

# Learning together at School

## Autumn Term 1



### Nursery

The children in the Nursery have been settling in and learning the rules and routines. The children have been amazing considering their recent experiences. We have been looking at the book 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers and learning all about the Earth and our place on it. This has complimented the theme of 'Ourselves' which we have been focusing on this half term. We have also been using the SCARF scheme of work to promote the values of Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship.



## Reception

We are very proud of all the children in Reception. They have settled in brilliantly to school life and are enjoying exploring the environment and trying new learning activities.

Our topic this half term has been, 'All About Me'. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know one another and finding out about each others' interests. We read stories such as, 'Here We Are', 'Elmer', 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' to explore our topic further. We discussed the planet Earth and all living things. We also talked about being unique and how we are all special. During circle time, we spoke about the choices people make and how they affect others. We then discussed how we can be a good friend to one another.

In Maths we have been learning about patterns and number. We practised our one to one correspondence and matched amounts to their correct written numeral. We also looked at various patterns, discussed the rule of these patterns and continued them. Some of us even had a go at making our own patterns and telling the class the rule of the pattern!

We have had such a fun half-term and we cannot wait until the children join us again for another half term of exciting learning.





## Year 1

The Year 1 children settled into their new year group really well and took on board the new routines that were in place to keep them safe. The first book that we explored as part of their settling in and getting back on track with learning at school was 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. We explored lots of different things about the Earth and how we all fit into this. We began a new maths programme which helped us to focus on how we think and talk about maths. It has helped us to find different ways to use practical equipment to help us to think more deeply about the maths we are learning, as well as using the equipment to solve problems. We have looked at bonds to numbers upto 10, subtraction and addition equations, patterns and shapes. We have Maths Meetings in the afternoon where we listen to maths songs and think about things we learnt in maths in Reception and recap maths we have learnt in Year 1, we think these are great fun! In English we have been reading and enjoying books that link to our topic on 'House and Homes'. We read 'Peace at Last' by Jill Murphy where Mr Bear is kept awake by noise in his home and we described characters and settings simply. Our second book was 'The Jolly Postman' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg where a Postman delivers letters, cards and pamphlets to stoy and nursery characters. This book was particularly exciting because the mail was in the book for us to look at and share. We also wrote our own letters to members of our family. We finished the half term with 'Six Dinner Sid' by Inga Moore which is about a cheeky cat who manages to pretend he has six owners so he can have six dinners but he gets found out. We thought about what the owners would think and wrote speech bubbles for them. In Science we have been thinking about and exploring the weather and seasonal changes. Our rain gauges and weather vanes that we made helped us to keep measurements of rainfall and wind direction which we were then able to discuss and compare. In Creative Curriculum we have been thinking about homes in the past and how they are the same or different to the ones we have now. We decided that we are so lucky to have all the interesting and exciting things we have in our homes today as well as the electrical items to save us time when we have to do housework! In RE we have been learning about Christianity and Judaism. We made a photo storyboard

of the Creation Story and were able to use our fantastic drama skills and then for harvest we made colourful 'thank you' plates. We have been keeping fit and healthy in PE and have learnt how to play lots of social distancing games which we can also play at break time. We have had a very busy but exciting and interesting half term and should be really proud of ourselves because our teachers are. Well done Year 1!

## Year 2



Wow! What a wonderful first half term we have had in Year 2! For our Arctic and Antarctic topic, we read the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. While reading this story, we wrote alternative beginnings, thinking about where the lost penguin came from and how he came to be on the boy's doorstep. We then wrote instructions to help the boy return the penguin to the South Pole and learnt how to use time conjunctions and imperative verbs. We have focused on phonics this half term and have concentrated on learning different Phase 5 digraphs including reading alien words and consonant blends. In maths, we have completed our place value block of learning. This has included; reading and writing numbers to 100 and representing objects to 100. We learnt about the place value of different digits in numbers and used this to help us order and compare groups of numbers. In our addition and subtraction block, we have begun learning about fact families and their related facts. This half term in science, we have learnt all about Animals including Humans. This has included learning about human and penguin life cycles and what both of these species need to survive. We have found out about the importance of exercise and a balanced diet and even came up with ideas for a healthy packed lunch! We have had fantastic PSHE lessons focusing on Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship. During these lessons, we have had the opportunities to: care for a plant and create our own learning line which shows our learning journey and helps us to become resilient. Well done Year 2 on a fantastic first half term! We are all so proud of you.

