

Learning Together at School

Autumn Term 2



Nursery

This half term the Nursery has been learning about all the exciting festivals and celebrations that take place at this time of year. We have learnt about Halloween, Bonfire night, Diwali, Christmas and Hanukkah. We have also been learning about how animals prepare for winter during the season of Autumn. We learnt about how some animals hibernate and how some migrate. We also found out about how some animals are nocturnal while others are diurnal.



We have listened to lots of stories to help reinforce our learning, including stories that include rhyme as rhyming has been part of our learning in Phonics this term.

In maths we have been practising our counting skills, our ability to identify numerals, naming 2D shapes and using accurate positional language.

The children have enjoyed their learning this term and I look forward to learning with them again next year.

Reception

Reception have had an exciting half term learning about Bears. We have read 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic' by Gill Guile. We look at some facts about Brown Bears, Pandas, Sun Bears and Polar Bears. We compared the bears, where they live and what they eat. We learned some new vocabulary, hibernate and carnivore, and the children used these words in their written work. The children have really enjoyed the Bears topic. They have painted pictures of the different bears and created wonderful displays of their work.

In Maths, the children have learned about 2D and 3D shapes, part-whole models and the seasons/days of the week. They have played games such as pass the shape where they can describe the shapes using their new vocabulary, such as, curved, straight, vertices and vertex. The children engaged with lessons about the seasons, speaking about what the weather we get in each season.

The children have spent the last week of the term enjoying making some Christmas crafts and listening to Christmas music. They loved their Christmas lunch and wearing their Christmas jumpers. We have had a brilliant term and are looking forward to more learning in 2021.



Year 1

We began this half-term with the unit 'numbers to 20' where we were introduced to the numbers 11-20. We built on our understanding of numbers to 10 and practised counting and naming the tricky 'teen' numbers. We then discovered that the most efficient way of counting is to 'find ten' and count on. We came to see numbers between 10 and 20 as 'ten and a bit more' by making groups of ten with cubes, beads, tens frames and pictorial representations. We also learned to double and halve numbers to 20, using concrete manipulatives. In our second maths unit, we looked at 'addition and subtraction within 20'. In this unit, children were introduced to addition and subtraction using a story setting. We built on the idea of 'adding on' or 'taking away' one number to or from another and practised this in many forms. We also learned how to use the 'make ten' strategy. We completed the unit with an investigation which involved passengers getting on and off a bus to and we used concrete manipulatives and pictorial representations to apply the strategies we learnt this term to solve the problem..

Our topic in Creative Curriculum this half term has been Toys.

We started by working as a team to complete a giant jigsaw puzzle of a toy shop. We discussed what toys we could see in the picture and our favourite toys at home. Following on from that, we looked at a variety of different toys, old and new, and tried to decipher if these were from the past or present. We found out that most of the old toys were made from wood or material and didn't do anything. The newer toys were made out of plastic and a lot of them had batteries to make them work. We looked at a map in Geography to find out where in the world our toys were made. Did you know that Lego comes from Denmark and Playdough from America?

We then went on to learn the history of Bears. We liked learning about how the bear has changed over time and we could use these clues to place different bears on a timeline. We finally finished our topic by learning that in Victorian times not everyone had enough money to buy toys. Instead they made their own wooden peg dolls and boats. We learnt to make our own toy. We really enjoyed this topic.

For English this half term we read texts linked to toys 'Old Bear', 'Dogger' and 'Nothing' and became book detectives by trying to work out from the front cover or from a set of illustrations what the story could be about. We ordered illustrations to make a story map and then retold the story in our own words. We learned how to do a diary entry, for the toys in Old Bear to relate how they had rescued Old Bear from the loft and wrote instructions to show how this had been carried out. It was fun when we pretended to be Nothing (the toy who had been left behind when his family moved house) escaping from the attic and sitting on the roof. We wrote a list and used adjectives to describe all the things he might have seen at night. We have also been doing hand exercises and handwriting tasks daily to help us improve our writing presentation - we have had great fun with these!

This half term in science our topic was 'animals including humans'. We began the unit by learning about the different parts of the human body and had fun playing games that

helped us practise locating and labelling body parts. We then looked at our five senses (touch, taste, sight, smell and hearing) and identified which part of the body this sense was associated with. In the following weeks, we looked at each sense in more detail and explored these in relation to the classroom.

We have also been looking at Festivals of Light in our RE. We made rangoli patterns for Diwali and played the dreidel game for Hanukkah.



