

# Learning together at school



## Celebration of the half term Autumn 1 2021

### Nursery

The children have settled into Nursery well. They have learnt about the rules and routines and have made lots of new friends.

Our topic has been 'All about Me'. We learnt all about what makes each person special and unique. The children created self portraits using paper plate craft and the interactive whiteboard. We then thought about being part of the Butterfly class and how we need to treat each other with respect and kindness.

In Literacy the children have been learning to identify and write their names. They have also been learning how to listen carefully and to ask and answer questions. The children have enjoyed many stories such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Errol's Garden' and their current favourite 'Room on the Broom'. We have also been learning and joining in with many songs including '5 Little Pumpkins' which you may have heard your little one singing at home.

In Maths we have been learning and joining in with many counting songs like the one mentioned above. We have also been learning about the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4. The children have been encouraged to create and discuss patterns using a wide variety of resources such as pegs, 2D shapes, coloured bears and cubes.

We have started to learn about the season of Autumn which we will be our topic next half term along with celebrations.

The children have made an excellent start to their school career and we are very proud of them.



## Reception

During this half term, we have settled into school life. We have learned the rules and routines of the classroom and the school. We have been really excited to visit different areas of the school for PE and lunch.

Our topic has been Ourselves/Family Traditions. We have enjoyed taking part in lots of activities based on this topic. We bought pictures from home and presented them to the class explaining who was in our families and some of the memories that we have with them. We have been practising writing our names and learning how to form some of our letters.

In Maths, we have been learning about patterns and the numbers 1-3. We have been practising our patterning with resources, such as, patterning bears, cubes and threading beads. Our activities for learning the numbers 1-3 included, using one to one correspondence to count a specified number of objects. We have also enjoyed using our hands or voices to make the correct number of sounds that matched a number card.

We have also learned about the seasons and in particular, Autumn. We have used the rakes and brooms to collect the leaves that have fallen from the trees around us. Once they had dried out, we used them to make pictures. We also used magnifying glasses to explore the different colours within the leaves. We enjoyed talking about pumpkins and pumpkin picking. We have cut some open to discuss the smell, feel and we used tweezers to collect the seeds from inside to build the muscles in our hands.

Our favourite thing to do in Reception is explore our wonderful woodland area. We have enjoyed making stick people and creating mud pies for the pirates.

We are looking forward to a well earned break and coming back to school ready to learn more about our new topic: Animals.

Have a wonderful half term! We are very proud of you for all of your hard work.



## Year 1

We have had a fantastic first half term in Year 1. We are really impressed with how the children have settled back into school life and the effort they have put into their learning.

In Maths this half term we have been focussing on numbers from 1-10. We have been exploring the different ways that we can make numbers and looking at doubling and halving. We have also been learning about 2-D and 3-D shapes and describing their properties. We have also been learning about positional and directional language, we enjoyed directing our friends around the classroom using words such as quarter turn, forwards and backwards.

In English, we have shared lots of stories including Six Dinner Sid and The Jolly Postman. We have practised our sentence writing, remembering capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We have also begun to look at different types of writing for example, letters and poems.

Our topic for Science this half term has been 'materials'. We have learnt lots of new vocabulary such as 'transparent' and 'opaque'. We looked at materials and sorted them according to their properties. One of our favourite lessons was when we tried to find out which materials could melt, we enjoyed seeing the chocolate and ice-cubes melt!

In Creative Curriculum we have been learning about Houses and Homes. We have learnt lots of new vocabulary and compared houses from the past to modern houses. We also looked at household items from the past and tried to guess what they were used for. We particularly found the chamber pot and the mangle interesting.

We hope you all have a wonderful and safe half term.



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the year and been very busy this term!

In English, Year 2 loved reading 'The Rainbow Bear' by Michael Morpurgo and exploring the rich vocabulary in the text. The text linked with this term's topic, The Arctic, which meant that we could make links in our learning and understand more about this fascinating place on Earth. We used 'The Rainbow Bear' to give us ideas for writing our own narrative, including all of the amazing adjectives and powerful verbs that we had practised using in full sentences. We have also found it fascinating to research about the lives of Inuit people living in the Arctic and produced factual non-chronological reports about them.

