

Learning together at home



Reception

We have had such a busy few weeks in Reception!

In Literacy, we began the half-term reading the story, 'Dougal's Deep-Sea Diary' by Simon Bartram. We revised the meaning of the word 'prediction' and wrote our own predictions for the story. Once we had listened to 'Dougal's Deep-Sea Diary', we then sequenced pictures from the book and wrote sentences to retell the story! We tried very hard to remember to include capital letters, finger spaces, full stops, conjunctions and describing words in our writing. In the story 'Dougal's Deep-Sea Diary', Dougal finds the lost city, Atlantis which is full of mermen and mermaids! We described the city of Atlantis and then had a go at drawing our own under the sea city. We wrote sentences about it, focusing on the use of describing words. 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' by Sarah Roberts was the second book we have used to develop our literacy skills this half term. Stanley is a plastic bag which has been dropped into the ocean. The sea creatures think that Stanley is food and try to eat him! We used this story to explore non-fiction writing. We created our own posters, explaining the effects dropping plastic into the ocean has on sea creatures and why it is important to keep our oceans clean! This week we have begun to learn about the British Isles. We have used the story, 'Katie Goes to London' by James Mayhew to learn about England. Katie has helped us explore the capital city of England; which we now know is London. We have learned about many famous landmarks in London, like Big Ben, the London Eye and Trafalgar Square. We have completed some non-fiction writing about these landmarks explaining what they are and why they are special. We have also drawn and labelled a garden/local park in England.

In Maths we have revised many concepts! We recapped the term 'pattern' and know that a pattern is a repeating sequence! We had a go at completing some 'Under the Sea' patterns and then created our own. Estimation is another concept we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring. We know that the word 'estimate' means to make a sensible guess. We estimated using sea creatures and compared our estimates with other estimates in the household. We have also explored finding one more and one less, and have used both actual objects and number lines to do this! Length is a further maths concept we have revised. Length is how long or short an object is. We were given some seaside objects, like

spades to order by length. We also went on a 'length hunt' around our house where we chose 3 objects and had to order them from the shortest to the longest. We then drew these objects in order of length and labelled them using the correct terminology.

In Understanding of the World we have learned about the effects of dropping plastic in the ocean and why it is so important to keep them clean. We used this worldwide issue to explore the benefits of recycling. We had a go at recycling different objects in our household according to the material they were made out of.

The last few weeks have been super fun and we are so proud of all the learning that is taking place in Reception! We are so very proud of the children, and the enthusiasm and dedication they demonstrate towards their learning! Keep up the wonderful work!



Year 1

We have been sharing books about 'Under the Sea' in English and began the term with a book called 'Commotion in the Ocean' a rhyming story which provides a lot of facts about sea creatures. We then had great fun using the text to write our own riddles for others to guess in 'Show and Tell' or on the comments in Google Classroom. We then read a book about 'Barry the Fish with Fingers' and shared the talents we have by making a poster because Barry the fish and Puffy the puffer fish had talents in the story. We have been trying to make our sentences more interesting by using appropriate and more than one adjective. We have also been looking at conversations the characters might have had and writing speech bubbles for them. In our Time Capsule we have saved our favourite Nursery Rhymes this week as one of the tasks too.

