

SPRING 1 END OF TERM NEWSLETTERS

NURSERY

This half term we have continued to map and retell our stories which the children have been very good at and have also been working on mapping life cycles. We have begun to sequence our nursery rhymes starting with Humpty Dumpty. The children are also starting to get to grips with what a rhyme is and we have made our own Humpty Dumpty which was lots of messy fun!

In maths, not only have we been working on capacity, height and length but we have continued to focus on counting. This worked very well while counting the legs of Anansi and his son's legs. We later made them to display in the classroom.

We are also continuing with our phase one phonics which we are all enjoying, especially body percussion. Along with this we have covered celebrations in R.E learning all about Chinese New Year as well as Persian New Year and Holi, a Hindu festival. This week the children joined in with the whole school making a paper chain for children's mental health week.

Enjoy the half term break we are sure the children will be raring to go when we come back



RECEPTION

This half-term has been the most creative and exciting term that we have had so far in Reception! We have loved watching the children flourish and develop their confidence and skills in all areas.

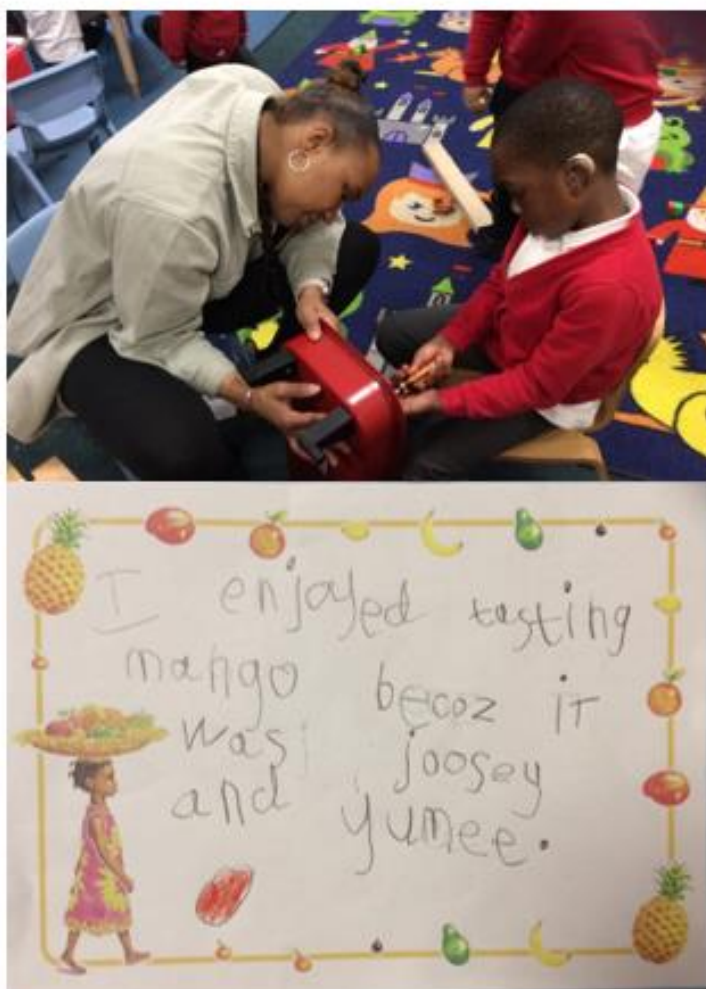
As a class we have loved reading the story of Handa's Surprise, through this story we were able to explore a different culture, learn about and tasted a variety of different fruits and researched and produced a fact file about African animals. Alongside this work, as part of our Understanding the World topic, we developed our understanding of other cultures by comparing and contrasting the life of children in Africa to that of our own.

In maths the children have been working hard developing their understanding of number sense. We have been linking the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value, counting beyond ten, comparing number, and exploring composition of numbers 5-8. In addition to this, the children have been developing their understanding of the one more/one less of numbers to 10 and combining two groups of numbers. They have also commenced a unit of learning focused on measurement, specifically capacity and mass. All this in 6 weeks! The children have blown us away with their mathematical reasoning skills, especially when solving problems associated with addition and subtraction.

At the beginning of February, we celebrated Chinese New Year; we looked at how this is celebrated, listened to the traditional Chinese New Year story, examined traditional clothing, and even did some dragon and lion dancing! We continued our theme of celebration by exploring the Persian New Year and looked at the Festival of Holi. The children tapped into their creative natures and thoroughly enjoyed creating some wonderful Rangoli patterns of their own.

Have a lovely break and we all look forward to an action-packed Spring 2.

Miss Jacob and Miss Shaheen.



