



Children and adults are at the heart of our school;
Our school is at the heart of our community.

December Learning Newsletter

Cygnets

We really enjoyed a science experiment that we took part in called PUMPKINCANO! We made predictions about what we thought was going to happen and then got to mix the ingredients to watch the pumpkin explode.

We also learnt all about weddings as part of our 'Celebrations about the world' theme. We got to design our own wedding invitations, weddings cakes and wedding dresses. We used different colour fabrics to design these.

We have really enjoyed this term and are so proud of all the Cygnets in our class. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and we will see you all in the New Year!



Cygnets

During Autumn term, Cygnets have been enjoying their learning and having a lot of fun. We have been learning about the changing seasons and the differences between Autumn and Winter. We were even lucky enough to see a little bit of snow! One of our favourite things was the ice melting investigation where we had to use different substances to work out what melted the ice the quickest.

We have been developing our fine motor skills and mark making by practising writing our names in the snow! We have also been exploring the world around us by using different tools and objects to melt ice with frozen objects inside.



Reception

Reception have had a very busy half term learning all about 'Celebrations'. During our 'Light' week, we started by learning all about Diwali and how it is celebrated. We made Rangoli patterns, cards and diva lamps.

Alice said, "The patterns were colourful and make outdoors pretty".

We then learnt all about Bonfire Night and made some beautiful firework pictures. Our next week was all about 'Birthdays' – we made cards, counted out candles, decorated our role play, made party hats and played party games...



We have also loved going to forest school and learning new outdoors skills. During our 'Winter' week we enjoyed the little bit of snow on our winter walk, observed the seasonal changes, investigated ice and made hedgehog bread inspired by 'William's Winter Wish' when we learnt all about hibernation.

Reception

We worked incredibly hard learning all of the songs and parts for our Christmas Nativity. We hope all of our parents and carers enjoyed the show. Our children also went to see 'Snow White on Ice' in Milton Keynes. We are so proud of how beautifully our children represented Lakeview School.

Christmas is now in full flow and enhancing our learning to the fullest in Reception! We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – we will see you all after a restful break.



Year 1

What a wonderful Autumn term we have had in Year 1. These last few weeks have been packed full of exciting events and activities and we are, as always, impressed with Year 1's enthusiasm in everything we do. During our Science lessons, the children have been learning about the seasons and particularly focusing on the changes from Summer to Autumn. This has also contributed to helping them write a fact file all about Autumn in our English lessons. In maths the children have been using objects to help them learn all about division and sharing into equal groups.

As we completed our theme 'Who Am I?', we delivered our fabulous finish and were so overwhelmed by the amazing support from all the parents. The children were so excited to share their learning with their adults and we felt such positivity as the children took their parents on a journey of their learning.



Year 1.



Christmas Performance

The children have worked so hard preparing for the Christmas performance 'Tinsel and Tea towels'. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning the songs and dances. Whilst performing for their parents, they all showed fantastic confidence and their beaming smiles really told us just how proud they were of what they have achieved. Thank you Year 1 for working so hard on this performance and for all your hard work this term. You have wowed us every day and we are excited to continue our learning journey in Spring with you. Have a wonderful winter break.

Year 2

Year 2 have had an exciting and busy end to the term. The children have worked so hard in their Christmas performances and their dedication and confidence to learning and performing lines, songs and dance routines underpins the success that we have seen. We are all delighted to have received such positive feedback, with one parent saying:

"WOW what a performance from all the children! I had to fight the tears back really hard whilst watching them yesterday afternoon but I also loved how much I laughed too! The children were brilliant - and stars in the making!"

The children have also enjoyed the performances, with Holly, one of our Ofsted inspectors saying:

"The best bit was speaking and learning my lines and having fun as an inspector with Katy from Dragonflies!"

And, Ella, a singing soloist saying:

"Singing makes me feel happy. Performing in front of the adults made me feel scared but excited, and I loved singing in front of my Mum!"

Along with these festivities the children were able to design and create products to sell at the Christmas Fayre during Enterprise week. Dragonflies were influenced by their little helpers in class and their love of gnomes. The children demonstrated a range of DT skills and as you can imagine, the use of glitter caused quite a mess! Children in Butterflies made salt dough decorations inspired by gingerbread and the gingerbread man story.



Year 2

Odd socks day during anti-bullying week.

The children are currently finishing off their leaflets for Kenilworth Castle after finding out lots of information about Castle life, including the different jobs and how to attack and defend a castle. We look forward to welcoming parents/carers in to school for our Fab Finish where we will be hosting a Tudor Banquet and showcasing the children's fantastic learning this term.



