

NEWS

Spring 2015 – Issue 7



Dear Parents & Carers

We have recently had our first 'Enabling Enterprise' day. The theme for this day was 'Moonbase Challenge' and it gave all pupils the opportunity to develop teamwork, thinking skills as well as their imagination. Please take a look at the photos later in the newsletter. We are planning another day on a different theme in the Summer term.

We are going to be running our first parenting class next half term. Eight parents will begin the course on Monday 2nd March. 'Promoting Happier Parenting' will run weekly every Monday for six weeks. If you are interested in the next course please see Ms. Young.

We continue to focus on children's behaviour and attitudes to learning. As a result of everyone's hard work we are continuing to see a big improvement. However, please continue to support us to ensure the school's expectations for learning are always met by the children.

Mr Lambert - Headteacher



RECEPTION

This half term the Reception children have been learning the story 'The Hungry Caterpillar'.

In Maths we have been learning about pattern and we have made repeated patterns using different resources. We have enjoyed taking part in singing assembly with Mrs Prentice and we have been learning lots of new songs.

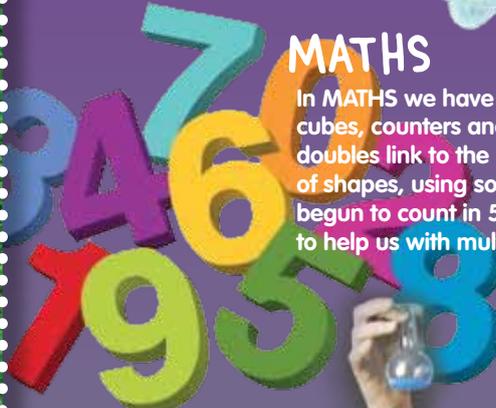
YEAR 1 ENGLISH

It has been a fantastic half term in Year 1! In ENGLISH, we have been looking at Visual Literacy based on the film, 'The Snowman'. We have learnt how to use amazing adjectives, cool connectives and a range of punctuation to write character and setting descriptions. We have also enjoyed role play activities and writing an informal letter.



MATHS

In MATHS we have learnt how to double and halve numbers using cubes, counters and bead strings to help us. Did you know that doubles link to the 2 times table? We found halves and quarters of shapes, using some delicious bread rolls to help us! We have begun to count in 5's and have used repeated addition and arrays to help us with multiplication.

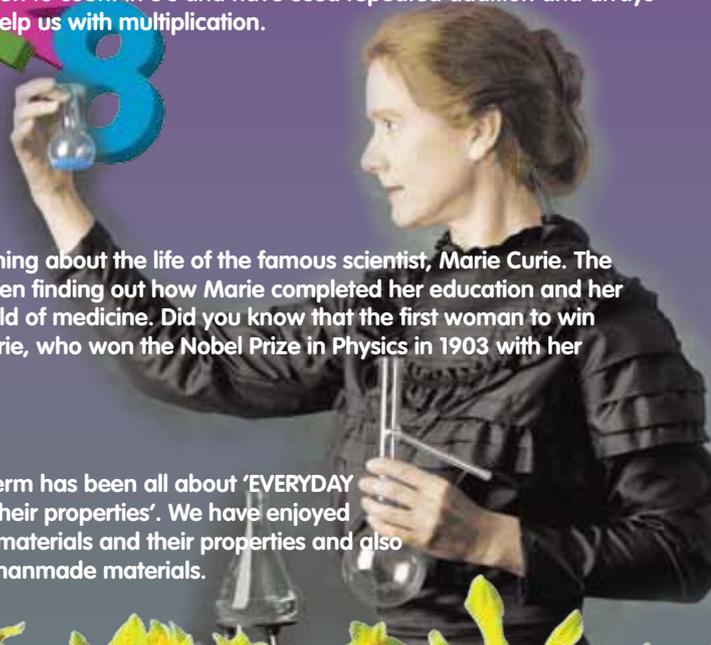


TOPIC

In Topic, we have been learning about the life of the famous scientist, Marie Curie. The most interesting part has been finding out how Marie completed her education and her great contributions in the field of medicine. Did you know that the first woman to win a Nobel Prize was Marie Curie, who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 with her husband, Pierre Curie?

SCIENCE

Our science work this half term has been all about 'EVERYDAY MATERIALS and describing their properties'. We have enjoyed exploring different types of materials and their properties and also the difference natural and manmade materials.



All Different All Equal All Achieving

YEAR 2 MATHS

The children began the term by learning all about division where they have grouped and shared and applied their new knowledge by solving word problems and showing their working out on a number line!

