

SPRING TERM 2 2024

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CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

An overview of what we have been up to this term

NURSERY THIS TERM

Another very busy term in Nursery learning all about 'Ready Steady Grow' and 'Signs of Spring'.

We have enjoyed planting seeds and watching them grow as well explore stories like 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Handa's Surprise' and 'Rosie's Walk'.

The children have enjoyed learning all about where food comes from and tasted different types of foods like: cucumbers, melon, crisps and rice pudding.

We tried some fruits we have not tasted before when making our fruit kebabs using fruits from the story Handa's Surprise. They were delicious!

For our story 'Rosie's Walk', we had a mobile farm come and visit us at school.

It was an amazing experience for all the children where they had the opportunity to pet the animals, feed them and even hold some of them.

We learnt so much about the animals and the children really came into their own using some amazing vocabulary.

We are now looking at the changed in weather and the beginning of Spring. Can you see the changes all around you?



RECEPTION THIS TERM

Reception have had a 'roar'some half term learning all about Dinosaurs!

We have been measuring and comparing lengths and height of dinosaurs, learning what dinosaurs eat - whether they are carnivores or herbivores and learning about the types of habitats where dinosaurs lived and have written postcards to dinosaurs at a museum to ask them a question we want to know the answer to. We have been reading 'Tyrannosaurus Drip', 'Dear Dinosaur' and 'Cave Baby'.

To celebrate the end of our dinosaur project we had our very own 'Dinosaur Day' in Reception. Children were invited to wear dinosaur themed clothing. We had some fantastic clothes and costumes and some children had even spent time at home making their own amazing dino costumes and dinosaur habitats that they brought in to share with their class.

We started the day off with a dinosaur hunt, following some footprints all around the school that some dinosaurs had left behind! We followed the trail and used our counting skills to record how many of each dinosaur we found, using our explorer binoculars!

We also made dinosaur habitat boxes, clay fossils, some 'volcano rock' cakes, play dough dinosaurs and dinosaur masks to complete our dinosaur costumes. We got messy in the dinosaur swamps and we even became paleontologists - digging up and examining fossils in our excavation area. We also took part in some dino stomp dancing.

Thank you so much to all the parents/carers who supported this day with donations. Without this, days like this would not be as magical and exciting for your children. We really do appreciate it.



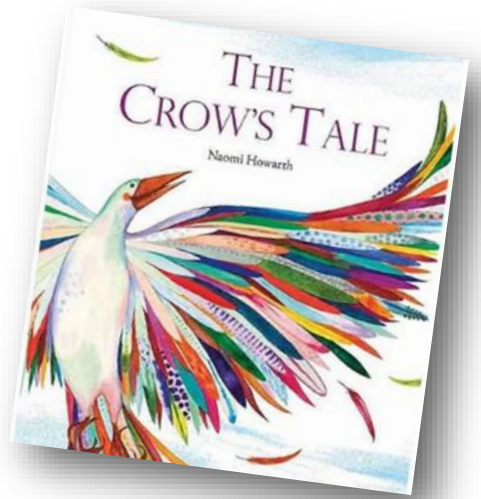
YEAR 1 THIS TERM

Year 1's have had a very exciting Spring Term 2, exploring a range of new concepts and experiences. In DT, we have been learning all about wheels and axles, with the children receiving a special letter from Paddington Bear, asking for our help to make him a vehicle to travel around London. Children designed and built their own vehicles and tested these too! We also had an exciting visit from the farm, where children got to brush, pet and even feed all the wonderful animals brought in. They absolutely loved this experience and managed to conquer any fears - well done Year 1!



YEAR 2 THIS TERM

Our Literacy this term was a narrative called 'The Crow's Tale'. This story takes place in a cold place where the animals are cold and hungry. They call upon Crow to go on a perilous quest to ask the sun for some warmth. The crow set out on his quest and brings back a branch of fire, but on the return journey, the smoke from the fire turns his feathers black. We wrote an alternative ending for the story, instead of leaving crow with his black feathers. We wrote about how the animals could repay crow for his generosity and get crow to become colourful again, by collecting items he could use to disguise his black feathers.



In Maths we have been looking at length and height. We have been learning to use a ruler and a metre stick to help us measure different items that we found in the classroom. We measure the doors, with the teachers help. We measured books, pencil pots and tables as well.