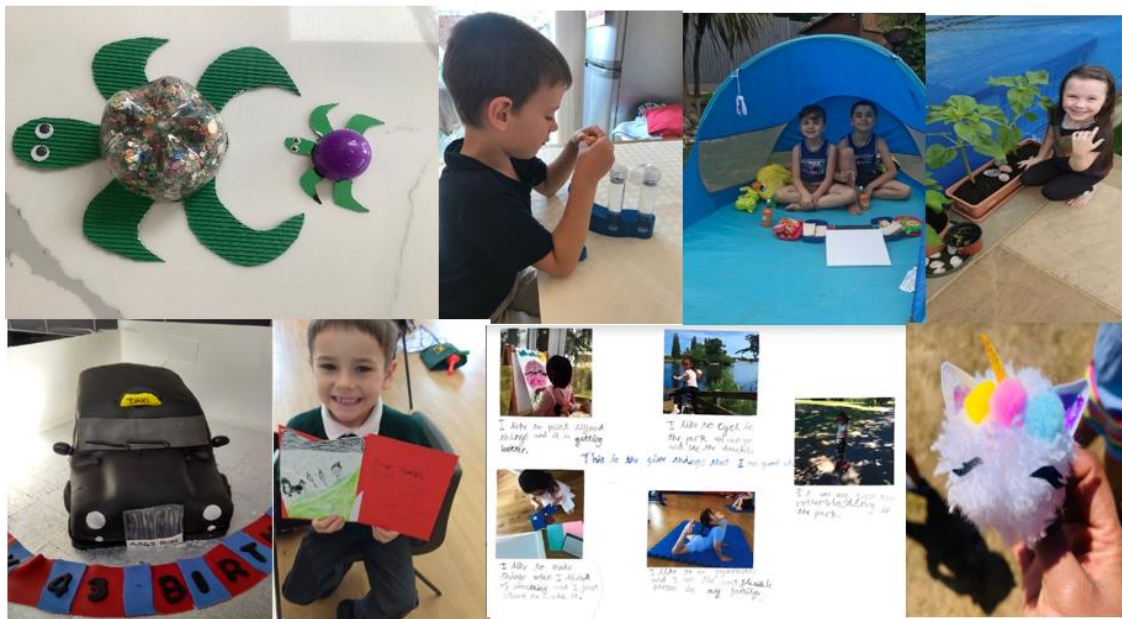
In Maths we have been revisiting 3D and 2D shapes by looking at the shape of faces. We have been using the shapes to explore repeating patterns and how these look in different

formations and combinations. We also learnt about capacity and volume and have been using the mathematical vocabulary that goes with this too.

In Creative Curriculum and Science we have been given a range of activities for us to select from so that we can lead our own learning and be more independent in this. The Creative Curriculum was linked to our Under the Sea topic in English suggested tasks to do that covered Geography, Art and DT. Our Science introduced the children to different types of animals and ways to describe different parts and aspects of the animals and then the children completed a quiz about this.

Our Maths and Phonic quizzes have been popular and the children have achieved impressive scores on all of these. Our Brain Teasers which we introduced for the first time this term have created a lot of interest alongside these. We did a comprehension about Canada which pleased Miss McClelland immensely too!

Our 'Show and Tell' sessions have been amazing and it is so lovely to see what the children are doing at home and to see all of their smiling faces when they show us how much fun they are having with their learning at home.



Year 2



Our first three weeks back in Year 2 have been so busy! We began our Creative Curriculum topic of 'The British Isles' and have been focused on British author Roald Dahl's 'The Twits'. In English, we wrote character descriptions of these two disgusting humans. We made sure to think carefully about the difference between appearance and personality and used expanded noun phrases. We discovered that The Twits love tricking each other! We read all about wormy spaghetti and glass eyeball pranks that were unbelievably cruel and inspired us to write our own new prank that Mr or Mrs Twit might play on each other! In Creative Curriculum we have focused on our geography skills. We began by finding out the difference between The British Isles, The United Kingdom and Great Britain and were able to identify these on a map. It was lots of fun when we researched different physical and human features on a map of The British Isles and were able to describe seasonal weather changes.

Our maths this half term has been focused on revising measurement which was very exciting! We began the term by learning about money including adding amounts and finding change. We have measured length in centimetres and metres and measured mass in grams and kilograms. It has been fantastic learning about the different units of measure and we have even practised comparing the volume of different containers.

We have really enjoyed beginning to learn about dinosaurs in science this half term! We began by sorting and comparing different dinosaurs and then learnt about life when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. It was fascinating finding out that some dinosaurs used rocks to help them digest their food.

We have loved learning about the concept of sharing in different religions during RE sessions and the similarities and differences between sharing in Christianity and

Hinduism. We have also enjoyed arithmetic quizzes, comprehension, PSHE, grammar and mental maths!

We have been very impressed with our weekly Show and Tell in Year 2! Children have shared their creative art work based on countries in The British Isles, baking, outdoor adventures and fascinating history projects. We are so incredibly proud of all of you! We miss you so much and hope that you and your families are keeping safe.

