



Delivering an outstanding learning experience for all children so they flourish and thrive; enabling them to achieve their own individual excellence.

26th February 2021
Newsletter 14

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a lovely time over the February half term break.

As I am sure you can imagine, we are busy making preparations for the return of all of our children on 8th March. We really are looking forward to having the whole school back together once again. Further information regarding schedules, timings and general logistics will be sent out early next week. There has been a wealth of learning happening across all classes this week and, as is always the case, the children have been exceptional.

Reception

In our Reception class this week, our children have been thinking about wolves. The children have been enjoying different stories about wolves, in particular, Little Red Riding Hood. They have created some fantastic models and story maps that they have used to retell the story. The children have also designed some fantastic disguises to try to help Mr Wolf from being spotted quite so easily! There have also been some fantastic wanted posters as the hunt for Mr Wolf continues. In their maths work, the children have continued to develop their subitising skills, noticing what they see and looking for groups of numbers that make larger numbers.

★ **Star from near: Harry - For his amazingly detailed story map of Little Red Riding Hood**

★ **Star from afar: Kyle - For his confidence and brilliance in his maths learning.**

Year 1

In Year 1, our children have been exploring nouns and adjectives and have been trying to use different sentence openers to help describe position. The children have produced a fantastic piece of descriptive writing which has been based on a messy playroom and inspired by our topic on toys. In Maths, the children have been counting forwards and backwards to 50. They

have explored tens and ones and have been looking at different ways of representing numbers. In PSHE, the children have looked at 'Local Heroes' and have talked about their jobs in the community as either carers or protectors. In Science, the children have been recording a 'Weather Log'. They have been very lucky because we seem to have had a variety of different types of weather over the past week! Well done, Year 1. You have worked incredibly well this week.

★ **Star from near: Jacob – For hard work and effort in maths and English**

★ **Star from afar: Harry – For putting in such a great effort and coming up with original ideas for his creative writing. A fabulous description Harry!**

Year 2

This week in Year 2, the children have been writing diaries and learning about the Great Fire of London. On Tuesday, they had a look around the Tower of London and watched the Ceremony of the Keys, which happens at 7 o'clock every night. Following that, the children had a leisurely river cruise along the Thames. On their journey, they spotted many famous landmarks such as The Shard, The Gherkin, The Sky Garden, The London Eye and Big Ben. It was very exciting actually travelling under Tower Bridge. All of this, thanks to the little yellow person on Google maps. Well done Year 2!

★ **Star from near: James L – For superb effort in all classroom learning and brilliant participation.**

★ **Star from afar: Elliot - For completing every online task to a very high standard and with enthusiasm. Fantastic effort Elliot!**

Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic first week back! The children have started a new maths topic and have been making tally charts. They then used their knowledge of tally charts to draw and interpret pictograms. In English, the children have been learning about different features of poetry to prepare them for writing and performing their own poems! This week, Year 3 have been investigating how to change the size of a shadow. Miss Bass was very impressed with the shadow puppet theatres uploaded onto Seesaw.

It has been another brilliant week of learning in Year 3. Well done!

★ **Star from near: Josh L– For engaging so well in tasks set.**

★ **Star from afar: Fenna for going above and beyond with her online learning activities.**

Year 4

This week in English, Year 4 have been learning how to structure TV news reports in preparation for writing

scripts for their own report and filming as *roving reporters* next week. In maths, Year 4 have furthered their learning about fractions by exploring tenths, hundredths and solving addition and subtraction calculations. In computing, the children have tackled some extremely tricky challenges on RapidRouter and have tried to make their coding more efficient. In Geography, the children have been exploring the causes of tsunamis. In art, the children have learnt how to draw a single line drawing without taking our pencil off the paper! What a busy week! Well done, Year 4.

★ **Star from near: Jack - Outstanding attitude to work this week!**

★ **Star from afar: Emmie - For her spectacular attire in PE!**

Year 5

Year 5 have made an excellent start back to our new half term. In maths, they have continued their work on fractions by learning how to add and subtract them. In English, the focus has been on sentence level work, building up to a piece of descriptive narrative. In RE, the children have been describing and explaining why Hindus believe that all life is sacred as well as the principles of karma and reincarnation. In music, Year 5 have been learning two new action songs - Crash, Beep, Beep and Gospel Medley. I wonder who was able to sing and do the actions at the same time...

Living Things and their Habitats is the new science topic in Year 5. This week, they have been comparing the lifecycles of amphibians and insects.

What a fantastic week of learning Year 5. Well done!

★ **Star from near: Sammy – For his concentration and perseverance with fractions.**

★ **Star from afar: Maddie - For your conscientious attitude to producing your best work across all subjects. Well done.**

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have continued their superb effort and hard work with remote learning. In maths, they have continued the study of statistics, with a focus on pie charts, before consolidating their understanding of fractions towards the end of the week. In English, they read more of *the Invention of Hugo Cabret* and have begun to practise the skills needed to write a diary entry from the perspective of the book's main character.

In science, after several lessons looking at the theory of the phenomenon of light, the children have carried out their own demonstrations. This included a variety of methods, including the use of mirrors, the exploration of how shadows can change and how light is distorted when seen through water.

Year 6 have also been extremely busy in other curriculum areas. In PE, they have risen to the SCNW

challenges. Through their topic of *Lights, Camera, Action*, the children have honed their skills in history by considering how the pioneering film *A Trip to the Moon* led to many of the visual effects we see in movies today. In computing, the children have explored the use of spreadsheets to further develop their understanding of statistics. Well done, Year 6. Keep up the great work!

★ **Star from near: – Henry for outstanding focus in maths**

★ **Star from afar: Jake - for superb effort across all subjects and great contribution to guided reading sessions.**

World Book Day - Thursday 4th March 2021

Next Thursday is the annual World Book Day. Our theme this year is **Inspirational People** and, to celebrate, class teachers will be setting activities based on this theme. On Monday, there will be a "World Book Day" tab under "Online Learning" where you will be able to watch a book recommendations video, where staff members from across the school will be recommending their favourite children's books. In addition, there will be a special video entitled "Excalibur's Masked Readers". Make sure you take a look on Monday to find out what that is all about!

At the end of the week, we will be choosing a selection of work from World Book Day to go on to the "World Book Day Gallery" on the school website so please send your work to your class teachers on Seesaw so that we can celebrate all your hard work.

Mega Mileage Challenge

As you know, prior to half term, we challenged you all to walk the distance between John o' Groats to Land's End (a total of 874 miles). Next week, your teachers will put up a Seesaw task to ask you to let them know how many miles you have travelled since the start of February. We will give an update in next week's newsletter about how far you have travelled as a school.

Meanwhile, the staff at Excalibur have been busy making their way around the equator - they have now travelled a total of **815.9 miles** - they only have 24,085 miles left!

Wellbeing Support

The DfE have compiled a comprehensive list of resources to support parents and children who feel particularly overwhelmed by the pandemic.

https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/01/mental-health-resources-for-children-parents-carers-and-school-staff/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

And finally - If you require any further assistance in any other matter, please do not hesitate in contacting us.
Mrs Jones - Head Teacher