

Newsletter

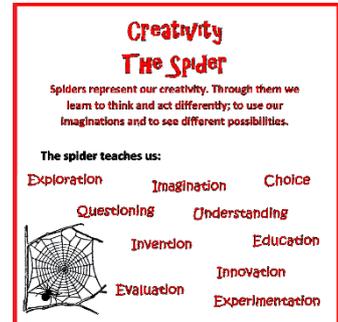
13th March 2020



Community, Creativity,
Challenge and Individuality

Dear Parents / Carers,

Our theme this week has been Historical Figures, and this week we have been thinking about people from the past who embodied the qualities of our spider. On Monday the children learned about Albert Einstein and how his creative thinking changed our understanding of the universe. Einstein famously said of school that "Education is not the learning of facts but the training of the mind to think".



Penguins and Puffins We have been handling lots of data in Puffins and Penguins this week, from voting for the story of the day, to making a pictogram of the lunch choices. We even took clipboards out to the front of school and kept a tally of the various kinds of traffic passing by.

Writing has been very successful in our teacher-led sessions. The children imagined the story character Harry and his bucketful of dinosaurs came for a sleepover and wrote some beautiful sentences about what they got up to.

There always seem to be germs and bugs working their way around EYFS, but we are well on top of it this week. The children have been learning how to wash their hands thoroughly, while humming, whistling or singing Happy Birthday. Liam - always with his finger on the pulse of current affairs - is giving us all daily updates on the situation.

Thank you to the families who have hosted Spotty or Steggy into their homes so far. The children are very excited about it and we have been showing the pictures sent in on Tapestry every morning.

Owls, Woodpeckers and Robins This week, KS1 have been looking at shapes in maths by thinking about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We have looked for the shapes in our environment and we have been drawing lines to complete 2D shapes. Children have also been working towards their explanation text in literacy. Children are being very creative with their ideas for their own inventions and we can't wait to see what they write over the next few weeks. In the woodlands, the children played a huge game of hide and seek to link with maths, by counting to different lengths of time. It was definitely a challenge to hide all 90 children! We have also refreshed our memory of materials in science. They have been matching materials to objects and some of the children have begun to explain why certain materials have been used to create certain objects.

Sandpipers Sandpipers have been working extremely hard this week perfecting the play. They are gaining confidence on stage and singing the songs. We have continued working hard in maths and literacy over the week. In maths, we have been focusing on multiplication. The children have learnt the short method for multiplying by using columns. Some children were even challenged to complete long multiplication. I was very impressed with their perseverance and dedication to solve

the problems. In literacy, we have continued to look at newspaper reports. This week, we have started to identify features of them, write in the past tense and answer questions about them. For our Awesome Egyptian topics, the children have been learning about why the River Nile was important to the Egyptians. They created their own creative page in their topic books all about it. The children have also thought about the people who built the pyramids this week. They discussed how they may have felt and how they may have been treated. Well done on a great week!

Swans

This week in Swans we have tried really hard to learn the short method for written multiplication. The children have persevered when they found it difficult and have started to apply this method when using word problems! In Literacy, we have continued our work on newspapers. We have looked at different features of a newspaper article as well as using past tense verbs. We have also been looking at how to use an apostrophe to show possession during our SPaG lessons. The children are still enjoying reading *The Boy at the Back of the Class* in our Book Club sessions. We have found out more information about Ahmet, the refugee boy. We looked at the relationships between the main characters and their families. The children are intrigued to find out more. During our science lessons, we learnt how fossils are formed. The children also discovered what a palaeontologist is. In individuality, we thought about how Egyptian workers would have felt when building the pyramids. We then looked at our own emotions and how we learn to deal with them when they change. A super busy week but extremely productive - well done Swans!

Kingfishers

Kingfishers have been busy this week perfecting their production and continuing to build props and refine lighting and sound effects. The children are really looking forward to sharing their hard work with you all! In Literacy this week, the children have been focusing on newspaper articles and identifying key features including headings, the 5 W's and quotes. The children have found maths challenging this week as they have learnt how to use the short multiplication method. Some children even managed to complete the Spicy challenge to multiply a four digit number by a one digit number. Our STEM lesson this week involved Spheros which needed to be guided through a maze. The children had to use block coding techniques to drive their Sphero through the maze, under bridges and across bridges. In Community, the children learnt about the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptians.