Year 3

In Year 3 we have continued with our Roman topic learning about Roman gods and goddesses and making our own fact files and Top Trump cards. We have also looked at Roman baths and explored the lives of different Roman characters on an interactive website.

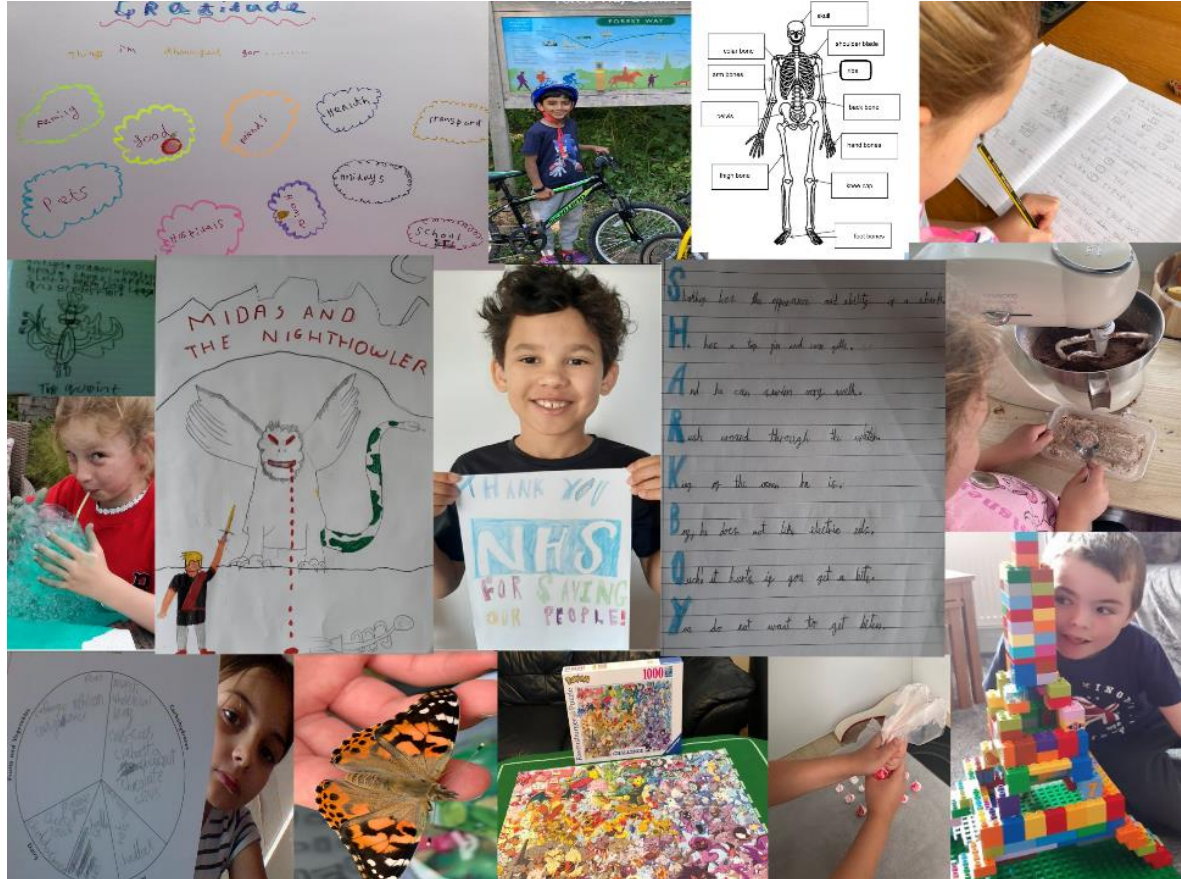
In English we re-read the myth about the founding of Rome: Romulus and Remus, and then looked at another myth, Perseus and Medusa. We wrote detailed descriptions of the Gorgon, Medusa. We then moved on to create our own mythical creatures and wrote non-chronological reports about them. Following this, we planned and wrote our own myths in 4 chapters. The teachers have really enjoyed reading these creative and descriptive stories and have been so impressed with the standard of writing and the way the children have applied their understanding of grammar and punctuation. This week, we have had a poetry focus and learnt about kennings, acrostics and haikus and had a go at writing our own. We've also looked at poems in these styles about Roman soldiers and have linked vocabulary, spelling and comprehension work to these. Each week we have a grammar quiz and, so far this term, have looked at prepositions, punctuating speech and the present perfect tense.