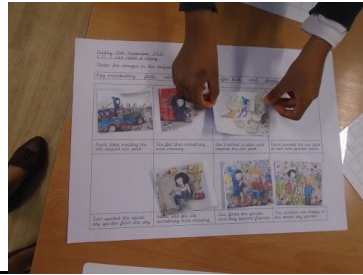
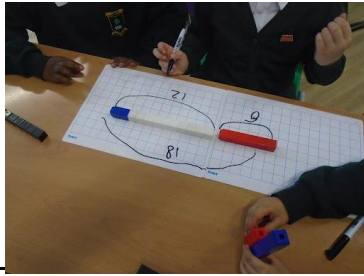
Our maths learning this half term has been just as fun! We have explored numbers and place value using counters and deines as well as partitioning. After this, we applied our understanding to add and subtract two digit numbers, first adding the ones and then the tens. Throughout our maths lessons, we have become experts at explaining our reasoning using the phrase 'If I know.... then I know...'. Recently, we have begun to look at measurements for example length. In the classroom, we found some objects that were shorter, longer than and exactly 1 metre and started measuring carefully in centimetres with rulers too.

Inspired by our CLPE reading about 'The Secret Sky Garden', Year 2 grew their own bean plants and observed the changes to the plant as it matured. In our science lessons, we labelled different parts of the plant and described the functions of these parts. We also investigated how well plants grow in different conditions such as cupboards and by the window.

Our creative curriculum topic took us to The Arctic and was focused on geography this half term. Our classrooms were taken over with icicles and snow flakes as we immersed ourselves in this topic! We learnt about where The Arctic is in the world and identified the

North and South Pole and equator on a map of the world as well as discussing the different climates. After this, we compared Welling to the Arctic by looking at the different human and physical features of the regions and used geographical vocabulary such as environment.

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this half term and have approached all of their learning with a positive attitude. Well done Year 2! We hope you have a fantastic half term.



### Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the new school year. In English, we have read a variety of engaging texts, including *The First Drawing* and *Cloud Tea Monkeys*. We developed our understanding of a variety of grammatical features to help us produce some excellent pieces of writing.

This half term we have focussed our learning on place value and more recently addition and subtraction. We have been introduced to the formal method of addition and subtraction which we have found a little tricky at times but we practised the power of 'yet' and succeeded in the end.

We have really enjoyed learning all about 'Stone Age to Iron Age' this half term and have already learned lots about this period of prehistory. We placed the period on a timeline and even took a look at a Mesolithic settlement. We cannot wait to continue learning about this after half term.

In science, we have had a brilliant time exploring forces and magnets. We learned that magnets have two poles, north and south, and opposite poles must be facing one another in order to attract. We loved taking part in a variety of investigations and look forward to continuing this next half term.

It has been an extremely busy first half term and we have all worked incredibly hard. We have all risen to the challenge of Year 3 and shown determination and resilience in our learning. A wonderful achievement Year 3!



## Year 4

Year 4 has had a fantastic beginning to the Year and we are thoroughly impressed with all of the amazing learning which has occurred within the first 7 weeks. We would also like to add that we are incredibly impressed with the way in which the children have settled into the Year 4 routine.

In English, we started the year by looking at a text called 'The Promise' and it is safe to say the children were hooked from the beginning. Analysing this book allowed us to discuss how seemingly small actions can create a big change, no matter how small they might appear. We also used this book as a stimulus to change our local environment and we have begun to develop our garden area. Continuing with English, we then read the book 'Beowulf and Grendel' (retold by John Harris) and this had fantastic links into our Creative Curriculum topic of the Anglo-Saxons. As part of our learning, we made inferences on what the book might be about by looking at the cover and reading the blurb. We then analysed a range of grammatical features which were used and discussed why the author has used them and the effect which this had. We used this book as a fantastic stimulus to write across a wide range of genres and we wrote a fantastic letter to inform! To finish our English learning this half term, we analysed a wide range of poetry and looked at the different features of poetry. We wrote a Kennings poem to describe the hideous creature Grendel and then performed them to become more confident in public speaking.

During our Maths lessons, we have explored place value to ten thousands and were able to recognise the value of each digit in a number. Following on from this, we rounded numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. We finished off our learning on Place Value by partitioning 4 digit numbers in a number of different ways. More recently, we have focussed on addition and subtraction and even looked at negative numbers! To carry our learning forward, we added and subtracted two 4 digit numbers with one exchange and then more than one exchange. The children have developed a deeper understanding of number and we even looked at converting units of measurement ready for next term.