YEAR 1

The children in Year 1 have done SO much learning this half term and have worked incredibly hard: being imaginative, challenging themselves, aiming for greater depth and having a positive attitude towards their learning. During this half term, we have been reading 'Wild' by Emily Hughes and have used her style of writing to create our own story. Year 1 have all become authors of their own book. They had amazing ideas to put into their own stories and illustrated their own pictures. It was wonderful to see the learning children have been doing in phonics crossing over into their writing. They then celebrated their learning by launching their own books on their very own 'Year 1 Book launch'.

The children have been using different representations in Maths to show their number bonds to 20. They have become confident in using ten frames, part whole models and number lines to answer their number sentences. Year 1 have started to draw their own pictograms to represent the equations and find similarities and differences. They have also been focusing on their doubles and knowing the doubles song has become a super hit in the Year 1 classroom.

In RE, they have been learning about Prayer in Islam. They know the different elements of Prayer, why Muslims pray and how they pray. They have tried doing it themselves and have said that it makes them calm and peaceful. Some children had the opportunity to wear Islamic attire and see how it feels to wear it.

In science, the children really enjoyed learning about the Antarctic. They particularly enjoyed the experiments where they used thermometers to test out which material keeps the hot water warmest the longest. Furthermore, they made their own fact files for different polar animals.

Finally, they have been learning about Rio de Vida and the South American culture. They have been creating our own carnival masks and posters. Year 1 loved wearing their masks whilst they had their own class carnival. They have also looked at Argentina and have baked Argentinian cookies to celebrate the end of our Rio de Vida journey.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back for more fun learning in Spring 2.

Miss Atiya and the Year 1 team!



YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a great half term and I am very proud of them all. They have worked incredibly hard and shown real commitment to their learning. Well done Year 2!

Children have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Here Comes Frankie', which has been our literacy text. They have all worked really hard on improving their handwriting and producing more writing in their books. Year 2 have written lots of stories and focused on including capital letters, full stops and conjunctions, which help to make their writing flow. Children have also been developing their editing skills, so they can improve their writing.

In Maths, we have focused on multiplication and division, and the relationship between them. Children have drawn arrays, put objects into equal groups and solved word problems, whilst embedding their 2, 5 and 10 x tables.

Their times table chanting is amazing and they are all working hard on recalling the multiplication facts in the three times tables.

In Geography, we have been learning about the differences between a sea and an ocean and located oceans around the world on a map, before writing a report on the different oceans.

During R.E, we focused on the question, 'Does praying at regular intervals help a Muslim in their everyday life?' This led to many discussions around commitment and whether all religious people show their commitment to God in the same way?

The children chose to make a commitment of their own to improve their health by exercising regularly. This ties in with our Science topic where children were learning how to keep healthy. Throughout the day, when they hear the chime, all of the children have to stand up and do star jumps, until they can no longer hear the chime. The children particularly enjoy this as they said, 'It makes us stronger.'

Amongst all of our learning, children have been participating in 'African Drumming' sessions, singing lessons and they have started learning French, which they have all participated in, with great enthusiasm. Art was a real favourite where children produced lots of different patterns, using collage, spirals and different mark making.

As the term draws to a close, we would like to thank you all for your continued support. We hope all the children have enjoyed the half term as much as we have and that you all have a restful break. We look forward to the second half of the term as we head towards Easter!

The Year 2 Team :)



YEAR 3

This term the children in year 3 did amazing learning. They started off the term motivated and ready to learn and settled into their new routines very quickly.

In English, year 3 had fun reading and writing about 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. We loved how 'funny and clever' Mr Fox was and wrote a report about the incidence regarding Mr Fox's tail being shot. We also shared a lot of the 'Just So Stories' which inspired us to create our own story following a similar structure.

In maths, we looked at multiplication and division as well as measuring length which the children enjoyed immensely. We enjoyed using rulers and the metre stick to measure things in and around our class.

In RE, we discussed some of the miracles of Jesus and discussed whether stories had to be real to be meaningful, which led to a fantastic discussion about other stories such as fables and fairy tales.

PSHE and P4C have both given us the opportunity to dig deeper into our own thoughts and opinions about the world. It made us really think about what we believed/thought. We found it interesting how our thoughts changed when someone had a different opinion.

In science and geography, we explored learning around the topic of predators. We found learning about predators in the animal kingdom very fascinating. Additionally, the predators in the plant world surprised us when we discovered some plants were carnivorous and many were parasites. Furthermore, we found it amazing how different predators were equipped with varying adaptations which made them perfect for their lifestyle and dietary needs.