In Science, our topic has been 'Materials'. We conducted an investigation to find the 'bounciest ball'. We chose five balls of different sizes and tried hard to keep it as fair as possible. This means that we could only change one thing during our investigation. For example, we changed the type of ball that we bounced, but kept the height from which it dropped and the surface on which it landed the same. We made predictions about what we thought would happen and then wrote about whether our predictions were correct or not.



Our Geography topic was Coastlines of Britain and we have been learning about Maps and Keys and how to read them, learning about what human and physical features are and how land is used. We studied a town in the north of England called Whitby. It is a famous town known for its fishing industry and it is where Captain Cook sailed from on his voyages. We are just about to start our Design & Technology project of building our own model beach huts, in keeping with a coastal theme.

In ICT we have been learning about how to stay safe online and how important it is not to post pictures or give away where we live or what our names are to strangers that might seem like they are friendly to us when we are playing games online with games such as 'Fortnite and Minecraft.'



YEAR 3 THIS TERM

This half term, Year 3 delved into the exciting world beneath our feet in literacy. We explored a non-fiction text called 'The Street Beneath My Feet' and discovered fascinating animals and creatures that live underground, including finding out gross facts about sewers and fatbergs underground. In Maths, children learnt how to find the length and perimeter of a shape. In Science, we learnt about different types of forces such as push, pull, gravity and magnetism and explored how magnets work with some cool investigations. In Geography, the children explored the big question, 'Which natural disaster has the greatest impact?' They particularly enjoyed looking into different volcanic eruptions that have occurred around the world. In DT, the children learnt about how various mechanisms work and the works behind them, sparking their curiosity and inspiring them to create their own simple mechanism. In RE, the year 3 children explored the significance of Good Friday, looking into the traditions and teachings of Easter. Overall, it has been a half term packed with lots of new knowledge!



YEAR 4 THIS TERM

Year 4 had an amazing half-term. In Literacy, we retold the story of 'Aladdin' and then proceeded to write our own poem about a river. In Mathematics, we continued to enhance our skills in multiplication and division, and also converting measurements. In Geography, we explored rivers, their journey from source to mouth, and identified the impact of flooding. In Science, we learned about living things and their habitats, how we classify animals, and how each animal adapts to their environment.



YEAR 5 THIS TERM

This half term, Year 5 have really enjoyed learning about the different mythical creatures to help inspire their creative writing. The children have worked hard to use language for effective, develop their use of figurative language and master using brackets and relative clauses to add depth and detail to their writing. As a result, all children have written great Greek newspaper articles, based on Hercules coming out victorious against one of Hades's cruel creatures, while they have also written their own Greek-inspired myth. In keeping with the Greek theme, our reading lessons this term have been based on the best-selling novel 'Who Let the Gods Out'. The children have loved reading about Elliot's plight and how he strived to help his mum, while saving the world from 'prisoner 42'. During our reading lessons this term, children have developed their inference skills, using evidence from the text to support their opinions. In our maths lessons, the children have worked hard to refine their fraction work. Now, children can add and subtract fractions with different denominators; multiply both fractions and mixed numbers by a whole number and find fractions of a given amount. We are very impressed with how hard Year 5 have worked this half term and cannot wait to see what the summer term brings! Have a great Easter break!



YEAR 6 THIS TERM

The Year 6 students have been busy learning across different subjects. Here is a brief summary of what they have been studying:

In Literacy, we have been focusing on the art of persuasion. The students have been practicing their persuasive writing skills by writing letters on various thought-provoking topics. Some of the questions they have explored include: "Should competitive sports be banned in primary school?" and "Should 'No Ball Games' signs be prohibited?". It's been wonderful to see their creativity and critical thinking skills shine through their arguments.

In Maths, our Year 6 students have been learning about ratios and proportions. They have been comparing different quantities and understanding the relationship between them. From solving challenging ratio problems to exploring real-life scenarios where ratios come into play, they have been sharpening their mathematical minds.

When it comes to Geography, the Year 6 students have been captivated by the polar regions. They have been studying these fascinating and cold places, from the Arctic to the Antarctic. To showcase their knowledge, the students have been creating fact files on some of the incredible animals found in these regions. Did you know that polar bears have black skin underneath their white fur? Fascinating stuff!

In Art, the Year 6 students have revisited their WW2 topic by exploring the haunting landscapes of war-torn London. They have been expressing their creativity through silhouette art, using contrasting colors and shadow play to bring the wartime atmosphere to life in their artwork. It's been a powerful way for them to connect with history.


Year 6 is making great progress, and we look forward to seeing what else they will accomplish in the coming weeks.



Thursday 1st March 2024
To write a fact file


ARCTIC FOX

Introduction
Prepare for a magnificent fact file all about the Arctic fox.



What an arctic fox looks like. Subheader
An arctic fox, also known as the white fox, has a body length of 40cm to 60cm, slightly shorter than a grey fox. It has a generally round body shape. Its fur is generally white in winter and turns to a brownish color in summer.

Where an arctic fox lives. Subheader
The main reason it adapts to its habitat is a very agile creature. It lives in the northern hemisphere and can also be found in areas like Alaska, the Aleutian Islands and westwards to the Canada border. All of these areas have freezing temperatures and are all tundras. However, the northern hemisphere has a high latitude and is why there are not a lot of people and hardly any people live there.




An arctic foxes diet.
Arctic foxes diet consists of small mammals such as lemmings, voles, rabbits and reindeer. An arctic fox is a carnivore which is an animal that feeds on other animals.

Thursday 21st March 2024
To write a fact file

RULERS OF THE SKY (snowy owl)

Appearance
These magnificent creatures are white birds with varying amounts of black or brown markings on their body and wings. On females this can be quite extensive, giving it a salt-and-pepper look. Males tend to be paler and whiter as they age. In very warm areas have a lot of orange, because of the sun which they have to protect their bodies. They are the smallest owl in North America. Their wingspan is about 90cm.



Habitat
The snowy owl is a bird of prey that lives in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. They are found in the tundra, where they hunt for small mammals and birds. They are also found in the mountains of Alaska and Canada. They are also found in the mountains of Alaska and Canada. They are also found in the mountains of Alaska and Canada.

Adaptation
The snowy owl has several adaptations that help it survive in the Arctic. It has large eyes to see in the dark. It has a thick layer of feathers to keep it warm. It has a powerful beak to catch its prey. It has long legs to jump high into the air. It has a silent flight to catch its prey by surprise.

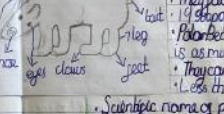
Fun Facts:

- Snowy owls can spot a mouse from over 300m away.
- Adult snowy owls can reach the speed of 100km per hour.
- Female owls are 20% bigger than male snowy owls.
- A snowy owl baby is called a owlet.

Thursday 21st March 2024
To write a fact file

Arctic King (Polar Bears)

Appearance
A Polar Bear is a magnificent creature with black skin and white fur. It looks like a bear, it has a head that is big, it has sharp claws that help to grip onto the ice. It has a long neck, it has a long body, it has a long tail. It has a long nose, it has a long mouth. It has a long tongue. It has a long tail.



Habitat
These bears live in a cold climate. They are commonly found in the Arctic sea in Alaska, Canada, Russia, Greenland and Norway. They are also found in the mountains of Alaska and Canada.

Diet
These species feed primarily on ringed seals but will also eat bearded seals.

Adaptations
They have thick fur that keeps them warm, fat legs to steadily hold their weight and to give them speed. Sharp and heavy claws to keep them steady and to grip onto ice, also to catch their prey's flesh, drag them onto the ice.

Fun Facts (FFF):

- Polar Bears are at the top of the food chain.
- They are the largest land predators.
- They are marine mammals.
- They have jet black skin.
- They can swim non-stop for days.
- Polar Bear DNA can be extracted from just their footprints.
- They face more threats than climate change.
- 14 subpopulations of polar bears.
- Polar bears weigh as much as 10 men (800kg) which is as much as 1/2 the size of female polar bears.
- They can smell their prey up to a kilometre.
- Less than 1% of polar bears are successfully raised.
- Scientific name of polar bears are (Ursus Maritimus).
- They eat marine seals.
- They are majestic.

IN OTHER NEWS

YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY WEEK

Year 6 took part in Bikeability week - 26th February to 29th February. Bikeability is a cycle training programme designed to give pupils the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on the road.

Overall 30 Year 6 pupils took part. During this activity they learnt how to:

1. Control and master their bike in an off-road environment
2. Cycle on-road and deal with traffic on short journeys
3. Tackle a wider variety of more challenging road and traffic conditions

Here is what our pupils had to say:

"I enjoyed cycling on the road and the best game was the slow race. I learnt primary and secondary modes. Primary means the middle of the road."

Jaidon (Attenborough)

"It was amazing and the instructors were really kind and helpful."

Jhalakneer (Attenborough)

"I learnt that secondary position is when you are 1m from the kerb."

Mansirat (Berners Lee)

"Cycling was fun and we got more exercise than usual."

Aaron (Anderson)

"Cycling was great fun because we got to cycle on the road and we learnt about how to do a U turn."

Rares (Attenborough)

"It was enjoyable because we learnt about primary and secondary modes in cycling."

Ayoub (Anderson)

"Cycling was fun because we learnt how to ride on the road safely."

Dion (Berners Lee)



IN OTHER NEWS

DRAGON DEN EXPERIENCE

On Thursday 29th February our School Council/Junior Travel Ambassadors attended the JTA Dragons Den Event at RAF Uxbridge.

They had the opportunity to pitch for up to £500 in a "Dragon's Den" style forum, to go towards road safety and/or sustainable travel activities, events, campaigns or initiatives within our school. The "Dragons" were selected by members of the council who offered feedback and asked questions after the pitch. To achieve our goal, we require a contribution of £500.



Their presentation was all around the project of arranging a number of activities aimed at our pupils to remind them of safer and more active travel. We are planning to have a poster designing competition in which the children themselves can design a poster aimed at drivers encouraging them to drive with more care, and even to park further away and walk.

It is our goal to reduce the number of cars using the road during the busy drop-off and pick-up times, to encourage more active travel which is not only beneficial to the environment, but also our health and well-being.

Here is what our pupils had to say:

"It was great! Everyone memorised their lines and I can't believe we got an extra £50 so in total £550. It was so exciting, especially for the school. There were 4/5 more schools and each school had a speech. It looked like a movie theatre and there were 2 councillors and head of school roads on the panel. My speech to the Dragon's was: We are planning a poster designing competition in which the children themselves can design a poster, aimed at drivers encouraging them to drive with more care and even to park further away from the school and walk".

Jeevna (Daley Class) Y3

"So at the Battle of Britain bunker, the lady let us have a look around before the pitch where we got to see some fascinating things like what they wore in World War 2 and even got to try on the outfits! We also got to see old planes, telephones, tanks and information about the polish air force. When we finally said our pitch, we said it loud and proud. The other schools also said their pitches then the Dragon's went to discuss. They came back and told us they weren't giving us £500 because they were giving us £550 instead! I couldn't believe it!"

Harvey (Daley Class) Y3

"We felt a little nervous but it went really well- we got the money!"

Pranish (Gavin Class) & Kiki (Blackman Class) Y4

"It was exciting and challenging because there were people there we didn't know who we had to convince to give you the money."

Ellie (Aderin) Y5

"We did a good job because the other schools already had videos and had all been before. This was our first time and the council were pretty impressed."

Ethan Y5 (Aderin)

IN OTHER NEWS

YEAR 5 ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKSHOP

On March 4th 10 Year 5 pupils took part in a project aimed at increasing walking and 'park and walk' in the borough. They were supported by a dedicated workshop leader to promote the map and walk zone at our school.

They were introduced to air quality concepts and learnt about the health benefits of walking / exercise. Using the map to walk in the local area, they carried out some on-street work around pollution levels and looked at the benefits of physical exercise.

They also had the opportunity to work with the TFL leader to plan a re-launch of the walking zone at our school via an assembly and / or a playground event.

Here is what our pupils had to say:

"It was a lot of fun and educational. We were able to test pollution levels around the school. We were shocked by some of the results!"

Jordan

"We really enjoyed it. We learnt a lot about pollution that we didn't realise before the day."

Emma

"If you walk to school your brain will be more active."

Kapish

"Active Travel is so important. It is important because it saves the environment from air pollution and other stuff."

Miral

"We learnt that in 1952 there was lots of smog which is a type of fog and people wore masks to help them breathe clean air."

Maya



IN OTHER NEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY & SPECIAL AUTHOR VISIT

The children had a great time celebrating World Book Day this year. We decided to change things up and have reading announcements at different times throughout the day. Whenever the children heard these announcements, they stopped whatever they were doing and read a book.

To top it all off, on March 12th, we were lucky to have a real author, Tọlá Okogwu, come and visit children in Years 3 to 6. Tọlá is a best-selling and award-winning author of the Daddy Do My Hair Series, Aziza's Secret Fairy Door series, and the Onyeka series. Her books were inspired by her family and are created to celebrate and showcase the beauty of Afro-textured hair. Tọlá inspired us all to be storytellers, reminding us that we all possess the power to tell a good story inspired by the books we love to read. The visit ended with Tọlá signing copies of her books, which many of the children had purchased using their World Book Day book tokens. It was heartwarming to see how many children were excited to meet a real-life author and to use their tokens to buy her books.



IN OTHER NEWS

ROAD SAFETY WALK

On Friday 8th March, Year 2 children went on a 'Road Safety Walk'. Children learnt how to cross the road safely and used the '**STOP, LOOK and LISTEN**' rule. They learnt how to use their eyes, ears and to think when crossing different roads including a zebra crossing.

They really enjoyed it and lots of things about how to cross the road safely using the **STOP, LOOK and LISTEN** rule

Here is what our pupils had to say:

"I got to learn how to cross the road safely"

Kayden (Hedgehog)

"It was fun!"

Jeaven (Hedgehog)

"I have learnt how to cross the road being careful"

Ravnor (Hedgehog)

"I have learnt how to stay safe on the road."

Eyad (Hedgehog)



IN OTHER NEWS

POLICE WORKSHOP - FUTURE LIFE

On Tuesday 26 March Year 6 had the privilege to attend a workshop run by the Metropolitan Police, which discussed lots of important issues. The purpose of the workshop was to provide us with information about preventing knife crime, as well as the dangers of gangs and illegal drugs. Did you know that the age of accountability in the eyes of the law is 10? Did you know that some of the medications prescribed by doctors are categorised as Class A, B and C drugs? We learned about all of these things in a safe environment, as well as having the opportunity to have our questions answered by a professional. read what some of the Year 6 pupils thought about the session:

Here is what our pupils had to say:

"Best workshop we've ever had! Normally we hear about going online and there was no waffle. It was actually relevant to us moving up to secondary school."

Mitush

"It was very informative and it was interesting to learn about how vulnerable people can be trapped into a life of crime. We know what to look out for!"

Maryam

"I think this will help alot of people stay safe and make good choices as they grow up!"

Jasmeet

"I learnt that if someone asks you to hold something, and its not yours – you will still get the blame for possession."

Ameenah

YEAR 6 SAFETY AND CITIZENSHIP PRE-TRANSITION PRESENTATION

On Wednesday 27 March Year 6 took part in a **one-hour** In-School Presentation (ISP) to educate students about **personal safety, respect, responsibility and awareness** both on and around public transport run by Transport for London. It covered the different forms of public transport and addresses all key aspects of the KS2 Citizenship curriculum. The presentation **informed, challenged and reinforced the knowledge of Year 6** students as they become increasingly independent ready for secondary school.

Here is what our pupils had to say:

"It was really interesting! I learnt where to stand getting on and off public transport and on an escalator."

Dion

"It was really important! We were shown how to travel safely AND who are safer adults on TFL."

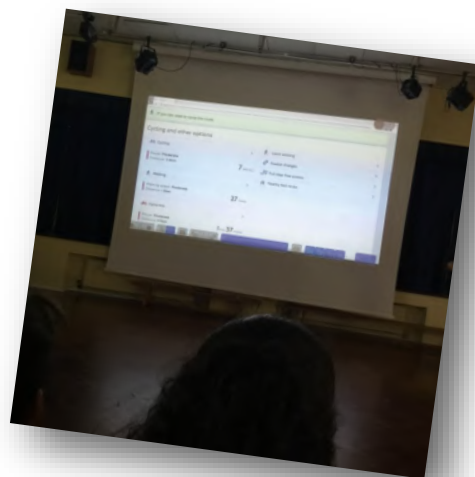
Djhoer

"There were hard hitting messages, which were delivered in a fun way. The lessons were vital and could potentially save lives!"

James

" It was very informative because there was lots of detailed information about being safe on the roads."

Sallar



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