

# Learning together at school



## Celebration of the half term Summer 2021

### Nursery

This half term the Nursery have been learning about 'Growing'. We planted various seeds with varying degrees of success. We listened to lots of stories about growing and things that grow such as 'Jack & the Beanstalk' and 'Jasper's Beanstalk'. The children were measured and a height beanstalk created. We then went on to learn about a healthy balanced diet using the stories of 'Oliver's Vegetables' and 'Oliver's fruit Salad' as our focus. The children enjoyed making and eating their 'fruity faces'. The children learnt about story sequencing by retelling the story of 'The Enormous Turnip' with myself in the role of the turnip. This week we listened to the story of 'The Little Red Hen' and the children made their own bread roll. This half term the children have been focusing on writing their names using lower case letters (except for the initial letter) and learning the correct formation of those letters.





## Reception

Reception have had an exciting Half Term. We have been learning about 'The United Kingdom' and 'The Farm'. We have enjoyed various activities based on these topics. We have learned about different landmarks in and around the United Kingdom as well as looking at flags of the four countries: Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. More recently, we have been learning about the animals that live on the farm. We have been creating fact files about different animals. We listened to live recordings of the animals that we were learning about. We learned lots of facts about the different animals, including: what their babies are called, what they like to eat, if they produce food that we can eat, like milk or eggs, and what colours they are. We have had lots of fun creating our own stories using our small world farm animals in a tuff tray. In Maths, we have enjoyed improving our addition and subtraction skills as well as being introduced to money. We have been busy buying items from our class shop and looking at different coins. Finally, we have enjoyed preparing our home corners for our new topic, 'The Seaside.'



## Year 1

This half term we have been learning about pirates and finding out lots of interesting facts about them as well as sharing lots of pirate stories. We read a book called 'The Pirates Next Door' by Jonny Duddle and we had to present reasons for and against the pirates moving on to our school field for a while, by taking part in a drama technique called conscience alley. We wrote messages in bottles, after we found out that some pirates get left on desert islands if they upset their Captain by not keeping to the rules. 'The Night Pirates' by Peter Harris and Deborah Allwright was another very enjoyable book that we shared about a crew of girl pirates who disguise their ship by borrowing the front of a little boy's house and invite him to join their crew for an adventure. We thought about ways we could disguise our ship if we were a pirate and what we could use to do this. In science we have been learning about different types of plants - some of their names were very tricky to pronounce! We also learned about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and were able to look at different types of living creatures and sort them into sets according to their diet. In art we have learned how to draw parrots, made very colourful pirate ship pictures and Jolly Roger flags by using different media and techniques. We also made a giant treasure map and labelled this. For maths we have been learning about place value and how this looks when we represent this in different ways using base ten, part whole models and tens frames. We have been counting in tens and looking at numbers to 100. We have had a very busy but very exciting half term.



## Year 2

## Year 3

We have had a jam packed half term in Year 3. We have been producing some amazing writing based on the book, *The River Singers* by Tom Moorhouse and the amazing short story, *The Windmill Farmer*. We have also been using the outdoor spaces much more in school as the weather has begun to improve. We have been practising the 'Grounding' technique where we y focused on nothing but what was happening around us. This might have been a bird singing, a tree branch sawing in the breeze or even the clouds slowly moving across the sky. This really helped us to manage our emotions and really gave the whole year group an enhanced sense of calm. Further to this, we completed some lovely art work using nothing but natural materials from the field. This artwork was inspired by the amazing artist, Andy Goldsworthy. One group even attempted a portrait of Mr Welsh!



## Year 4

This half term, in Year 4, we have been reading a book called *The Bicycle Spy*, which has linked to our topic of the Tour de France. We have really enjoyed reading this book and have used it to write an explanation text to teach others about the Tour de France. We

have also written a persuasive letter to the president of France to ask him to reopen the Tour de France. We are looking forward to finishing this book after half term!

In science, we have been learning about the different teeth that humans have. We have conducted an 'eggsperiment' where we explored the effects that different liquids have on our teeth. The shells on the eggs act in a similar way to our teeth, so we were able to consider how these liquids could affect our teeth.

In Maths, we were using a book called 'Dougal's Deep-sea Diary' in an effort to help us tell the time. Dougal had a very eventful trip to Atlantis and we explored telling the time of these events, both in analogue and digital form. We were also introduced to 'The Angles' family. Mrs Right Angle, her husband Mr Obtuse, their Acute baby and their dog Reflex, who's always got a ball in his mouth! The family helped us to remember the angles and their sizes.

We have been doing weekly 'soundchecks' on Times Tables Rockstars. We're very pleased that all of our practising has paid off as our recall has gotten very speedy!



## Year 5

Over the last few weeks, Year 5 have read 'The Rabbits' by John Marsden and Shaun Tan. This picture book carried a hidden allegory about the impact of the European's discovery of Australia. We enjoyed exploring the themes and hidden meanings in the book as well as empathising with the characters. After reading the story, we explored language and created atmosphere within our writing. We also role-played conversations between characters, to support us with writing dialogue. Lastly, we planned, wrote and edited our own first-person narrative from the perspective of a native Aboriginal Australian.

In maths, we have learnt about different types of angles, practising turning our bodies to help us remember right angles, half turns and full turns. After this, we moved on to use a

protractor to measure and draw angles. Applying our knowledge of angles and degrees, we calculated missing angles on a straight line and around a point.

Our recent Science learning has included consolidation of the digestive system and teeth and eating. These were incredibly popular activities across the year group as we bit, ripped and chewed samples of food including bread, an apple and a sweet! We were then able to identify what the functions of different types of teeth are. Likewise, our lesson exploring the digestive system (where we modelled the process with a bag as a 'stomach', food and tights as 'intestines') was enjoyed by all. We then used this inspiration to write a diary entry as if we were a piece of food travelling through the human digestive system.

Year 5 have worked incredibly hard this term and we hope you all have a wonderful half term. We look forward to welcoming you back in the final term of Year 5!



## Year 6

In Year Six, we have started preparing ourselves for life beyond Danson, and at our new secondary schools, by completing lessons that will support us with this transition. We watched The Little Fish Theatre Company's production of 'Time and Place'. After watching the play, we enjoyed participating in an online workshop with the actors to discuss friendships, family relationships, personal safety and peer pressure.

In English, we have been enjoying reading Nina Bawden's *Carrie's War* and responding to the story through drama-based activities and by writing extended pieces, such as diary entries and letters, focusing on adopting the voice of the characters in the story. We also wrote our own narrative poems inspired by World War 2, carefully considering our word choices so that the vocabulary used conveyed a strong emotion and created a clear image in the reader's mind.

'Evolution and Inheritance' has been our topic in science. As part of this, we have learned all about the life of one of the most famous biologists: Charles Darwin. After gathering information about the significant events in his life using various sources of information, we wrote an informative biography.

We have demonstrated our maturity during weekly financial education lessons, which have involved considering our strengths and interests to determine which job roles might be suitable for us when we are older, interpreting a monthly bank statement and discussing the spending choices of fictional people to offer them advice about how they could manage their money more effectively.

We have worked very hard this half term and we are excited to make our final half term at Danson one to remember!