Hawks

In Hawks this week, we have continued our work on sustainability and have written a formal, persuasive letter on how we as a school can help towards being sustainable. We have come up with some very effective strategies - we need to put them into practice now. In maths, we have worked on our maths mission involving statistics. First, we had to order a number of events in time order, converting them all to more suitable units of time to be able to do this. We then put a selection of these events into a bar chart. We also created a line graph of the population number in the world from 1960 to present day. In our topic time this week, we have worked on and developed our coding skills. We have been able to use simple programming and also create our own games using the coding programme too. We had great fun doing this.

Kestrels

Kestrels have continued to work hard this week. They have completed their persuasive letter, encouraging Mrs Sweeney to join them in their fight to make Wheelock Primary even more sustainable. In maths we have completed a statistical maths mission focusing on creating and interpreting graphical data. During our topic sessions, the children have enjoyed considering the similarities and differences between Celts, Romans and Vikings. The week ended with a roleplay of a battle scene! The children have really enjoyed our gymnastics session, unfortunately this has now come to an end. Please continue to send a kit in on a Friday so that we can get into the hall as and when it is available.

Eagles

This week Eagles have been practising how to manipulate their language to suit a formal persuasive letter. They have learnt to use the subjunctive form and conjunctions for purpose. Towards the end of the week, Eagles have written persuasive letters advising how we can be more sustainable at our school. Eagles showed great passion behind their concerns and proposed solutions towards sustainability. In maths, we have been completing our termly maths mission- observing data changes over time and presenting information in bar and line graphs. In Science, we have started our new unit- Classification of living things. Eagles were very chuffed with their ability to predict the definitions for each level of Carl Linnaeus' classification system. In French, we have revised how to say days of the week, months of the year and seasons. As a challenge, we have been putting this vocabulary into sentences. In topic, we have focused on art this week- learning about and creating our own Cave-inspired art and Egyptian Cartouches.



The Hive

Such excitement this week, Karaoke has arrived in The Hive! Actually, as the week has progressed and the children have become more familiar with the tunes, we have been delighted by their singing. We have found this to be a wonderful activity that brings the different year groups together and overall The Hive are a tuneful bunch! We are transforming our display boards this week, the children have pencilled, crayoned and crafted a beautiful clutch of eggs all ready to take pride of place on the wall. Our children never tire of tissue and PVA! A welcome return of the cues has meant the pool table is up and running again. The potted balls brought whoops of delight and great sportsmanship to our popular game. Outside, the wind has whistled and tried its best to spoil our fun but the children barely notice and have enjoyed their usual games of football, circuits and playing on the climbing walls. The competition to design a healthy meal for our Spring Term Menu has come to an end and the winning dish will be revealed next week but salmon and prawns are clearly very popular! The entries have all been super healthy and full of veggies, chicken and fish it is going to be very difficult to choose a winner, wish us luck!



FOWS

Thank you to all that made the meeting last night. Following the meeting, we would like to announce that Lyndsey Barker-Hewitt has been voted in as new Co-Chair of FOWS for 2019/20. Laura Crane has been amazing and we are sad to see her step down. A special thank you for everything so far.

We can't make any of these fabulous fundraiser happen without the support of the FOWS team and volunteers. We still need a few people to help at the book fair on 25th and 26th March. If you can offer any help please get in touch. It's a great first event to get involved in - it was the first one I helped at and a great opportunity to meet some other parents. Drop me a text if you can help - Joanne Pressler - 07495637184 or fowscontact@gmail.com

Dates to remember

21st March - Swimathon - entries now closed.

25th-26th March - Bookfair

27th March - non uniform with a chocolate donation.

2nd April - chocolate bingo!

26th June - summer fair

Whole School News

Charity Auction Night

Thank you to everyone for their generous support of our charity auction night. It was a brilliant event and great fun was had by all.



We raised an incredible **£8434** which means we have already nearly reached our £15,000 target for the year – and we still have the Three Peaks Challenge to go!

Careers Day

You will have received a letter this week about our upcoming careers day on Thursday 30th April. Please do get involved in this event by coming along and setting up a stall to show the children what you do in your line of work. We are really hoping this year's event will be as successful as it has been in previous years.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Helen Sweeney,
Headteacher.