The children have been thoroughly engrossed with our Creative Curriculum topic of the Anglo-Saxons and Scots this half term. We began the unit by looking at where the Anglo-Saxons came from and when they came to the UK. After this, we sequenced key events of the Anglo-Saxon period and discussed how chronological order is important. The children were absolutely enthralled to learn about the Gods and Goddesses which the Anglo-Saxons worshipped and as a result, we had some fantastic pieces of art to show in our books. We looked at how the Anglo-Saxons have influenced Britain by explaining some of their place names and we have also used a wide range of sources to understand the mystery of Sutton Hoo. To finish, we compared the significance of King Alfred the Great when compared to other kings in that time period. Like I said, we have been busy!

In Science, we have been incredibly busy learning about Sound and recognising how sounds get fainter the further away you get from the source. We have conducted experiments to see how the strength of a vibration impacts the volume of the sound made. We have learnt how sound travels through a medium to the ear and we discussed the inner workings of the ear also. The questions and discussion generated from this report has been absolutely superb and the children have really loved this unit.



## Year 5

Year 5 have had an excellent start to the new year and have settled into their new classes.

In English, we started the year by reading 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' (Usborne Young Reading). We used the text to analyse how the atmosphere can be created through effective words and phrases, and planned and wrote our own diaries in the role of Dr Jekyll. Following this, we explored the text 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty which links to our creative curriculum topic on the Victorians. The children used their best persuasive techniques to create advertisements to encourage people not to go to the workhouse. We used techniques such as rhetorical questions, imperative verbs, modal verbs, negative language and hyperbole.

During our maths lessons, we have explored place value to a million, rounding numbers and worked with negative numbers, using number lines to count through zero and find the difference between temperatures. After this, we reviewed and refined our accurate use of the written addition and subtraction methods (column method). We were able to explain when and why we needed to regroup numbers according to their place value. We

applied this to solve multi step problems and used the inverse operation to check calculations. Finally, we have finished the half term by exploring and interpreting different bars, charts, and reading two-way tables and timetables. Throughout our maths lessons, we have focused on explaining our reasoning in full sentences using the correct mathematical vocabulary.

Our Science lessons have taken us on an exploration of space. We have disputed theories about the shape of the planets and learning that the Earth is spherical. We have also learnt about the Earth's rotation and explained how day and night come about. The highlight of our Science lessons was finding out about the phases of the moon and representing them using Oreos!

In Creative Curriculum, we have travelled back in time to the Victorians. We have explored the effects of the Industrial Revolution and located on a world map the countries, which made up the British Empire. The children have found out about what life was like as a poor Victorian child and the types of jobs they would have done. Our learning has also taken us to the Victorian workhouse and we have found out about the appalling conditions and the strict rules that people had to follow there.

It has been a busy first half term and the children have all worked incredibly hard. They have all risen to the challenge of Year 5 and shown determination and resilience in their learning. A super achievement Year 5!



## Year 6

It's been an action-packed start to the academic year for Year Six!

In maths, we have been working with place value when reading, writing, comparing and ordering numbers up to 10,000,000. We have also developed our understanding of using the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Many of us found long division tricky at first, but we showed a growth mindset in lessons by persevering and we are now feeling much more confident about using this as a method when dividing.

In English, we have read Michael Morpurgo's *Kensuke's Kingdom*. As part of our learning, we made inferences about the main character, Michael, before writing a character description with a focus on using parentheses to add extra information as well as using precise expanded noun phrases. We also wrote a diary entry, as Michael, after the



traumatic events which led him to falling overboard and stranded in the middle of the ocean before waking up on an island.

In creative curriculum, we used atlases to identify the different oceans and continents on planet Earth. We also located some of the major cities on continents. We have been learning about South America as well as the Amazon rainforest. After learning about the importance of rainforests, we discussed the impact that destroying large parts of the Amazon, in order to create palm oil plantations, is having on our planet (such as reducing the amount of oxygen on Earth as well as the biodiversity in the Amazon).

In science, our topic this half term has been 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. As part of this, we've learnt about the different groups living things are classified into. We enjoyed the challenge of devising our own classification keys when classifying a range of animals. We set up an investigation to determine the conditions that mould grows best in using slices of bread; we were able to conclude that mould growth thrives in damp and dark conditions.

We are extremely proud of the children for all of their hard work so far! We look forward to welcoming them back after the break for another busy half term.