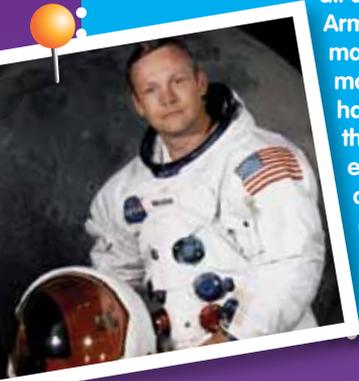
The children have also been learning about fractions in a hands on way – they had lots of fun cutting up buns and cakes into different fractions so that they could compare them and decide which piece they would rather eat.

Finally, the children in Year 2 have been finding out all about 3D shapes and their properties. The children even had the opportunity to build their very own 3D shapes using straws and blue tak – they were very creative!



HISTORY

This half term Year 2 have been learning all about Neil Armstrong – the first man to step onto the moon! The children have really embraced this topic and have enjoyed learning all about his life and his adventures to the moon and back!



ENGLISH

The children have been learning all about explanation texts by analysing different texts finding out their purpose, audience and thinking about the language features the text types has. The children then got to explore Wallace and Gromit through Visual Literacy which led to their final writing outcome – their very own explanation text titled “How to control the Techno Trousers”.

Our second unit of work has been based on Julia Donaldson and the lovely books she has written. The children have been exposed to wide range of her books and have really enjoyed writing in her unique style!



YEAR 3

ENGLISH

The children have been learning how to write their own adventure stories. We have discussed some of the adventure stories they enjoy reading and have also had the opportunity to do role play in order to explore how different characters feel. In order to help the children improve their writing we have been learning the different types of story openers they can use to begin sentences and some groups have even had a go at writing complex sentences.



MATHS

This half-term all of the children have continued to work hard to learn their times tables. We have also focused on fraction work in both Maths groups in relation to finding fractions of a shape and number, equivalent fractions, ordering fractions and simplifying fractions. For the second part of the term we focused on knowing our multiplication facts and being able to apply them to word problems.

TOPIC

Our History focus for this half-term was all about the Iron Age. As a year group we decided to give the children lots of practical lessons so that they could have more of an insight into life during this time. For instance, the children have drawn their own hill forts, designed their own Celtic outfits using different art materials and even had the opportunity to dye t-shirts using berries and plants like the Celts. This has provided the children with more opportunities to be creative and share good ideas within a team.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

This term our Artist-in-Residence Andrew Tims has been working with children from across the school to create artwork in response to the books they are reading in class.

Reception have been reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, and have produced artwork in response to the shapes and patterns which appear within the illustrations, using paint, charcoal and ink.

Year 1 have been reading *Handa's Hen* by Eileen Browne, and have created the animals, using collage techniques, that appear within the story.



Year 2 have been reading Julia Donaldson's *Room on the Broom* amongst other stories she has written, and have created their own collaborative 'dragons' using block printing techniques.

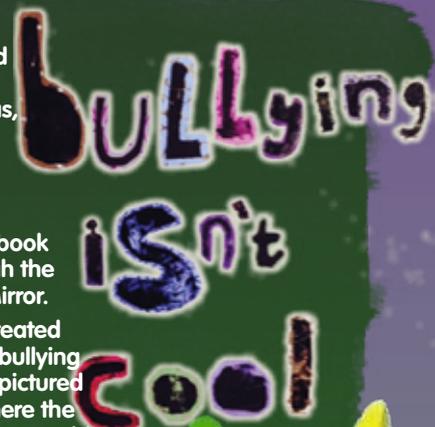
Year 5 have been reading Mufaro's *Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe, and have created artwork inspired by the African birds that feature in the story.

Later this term Andrew will be working with Years 3, 4 and 6 to continue focusing on creating artwork inspired by the books they are reading.

IMAGES: One of the stairwells at Chilwell is being transformed into a forest environment, using the artwork created by Year 3 in Autumn Term in response to the book they were reading, *The Tunnel* by Anthony Browne. There's still more artwork to be included in the forest – flying people,

walking birds and raining umbrellas, inspired by another Anthony Browne book – *Through the Magic Mirror*.

Year 6 created the anti-bullying posters, pictured here, where the children were able to share their opinions about bullying, and the harm this can cause to those who are being bullied.



YEAR 4

As a year group we have been studying Boudicca, the Celtic Warrior Queen.

The children have loved finding out about this powerful woman and how she nearly defeated the Roman army. We have also been learning about electricity and how it works. We have had great fun building circuits.

The children have also had lots of experience with story writing this half term when we learned how to write a story based on the 'Chronicles of Narnia'.



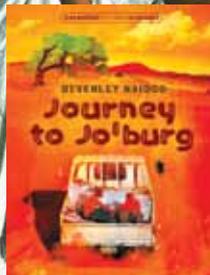
YEAR 5

Year 5 have been working very hard this half term

English

It has been a very exciting half term in year 5.

In English, we have been looking at stories from other cultures, 'Journey to Jo'burg' and 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters.' Through reading the books we explored the settings and culture, role played different scenarios and explored the characters feelings and their own points of view. This built up to us writing the story from a different character's point of view, using all the work we have been doing on adverbs, adjectives and pronouns to develop a new story.



Science

In science, we have been learning about materials. We have investigated the properties of materials and their uses including if they are conductors or insulators of electricity.

Topic

In topic, we have been learning about the Vikings. We have researched information about them and found out what the Vikings did and what their legacy is.

Maths

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. Using our knowledge of fractions, we have learnt to understand the relationship between all three areas. We really enjoyed making our own fraction walls and used these to solve our real-life problems.

1											
1/2					1/2						
1/3			1/3			1/3			1/3		
1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4		1/4	
1/5		1/5		1/5		1/5		1/5		1/5	
1/6		1/6		1/6		1/6		1/6		1/6	
1/8		1/8		1/8		1/8		1/8		1/8	
1/10		1/10		1/10		1/10		1/10		1/10	

Enabling Enterprise

On Friday 16th January, the whole school participated in a project day where the children were given the mission to plan and design a city on a new planet. They really enjoyed developing, creating and expressing their ideas and the final cities were fantastic! Beam me up Scottie!



YEAR 6

Starting the half term making a 'no bake Nutella' cheesecake, the Year 6 children began their instructions unit with a tasty treat. This was followed by analysing instruction texts for their features, performing market research, designing a cheesecake, planning a recipe and, ultimately, writing a set of instructions (recipe). This was a busy, in depth, English unit which was closely followed by a Recount unit starting with our exciting trip to Blists Hill Victorian Museum.

This trip had another purpose, it helped us with our Victorian study in Geography; we looked at the industry of the time, as well as using Victorian money and sampling some delightful Victorian sweets and not so delightful liquorice roots!

In our Maths sessions the children have been working hard in preparation for the upcoming SATs; they have been attending booster sessions and using ICT to assist them in their learning. The teachers have been really pleased and impressed with their positive attitudes and willingness to learn.

Science has been electric! We have been learning about different circuits and their components as well as investigating insulators and conductors. The knowledge has been flowing!

In addition to all of this fantastic learning, we took part in the 'Enabling Enterprises' Challenge day in which the children had to work in teams to design and build a new civilisation on a planet called Eutopia. Many skills were required to succeed in the task including teamwork, imagination and ability to compromise. Year 6 performed fantastically in this venture and we were stunned with the quality of their final creations.

Another fantastic half-term from Year 6 and we are looking forward to the remainder of the Year.



Promoting Happier Parenting (PHP)

This is a 7 week programme for parents and carers with children 0-8 years. We meet one day per week for 2 hours, looking at feelings, needs, talking and listening and looking at strategies for change. This programme is currently working with reception classes and will be rolled out to year 1 next term.

MOONBASE CHALLENGE DAY - ENABLING ENTERPRISE

With our Year 4 and 5 classes already enthusiastically working on Enabling Enterprise Lesson Time Projects, the whole school from Years 1 – 6 were invited to take part in their first ever Enterprise Challenge Day.

The Challenge: Operation Moonbase

Excitement filled the school hall as a 'Storm Trooper' gave details of their very important mission. The children, supported by their teachers, needed to work together, share their great ideas and use their imaginations to select the crew for a very special space adventure, which would see the enterprising teams designing and creating a brave new world in a far off galaxy!

The Results:

The fast paced day appealed to all classes, with mature and thoughtful discussions taking place as the potential crew candidates – their jobs and skills were evaluated and decisions were made. Imaginations ran wild – animals that laid eggs and produced milk, breathed fire to assist with cooking and provided super glue to builders were created to inhabit the new land. As teams, busy designing new exciting cities worked to tight deadlines, teachers noted how engaged all their students were in the challenge and how key skills were developing.

What staff/children said:

- This is great. All of the children are so enthused, so engaged. I am really enjoying seeing them work in this way together. Motivation and energy is high."- Year 1 Teacher
- "I'm really proud of what my team have achieved today. We've shared our ideas so well. I love our space city map. I've loved this day – I want to do it again!" – Year 3 pupil

Basketball

A massive well done to some of the children in the Basketball Club who came runner up in the Basketball tournament against other schools in our area. They played a fantastic, skilful and nail biting game!



ATTENDANCE

Attendance Autumn Term was 94.60% - down a little due to illness. We need your continued support to raise attendance in school.

'Missing School is Missing Out'

Best attendance Autumn Term
KS1 - 2B and KS2 - 3T both class received a cheque for £100.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Reminder to all parents that may have a child that will be due to start Reception in September 2015 that they will need to make an application.

The closing date for the receipt of applications was the 15th January 2015.

If you have not made an application please submit on line by visiting www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions or request an application form from your child's nursery or the school you wish your child to attend. This is very important if you do not want your child to miss out on a place in your preferred school for September 2015.

World Book Day
5TH MARCH 2015

EXCITING NEWS!
Come to school dressed as your favourite book character on the 5th March For Book Day