In Maths, we have had a times tables focus. The children have enjoyed Google Quizzes and practised their times tables facts, including related division facts and missing box problems. We held a Times Tables Rock Stars battle between the classes – this was very exciting as the classes fought to take the lead! The final winners were Kapoor, with Brunel in second place and Barfield coming third. This week, we are applying our times table knowledge to answer a variety of maths problems and are tackling a bumper quiz this Friday to test our understanding over the past few weeks. We have also continued taking part in the NatWest Money Monday sessions. In addition we have kept up with our mental maths and arithmetic skills with weekly Google Quizzes.

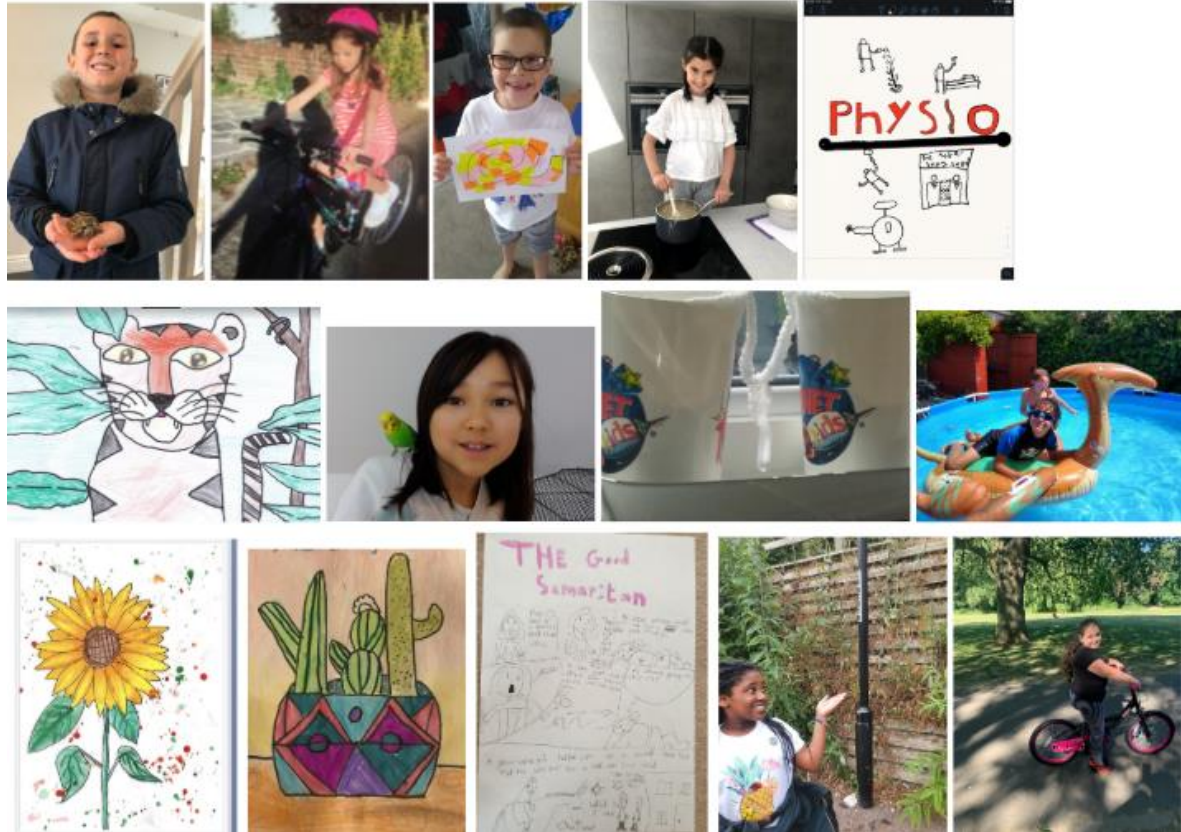
Our new topic in Science is Animals Including Humans and we have learnt about life processes, nutrition and the human skeleton. We managed to link this to our Roman topic too as, using our knowledge of nutrition, we planned a diet for a Roman soldier!