Year 2

How chilly it has been in Year 2 this half term! We had so much fun becoming polar explorers and visiting the Arctic! We even spotted a range of polar creatures around our classrooms. We then wrote setting descriptions using our senses and descriptive devices such as adjectives, expanded noun phrases and similes. We read the story 'Arctic Song' which was about two polar bear cubs who went on an adventure to search for the Whale's Song. We then wrote our own adventure stories focusing on the cub's thoughts and feelings, the use of time conjunctions and how our problems could be resolved. It was wonderful to read all the children's creative writing.

We have been so busy in maths this half term. We began our addition and subtraction blocks of learning which has included learning to draw and use number lines and partitioning to solve equations. Our counting forwards and backwards in tens and ones is so impressive! We have used this skill to help us with both our new addition and subtraction strategies. We have learnt about commutativity which means that you can swap numbers around and still get the same answer when you add but not when you subtract. We have also used our knowledge of addition and subtraction to find missing numbers using the inverse operation. We were so excited to take part in Barvember by

completing 'Bar Modelling Monday' activities every Monday in November. We looked at addition and subtraction bar models and used this to help us solve problems thinking carefully about the parts and whole.

We all got green fingers this half term in Year 2 in our science topic of plants! We enjoyed learning about different types of seeds and were able to sort and classify these by their size, colour and shape. It was interesting learning about the features of a plant and thinking about why each part of the plant is vital for survival. Our main investigation was to find out 'what is the optimum condition for growing plants?' We decided to do this investigation hydroponically similarly to how plants would grow in the Arctic. We found that the plant which had access to light, warmth and water as this was the healthiest plant. We then used the data which we had collected measuring the length of the plant's growth to create a bar graph and then wrote our scientific conclusions.

We are so proud of the hard work that all the children in Year 2 have shown this half term. We all hope you have a safe and relaxing Christmas break! We can't wait to see you all again in the New Year!



Year 3

Year 3 have been loving learning all about prehistoric Britain this term! Did you know that dogs were first kept as domesticated pets all the way back in the Stone Age? We used our analytical skills to look at Stone Age artefacts and decide where they belonged on a timeline. We loved creating our own model of Stonehenge out of salt dough whilst learning about the actual size of each of the rocks. We were blown away

when we found out that they weighed approximately 25 tonnes each! We used our geographical skills to locate Stone Age settlements in England including Stonehenge.

In English, we have enjoyed reading a variety of texts based on the Stone Age. We particularly enjoyed reading 'The First Drawing' and how the first cave paintings may have come to be in existence. We practised our use of writing in paragraphs and using fronted adverbials to move the story forward in time before retelling the story in our own words. Our teachers were really impressed with the quality of our writing.

In maths, we have focused on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have worked really hard at improving our skills with formal written methods of addition and subtraction and have applied these skills when answering a variety of word problems. We have begun our learning journey with multiplication and division and have been developing our understanding of the 3x, 4x, 6x and 8x tables. We are really looking forward to continuing this learning journey after the Christmas break.

In science, we learnt all about rocks and soils. We found out about the three different types of rock and how rocks eventually become soil. We were also really surprised to learn that without soil, 90% of the food of supermarkets would not exist! We really enjoyed investigating the permeability and durability of different types of rock.

Also, in our reading sessions, we have focused on finding facts and details from the text, finding the meaning of unfamiliar words and sequencing key events in a text. We have really enjoyed our class reader texts and having the opportunity to read for pleasure as much as possible.

All the Year 3 staff are so proud of the children and how hard they have worked during this term. We want them to have a delightful and relaxing Christmas break and we cannot wait to see them back in the new year.



Year 4

Year 4 have been really excited to learn all about the Vikings! Did you know that they didn't actually wear horned helmets? Some of them were also peaceful farmers and settlers too. We discovered lots of stereotypes about the people of the time period

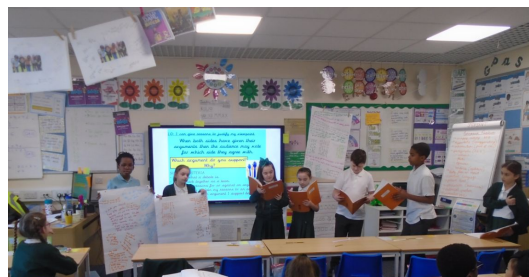
and had fun learning about the truth. We used our geography skills to find out which countries the Vikings came from and we wrote diaries from a Viking on that perilous journey to England. To enhance our understanding even more, we researched lots about the Vikings and created non-chronological report posters about them. We also studied our text 'The Littlest Viking' where the main character transported to modern times from 500AD! We wrote our own versions of the story where a modern-day girl teleported back in time to Viking England. We also wrote poetry and persuasive texts
this half term - it was very busy!

