningham. This text fits in perfectly with our current spring term topic "Bright Lights, Big City". The story is told from the point of view of a rat named Boxtan who, along with his friend Vlad the flea, experiences the events of the fire. The children wrote full sentences to predict what they thought the story might be about by simply looking at the front cover. They then produced chronological story maps, highlighting the main events of the text. We have also written a series of questions that we might like to have asked Boxtan and Vlad along with diary entries written in the first person, highlighting what happened each day during the fire. Your child should be able to tell you who Samuel Pepys was!

#### Spelling:

I continue to be very impressed with how well the children have performed in their weekly spelling tests as the word lists are getting trickier. 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)
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Parents evenings – letters have been sent out.

- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – EV4 medical forms will be sent out shortly.
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey