

Newsletter

28th February 2020



Community, Creativity,
Challenge and Individuality

Dear Parents / Carers,

Our theme this week has been Folklore and Legends. We have talked about how history was traditionally passed down through stories and how this means that the facts can be changed and distorted over time. In assembly on Monday, I tested the children's knowledge of characters from British folklore. Most of the children were familiar with Robin Hood and the Loch Ness Monster, but Tom Thumb and the Beast of Bodmin Moor were new to lots of us.



Penguins and Puffins Amongst all the fun this week has been lots of writing and number learning. We've practiced our number bonds to 5 in so many ways - with cubes, people, even sweets! It is really becoming clear how much regular practice with the phonics cards at home really helps. We're seeing a big impact on the writing ability of many of the children. Our writing challenge on Wednesday was a collaboration - to think of all the things you would need if you had a real live pet dinosaur. Lastly, happy 18th birthday to our wonderful Miss Taylor - now officially one of the grown-ups!

Owls In Maths the children have been learning to tell the time. They have completed many activities such as loop cards, ordering clocks, counting in 5's and using playdough to make the clocks hands. In English the children have started looking at 'explanation texts'. They used a model text called 'The Fantastic Flying Machine' to help generate questions. They were taught how to write a good question by including a starting question word, a capital letter and ending with a question mark. The children were very excited when we started to plan our class assembly. They have thought of some fantastic ideas which they can't wait to share!

Woodpeckers This week, Woodpeckers have begun a new piece of writing. The children looked at an explanation text from Frankie Flapper and found new vocabulary within it. They used some drama to understand the new words as well as trying to put them into a sentence. Children have also been working hard in maths this week by looking at time. This is always a tricky area of maths but Woodpeckers have worked really hard this week to begin to understand 'o' clock and half past. Some children are beginning to move onto five-minute intervals, which we will continue to work on school. Children have also been thinking about internet safety this week and have learnt a new song to help them remember to stay safe on their tablets. We have also refreshed our memories of all the vocabulary we learnt in science. The children were great at recalling science facts from last half term.

Robins

This week in Robins, we have been making our own clocks and have been learning all about time. The children know how to use the hour to identify o'clock and half past the hour. Some children have also been using the minute hand to find quarter to and quarter past. In literacy, we began to explore an explanation text all about an amazing flying machine. To kick things off we designed our own flying machines and labelled the parts. On Thursday, Mrs Robinson visited the classroom to talk to the children about some of her old toys: how they moved, the materials they were made of, and how old they were. In PE, we continued to develop our skills of agility and balance by playing a range of different games.

Sandpipers

Sandpipers have had a fantastic week back after half term. They have been very excited practising their production. I have been very impressed by their commitment to learn their lines and the expression that they have used throughout. Well done! They can't wait to show everyone. In maths this week, we have been focusing on geometry. We have identified angles on lines and in different shapes, named different triangles and started to identify different types of line. In literacy, the children have written their own persuasive adverts to persuade someone to go to Egypt on holiday. I was amazed by some of their language choices and use of persuasive features. During topic, the children have learnt about Egyptian Gods. They created and played their own Egyptian God Top Trump cards. They have also learnt about mummification and we even mummified tomatoes! Well done on a great week Sandpipers. Keep working hard.

Swans

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful half term. This week we have been busy in our roles for our production. The actors have shown excellent dedication in learning their lines, the props team have been really creative and the merchandise group have risen to the challenge of working the badge maker! During our literacy lessons, the children have planned and written persuasive adverts for why tourists should visit Egypt. They used some wonderful language and have also learnt how to exaggerate! In maths, we have been focusing on angles and shapes. The children are able to identify acute, obtuse and right angles. Our science lessons saw the children mummify apples. We used salt and baking powder to recreate the mummification process of the Ancient Egyptians. We will keep you updated on our results! In our challenge lessons, the children have learnt who Howard Carter was and how Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered. We took part in our first Cross Fit lesson of the term on Thursday. The children were put through their paces and made to work extremely hard strengthening their core. Well done Swans - a brilliant week!

Kingfishers

Kingfishers have been learning about Egyptians Gods this week and we have had fun making and playing Egyptian top trumps cards. In literacy we have written persuasive adverts enticing people to visit Egypt. We have been really impressed with the range of persuasive language used and would certainly want to visit some of the attractions the children were advertising. In maths we have been learning about different angles, triangles and properties of shapes. Rehearsals for the upcoming production are going well and we are all enjoying learning the new songs.

Eagles

This week Eagles have begun immersing themselves in our new focus text- 'The Time Hunters'. Children have enjoyed predicting plot, characters and potential twists in the story. They were blown away with how much had happened in the first chapter alone! We are excited to read more next week. In Maths, we have been working on identifying 2D and 3D shapes and angles within shape. Eagles had to apply a range of skills in order to find the missing angles in triangles, circles, on a straight line and quadrilaterals. In Science, Eagles impressed in their knowledge of different life cycles, working as a group to sort stages of life for a range of living organisms. Eagles had fun testing their knowledge on the names for different animal young, and were shocked at the length of gestation periods for different animals - in particular how long an Elephant can be pregnant for! A great first week back Eagles- well done.

Kestrels

Great busy week Kestrels. We have been working hard to practise our assembly ready to impress you all next week. The children have been busy learning their lines and perfecting their singing skills. In literacy, we have started a new book, "Time Hunters" by Carl Ashmore. The children are already gripped by the thrilling adventure ahead of them. You are welcome to buy a copy of the book for your child to use at home and in school, but please do not read ahead as we will be using in-school sessions to make predictions about upcoming events. In maths, the children have been revisiting shapes and angles. This is a tricky subject which will need to continue to be our focus next week. We have now completed our evolution and inheritance topic in science and are looking forward to moving onto our classification sessions.

Hawks

Welcome back to spring 2 term - we have come back from the half term break working really hard. This week, we have completed our art work by creating a topic book page on 3 areas of art (abstract/graffiti/pop art), which includes evaluations of the art we created and our opinion of the movement itself. In science, we have worked on life cycles of different animals. We had to arrange the information and pictures given in the order of the cycle and then compare these to each other.

We have started our new book for this half term, 'The Time Hunters'. We were initially just given the picture off the front cover and we made predictions from this. Then we slowly revealed the blurb and adjusted our predictions based on the information we have now. The book has started off with a lot happening and we are really looking forward to reading more of this adventure.

The Hive

We have enjoyed a fantastic week in The Hive. The children worked tirelessly on their journals and used mixed media to embellish and decorate their written work. The laminating machine has been very useful for our main art project: we have created colourful sun catchers in the shape of shamrocks. They make a beautiful addition to our decorated room. We watched in amazement as the tissue squashed through the machine and emerged sandwiched, glossy and ready to be snipped into shamrock shapes. There was great excitement as we discovered we have 'new lodgers' living in The Hive! Tiny chicks are developing inside a very special incubator; it is our hope that very soon we will enjoy the sound of cheeping chicks as well as chatting children. We are looking after our guests very carefully with the help of Mrs Sweeney's expert guidance; the children use their soft voices and follow her instructions to the letter. Outside, the



weather has been testing our resilience. The wind has blown bitterly but it hasn't stopped the footballers, climbers and runners from enjoying their outdoor games and thank goodness it's a bit lighter for them too!

FOWS

We hope you all had a lovely half term break! We're busy planning our support for the Swimathon taking place on 21st March at 3pm: this event is run by the Rotary club and hosted at the boys school. You should have received an email with the details earlier this week, please get in touch and let us know if you can take part. Below is our list of upcoming events:

- Swimathon 21st March
- Book fair 25th / 26th March
- Non uniform for chocolate bingo 27th March
- Chocolate Bingo 2nd April

Whole School News

World Book Day

Next Thursday is World Book Day and our theme for this year is bedtime stories. The children are invited to come to school dressed either as a favourite character from a book or in their pyjamas – ready to listen to a bedtime story. We are looking forward to a lovely day celebrating our love of books with the children.

Charity Auction Night

There are now just a few tickets left for the charity auction next week. If you would like to get involved but aren't coming on the night, you can still join in by placing a commission bid on your favourite items. Forms are available from the school office, or alternatively you can come to our pre-sale viewing on Thursday 5th March from 2pm to 5pm.



Yours sincerely,

Mrs Helen Sweeney,
Headteacher.