In maths, we have focused on multiplication and division. We have all really improved our times tables knowledge as we have learnt about the 3s, 6s, 9s, 4s, 8s and 11s! Some of us are Times Table Rock Stars or even Rock Heroes which means we can answer multiplication questions in under a second! Super speedy! We have spent a long time learning written methods for multiplication and division and have scaled numbers up and down.

In science, we learnt all about states of matter (solids, liquids and gases). Did you know that gases do actually weigh something? We discovered this fact in one of our lessons!

Also, in our reading sessions, we have focused on finding facts and details from the text and using our inference skills to be detectives and work out hidden meanings. We have really improved our ability to answer questions about a text and have been trying to read every chance we get!

All the Year 4 staff are incredibly proud of the children and how hard they have worked during this tricky term. We think they deserve a well-earned rest over the Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing them in the fresh, new year!



Year 5

Year 5 have had another busy half term! Continuing our exploration of the Victorian era, we used a range of sources to learn about schooling, inventions and punishments.

Using our previous knowledge, we then compared punishments across different periods of history, deciding which were the worst (some really were vile!) We also had fun debating whether the introduction of railways was a positive or negative change, giving our opinions from the perspective of different prominent figures of the time e.g. J.S.Sainsbury. We also finished reading *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty, which was an emotional rollercoaster and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

In English, Year 5 read the abridged autobiography of Nelson Mandela, 'Long Walk to Freedom' and discussed the themes and issues arising from the text, such as discrimination and apartheid. Using summarising and sequencing skills, we then planned and wrote our own autobiographies. Reliving funny stories from our childhood was great! After this, we spent some time learning Edward Lear limericks and laughing even more. Once we had read and analysed 'The Jumblies', we created our own nonsense characters and settings and put them into our own nonsense poem!

Our first topic in maths was multiplication and division. We used concrete and pictorial methods to explore factors and multiples such as factor rainbows. We have also consolidated our understanding of multiplying and dividing by 10,100 and 1000 by applying this to different areas of maths and problems. Then, we moved on to the area and perimeter of shapes. We enjoyed using tape measures and rulers to explore the perimeter of objects in the classroom and then challenged ourselves further by working with composite rectilinear shapes. Year 5 have also really impressed us with their maths reasoning this term!

In science, we have learnt all about the properties of different materials. There has been lots of vocabulary to learn in this topic and we used actions and quizzes to remember words such as: permeable, solution and transparent. Our highlights of this term's science learning include making casein plastic in an irreversible chemical reaction and separating materials through sieving, filtration, magnetic attraction and evaporation!

Well done to all of the pupils in Year 5 for their fantastic effort this half term. We hope you have a wonderful, well-deserved rest over the break and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year!



Year 6

Our Year sixes have been working hard this term and boy are we ready for a well-earned break!

We started this half term with a big question: “Does Climate Change affect me?” This was the challenge posed for our creative curriculum project that ties in very closely to the English novel we are studying, ‘Floodland’ by Marcus Sedgwick, which portrays a dystopian future where global warming has devastated the U.K., leaving many tracts of land flooded and blips of islands - inhabited by feral tribes - the only places where society and civilisation still survive ... barely! Throughout this half term, we have worked in small groups on a collaborative project. We have been learning how to work to a deadline in preparation for secondary school homework; organise our group’s distribution of tasks over a series of sessions; conduct independent research using information books and online resources; overcome the difficulty of cooperating when having to self-isolate as a year group by taking group discussions and research online; consider the organisational and presentational layout of their project; and practise our editing and proofreading. We have had such fun working together, learning about deforestation, rising sea levels, greenhouse gases, how what we buy and what we eat affects our planet. We are so proud of our projects.

In English, we have been reading Floodland. The novel tells the story of a young girl named Zoe who plans her own escape from the rising sea levels in Norwich. She eventually finds her way onto a strange island (Eels Island), which is dominated by danger. Throughout the story, we analysed the settings and different characters she encountered using our inference skills. We were challenged to create atmosphere when writing a setting description of Eels Island and produced a formal newspaper report about the discovery of a spy on the island.

In maths, we have been busy learning all about fractions! As part of this learning, we have been comparing and ordering fractions, converting between improper and mixed number fractions as well as applying our knowledge of BIDMAS (brackets, indices, division, multiplication, addition and subtraction) to solve problems involving fractions. We have also looked at geometry: we learnt how to plot coordinates in four quadrants and then built upon this knowledge when translating and reflecting shapes in all four quadrants.

Our topic in science has been light. We have focused on writing in-depth scientific conclusions by using PEEL (point, evidence, elaboration and link) to fully explain our findings. We planned and carried out an investigation to explore how an object's shadow is affected when it is moved closer to a light source. We discovered that an object's shadow becomes larger when nearer to the light source since shadows are formed when light is blocked by an object. We also explored the difference between reflection and refraction.