Our RE has been based around the life of St Paul and we have thought about gratitude, courage and helping others. In French we have learnt about colours, animals and food. Our PSHE has been all about achievements and goals.

Wow! What a lot of learning! On top of all this we have Show and Tell Fridays where we get to see so many fantastic examples of life-skills, hobbies and talents as well as examples of work completed at home. As always, the teachers are so proud of Year 3 for their fantastic efforts, perseverance and commitment and would like to thank all the grown-ups at home for their support too.



Year 4



Over the last few weeks, Year 4 have continued learning about the Tour de France. We have learnt about where the riders come from and plotted their home countries on a world map. We have been looking at grid references on maps too. In maths, we have revised efficient methods for addition and subtraction and applied them to problems. In English, we have written an explanation of the Tour de France so that others can share our new knowledge. In addition, we have been reading and listening to our new text 'The Bicycle Spy' which links to the Tour de France and is set during World War Two. Our science, computing, French, RE and PSHE learning has kept us busy in the afternoons and has got our creative juices flowing! We even beat Year 5 in a battle on Times Tables Rock Stars! Well done to Year 4 for their fantastic efforts over the last few weeks. We miss you all lots and hope you, and your families, are safe and well.

Year 5



This term, Year 5's topic is 'The Wild West' and over the last couple of weeks we have galloped into the world of cowboys, outlaws and Native American tribes! Much of our reading has been focused on the claim to land in North America during this period of time and we've enjoyed reading books about battles between European settlers and Native Americans, and then discussing the attitudes and morals around these conflicts.

In English, we have written complaint letters, wanted posters and advertisements from different perspectives. In a new task, every week, Year 5 are allowed to 'be the teachers' for one hour as they edit pieces of writing for grammar, punctuation and spelling which they have found fun, but trickier than expected!

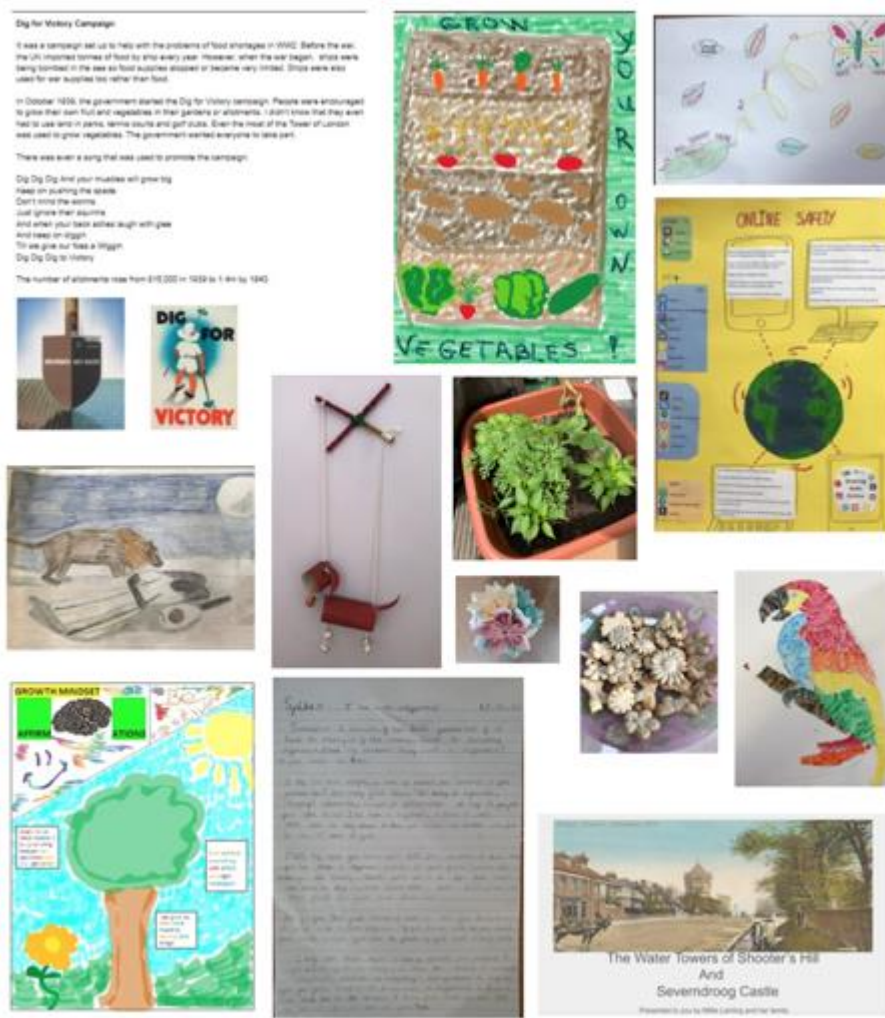
In maths, we have looked at decimals more closely and applied our prior knowledge of adding, subtracting, ordering, rounding and sequencing to this area. Year 5 have also 'been the teachers' in this subject too by identifying errors in arithmetic and reasoning questions and explaining how they could be corrected! In addition, we are developing our financial understanding every week as we watch the interesting live sessions presented by Natwest Money Sense.

We are also proud to be engaging with current affairs and the news and have learnt so much about the Black Lives Matter movement and why people are protesting. During Circle Time, we have had space to share our own thoughts and feelings on issues in the media currently, showing many of our Danson and British Values including: respect, tolerance and collaboration.

As well as this, we have begun our new topic of 'Animals Including Humans' in science, learnt about forgiveness in R.E., listened to Western music and created artwork inspired by it, learnt about French food and toys and revised internet safety rules! Wow! We are

so proud of all of the fantastic learning that Year 5 are completing. We miss you all and hope that you, your families and loved ones are keeping safe and well.

Year 6



As we enter into our last few weeks of our primary school life, Year 6 pupils have been focusing on preparing for the new chapter in our lives at a time when nothing seems normal! Our transition sessions – which are cross-curricular and cover English, creative curriculum, PSHE and science – are in full swing, and children have been exploring the kind of mindset needed to be successful wherever we go. Topics include: strange endings, new beginnings; planning your journey; personal safety; healthy mind; be awesome (growth mindset). We have started a new class read, the very timely *You Are Awesome* by Matthew Syed, which ties in with our transition sessions, alongside listening to the classic historical fiction *Carrie's War* by Nina Bawden, which links in nicely with our creative curriculum. In science, we have been making that crucial link between a healthy mind and healthy body by exploring the energy we get from various foods and the importance of healthy eating.

We have also begun collating our memories of our primary school years into collages as personal mementoes, adding photos and anecdotes to pages created for each year of school. Online MoneySense lessons have enabled us to practise connecting safely with

others across different social media platforms, and with regular discussions and an online safety quiz taken to keep important learning about responsible online activity in the forefront of our minds. Most recently, we have been considering the positive financial impact of energy-saving behaviour in our NatWest sessions. Also, as we continue to study aspects of life during and post- World War Two, we are beginning to make links between the effects of the second world war on our country and daily life (both during and after the war), and the huge impact of coronavirus on our daily living and the wider economy today. Aspects studied so far include rationing, key events and post-war debt. Revision of prior learning in maths includes mental maths and arithmetic, various units of measurement (including time, length, weight, volume, capacity) and angles, with brain-melting challenges and investigations set at the end of the week to stretch our resilience and lateral-thinking!

We have had some fabulous history projects, and continue to enjoy Show and Tell on Fridays where the children share their amazing creativity and busyness: baking, origami, crafts, gardening, song writing ... French art investigations have been interesting too. It's been wonderful chatting with them in Google Classroom in between activities and assignments: we can tell many of them are most definitely growing into confident, independent learners who are ready for secondary school by the mature way in which they engage with adults, their peers and their learning. Keep it up Year 6! Let's finish on a high!