One of our most memorable events from this term, has to be our trip to the Horniman Museum. We got to see jelly fish, sea horses and many other fish which have adapted as a result of their lifestyle and diet. We also got to see stuffed Animals from around the world as well as a huge bunny that was the same size of a small child.

Well done Year 3 for an amazing term. We look forward to seeing you all again after the half term.



YEAR 4

Year 4 has had a great half term, studying our book 'The Bluest of Blues' and the deep dark depths of our oceans. We have completed some fantastic pieces of writing, including an autobiography, job application, and diary entry in character.

In Maths, we have solidified our learning around multiplication and division, including looking at formal written methods - plus almost-daily sessions on Times Tables

Rockstar's! By June, we are hoping to all be completely fluent in multiplication and division, ready for our times tables test.



In Geography, we have been identifying seas and oceans - as well as the location of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn on maps, The Great Barrier Reef - including environmental concerns it faces, and the water cycle. We've even made time for BBC's Blue Planet!

One of the big questions we pondered in Philosophy for Children this half term was, 'Is it ever okay to lie?' This discussion also sparked a series of philosophical ponderings: What is family? Should we always forgive family? Is it fair that some people are born into royalty? What would the world be like if everyone was generous? and

Should everyone have a right to privacy?

Amongst all of our learning, we squeezed in a trip to the Horniman Museum to see the aquarium, where we observed poison dart frogs and tropical tree frogs, clown fish, and jellyfish.

We hope all the children have enjoyed the half term as much as we have and that you all have a restful break. We look forward to the second half of the term as we head towards Easter!

The Year 4 Team :)

YEAR 5



Well done, Year 5! I can't believe that we are now half of the way through the academic year!



During this half term, we have immersed ourselves in the topic 'Pharaohs', including visiting the British Museum to see ancient artefacts and mummies in real life! Some of our favourite activities were: acting as detectives to uncover and identify fingerprints; role-playing and explaining the mummification process; learning about the importance of the River Nile; mapping and stepping non-chronological reports; taking a virtual tour of Egypt; and, of course, immersing ourselves in our class book, 'The Red Pyramid', which was full of humour, facts, twists and turns!



In English, we have used our class book to inspire our own adventure stories full of suspense and mystery, which turned out to be some of the best pieces of writing we have written so far. We've practised using relative clauses, punctuation for effect, and really focused on improving our vocabulary choices (we've truly banished boring words!).



In Maths, we have worked on multiplication & division and returned to fractions, applying these multiplication and division skills to fractions and mixed numbers. We have all worked extremely hard, challenging ourselves to become experts at using the formal column multiplication and bus stop division methods. We've spent lots of spare moments practising our times tables on Hit the Button to see who can get the highest score in the class! Every little helps.



As part of our Science topic, we have investigated Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man theory, taken on the role of forensic detectives to identify fingerprints, and researched history's most influential scientists and inventors.

What did you enjoy learning this half term?

"I loved writing our stories; my imagination is growing bigger" - Lev

"I enjoyed learning about fingerprinting in science" - Peter

"I enjoyed learning how to use a fraction of an amount to find the whole" - Keiran

"I enjoyed learning some new French words!" - Bertie



We hope you have enjoyed the half term as much as we have. Have a wonderful and relaxing February half term break - perhaps you'll spend some time finishing the Red Pyramid?

Miss Dooley and Ms Harris :)

YEAR 6

Another busy half term in Year 6 with the children completing lots of learning and activities both in school and out of school. Our core text of *Clockwork* by Philip Pullman has had the children fully engaged and they have enjoyed all the events that have unfolded throughout the story. Roni commented on "how it was a murder mystery that made them always wanting to know what happened next." The story led to some wonderful writing where the children have completed newspaper articles, balanced arguments and letters.

The children have been very fortunate to be involved with additional activities this half term too. We have now completed our work with M-Set (a project which the children started in Year 5) and were fortunate enough to visit UEL as part of this work. The children worked with drama students to create their own



piece of drama based on different emotions and feelings. The children mentioned how much they



'enjoyed acting and learning how to perform.' We also had a trip to the East London Baptist church where the children learnt about the life and teachings of Jesus through an interactive set of workshops, which was enjoyed by all. Jessie said that "the interactive quizzes on Jesus helped her to learn more about his life and work." Our final project of the half term, which will continue for the rest of the year, has been with the Bank of England where the children learnt about the history of money and will

be working towards creating their own products that they will sell. Stay tuned to hear more about this project!

Thank you to all parents who attended parent consultations. We passed on the importance of the next few weeks and how we will be preparing the children for their SATs which start on Tuesday 9th May 2023.

Have a lovely half term break!

Mr Dunford and the Year 6 team