## Year 3



Year 3 have settled back in really well this half term. In English, we have been writing instructional texts about how to wash a woolly mammoth. It proved to be as difficult as it sounded! In maths, we have been learning all about number and place value. We were paying close attention to the value of all digits in three-digit numbers up to 1,000. We also developed our written addition and subtraction methods with numbers up to three digits.

In science, we have been learning all about forces and magnets. We have been learning all about push and pull forces and saw the power of magnetic attraction first hand. Our topic, The Stone Age, has been amazing so far as we have been learning all about the early humans that first came to Britain! We have also been learning how these early humans lived and what they did to secure shelter and survival. We found out that it was very different to our lives nowadays!

Mr Welsh, Mr Offer, Mrs King and Mr Barton are really proud of how well the children have settled in to Year 3 and the effort that they are putting into their work. Well done Year 3. Have a wonderful half term!

## Year 4



Children in Year 4 have been so excited to learn lots about the amazing Anglo-Saxons! (The photos show some of us ordering the history of Britain.) Most of our lessons, in all different subjects, have linked to the topic. Now, children know so many facts about the era and we have decided that the Anglo-Saxons could be considered to be settlers as well as invaders! Also, we have been doing lots of work on PSHE and learning about values, independence, relationships and respect. In maths, we have focused on place value and the operations of addition and subtraction. It has been brilliant to see the children revising prior learning and applying it to the new Year 4 content. Well done! In English, we wrote some fantastic letters from a character in our text, *The Geat: The Story of Beowulf and Grendel*. We enjoyed writing about the gruesome and gory parts of the tale and we reflected on how this story has been passed down since the Anglo-Saxon times. It has been a great start to the year and we can't wait to learn about the Vikings next half term!



## Year 5



Year 5 have had a fantastic first half term! We launched into space and learnt about Earth, the Moon and planets in our solar system. Doing whole class experiments with oreos to create phases of the moon and flour to test moon craters was fun! Our topic, The Victorians, has proven to be as vile as we predicted! We have also enjoyed learning about what life was like for children as well as advancements in industry and inventions during this era. Linking to our topic, we have produced diary entries in role as the infamous Dr Jekyll (or was it Mr Hyde?) as well as creating persuasive advertisements for the wicked workhouse, inspired by our class text 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. In maths, we have deepened our understanding of place value by using reasoning and problem solving as well. We also developed our written addition and subtraction methods to work with larger numbers to 100,000. During our PSHE lessons, we have been reflecting well on the SCARF and Danson Values and have had some particularly thoughtful discussions about friendships. Miss Hickmott, Miss Sims and Mrs Stephens are very proud that Year 5 have used their prior knowledge across all subjects to revise their learning and then applied this to Year 5 objectives. Well done Year 5!

[Year 6](#)



Rubbish! We have immersed ourselves in a huge mountain of it in Year 6 this half term, as we have delved into our first text, *Ada's Violin* - based on the true story of a world-famous orchestra that grew from a slum that lives on a landfill in Paraguay. Children have been writing diaries, comparing their lives and residential locations with those of the book (Cateura vs Welling), explored landfill and waste through poetry (writing cinquains), and this week have been finishing off their flashback narratives based on the story of Ada - the first violinist of the band. Reaching further out across South America, our geographical focus, we have compared and contrasted two riverside cities across 100 years (Manaus in Brazil vs London Docklands). Mouldy bread and the conditions that are ideal for micro-organisms to proliferate has been our latest scientific investigation as we learn about variation and classification, and the myriad types of plant and animal life on our planet, and the work of taxonomists. A lot of work has gone into revision of previous learning in maths, ensuring our basics are a firm foundation to build on: confidence working with numbers up to 10 million in various settings and configurations, looking at the properties of numbers and their relationships (e.g. factors, multiples, primes, square and cube numbers), fluency in using the four operations with them, and working on our formal long multiplication and long division methods has been the bulk of our mathematical learning this half term. We look forward to working with the numbers on the opposite end of the scale as we tackle fractions in Autumn 2! Year 6 pupils have made fantastic progress this half term in settling back into the routine of school, learning to adapt to new ways of playing well together, as well as grow in their role as the school's ambassadors, recognising the importance of being the best they can be and how that should impact their learning as well as their contribution to the life of Danson.