Year 3

This half-term, Year 3 demonstrated their creative side as they successfully tackled two challenging DT projects. For their Christmas Enterprise project, the children from Wagtails and Kingfishers were able to evaluate a number of existing products that go on sale every Christmas before choosing their own design. After selecting the materials and equipment they would need and learning new skills such as drilling and sawing, the children set about making their products to a very high standard. The children accomplished so much during this project as they worked well together in small teams, persevered when things got more challenging and took responsibility to ensure their product looked amazing in order to make money for the school.



"I enjoyed Christmas Enterprise this term because we got to be creative with wood and gold spray paint!" Armaani

"I liked the Christmas Enterprise as I had fun and loved the designing." Isabel



Year 3

Finally, in English, Year 3 have been exploring the emotive topic of ocean plastic pollution. As an introduction to the topic, the Year 3 classrooms were affected by a huge tide of plastic waste which made the issue real for the children. They have learned how a piece of plastic dropped in the street can find its way into the sea, together with details such as how micro plastics make their way into the food chain, while exploring the effects on wildlife and the environment that plastic pollution causes. Thinking carefully about their audience, the children have gone on to plan and write persuasive leaflets that will be shared with the school and wider community. They have employed persuasive devices effectively and have included facts to support their arguments.

"I enjoyed learning about plastic pollution because I love animals. I felt sorry for them – we need to stop polluting our oceans." Sofia

"I liked using P.A.L.L. to think about our Purpose, Audience, Language and Layout, especially when learning to persuade the community to help stop plastic pollution." Melissa



Year 3

In maths, this half-term, the children have moved on from multiplication and division to learning about fractions. After learning about what a fraction is and understanding key vocabulary, the children enjoyed using resources to find fractions of numbers; comparing unit and non-unit fractions and discovering how equivalent fractions are found. In their lessons, the Wagtail and Kingfisher children enjoyed taking part in carousel activities as they applied their knowledge to solve real-life fraction problems. This term, the Year 3 children were also challenged by the Year 4 children in a 'Battle of the Bands' Times Table Rockstar competition. Although leading for much of the competition due to their commitment and hard work at home, Year 3 narrowly missed out in the closing hours of the competition.

"I enjoyed fractions when we were adding and subtracting. I also liked it when we made our own fraction wall." Bradley.

As part of our six-week DT unit, the Year 3 children were able to transfer their understanding of drilling and sawing to take on the ambitious project of making Stone Age roundhouses. After measuring and preparing the materials, the children were ready to assemble their structures with the assistance of their parents and carers during our 'Fabulous Finish' event earlier on in the month. This was a fantastic occasion as children and adults worked alongside each other to share ideas, overcome problems and build the walls and roof structure of the houses. A big thank you to all of the adults that were able to take time from busy schedules to attend the event. We look forward to the next one!

"I enjoyed making my round house because I liked doing the activity with my Dad and showing him how I learn at school." Emie

"My favourite part of this term was when parents were allowed to come in and make our roundhouses because we were working and having time with the family at the same time." Oliver



Year 4

Year 4 have had a very busy half term! To continue our learning about rainforest tribes, the children took part in an experience morning so they could really understand life in the rainforest. During the morning, they collected sticks, lit a fire, cooked porridge and ate it off a piece of bark. They also had to collect water from the other end of the field with just a small cup and fill a large container. In order to appreciate how hard it is to hunt for food, the children had to use a spear to catch fish. The final activity was designing and making a headdress for a tribal celebration and finishing off with some chalk paint on their faces. All of the children had an amazing morning and as a result of this, they were able to produce a very high quality piece of diary writing as if they were a child in the Yanomami tribe.



Year 4

To end our topic, the year 4 children had a surprise visit from Safari Stu who brought with him an array of wildlife that can be found in tropical rainforests. The adults were so proud of all the children as they showed respect for the visitor and animals, courage to hold or touch the animals and an incredible love of learning and curiosity. Willow Gallagher said "My favourite fact was that the tarantula had 8 eyes but couldn't actually see very well!"

We are very much looking forward to our next topic 'Rotten Romans'.



Year 5

In Year 5 this half term, we have really enjoyed completing a variety of Science experiments. Our focus has been forces and the children have been able to test how things move on different materials and have measured the force using a Newton Meter. They have also explored the force gravity by comparing how fast different objects drop and have discussed how their size, weight, shape and surface area impact this.

We had lots of fun creating our Enterprise products. The children really delved into the project and created their trees independently explaining each step carefully. They loved creating the decorations and seeing how these completely transformed their end product. The children were great at evaluating their work, they discussed what went well and what they needed to change e.g. size and shape of their decorations as these were very delicate to make.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Spurling and Mrs Heeley for organising a fantastic drama workshop, which linked in nicely with our English focus 'Romeo and Juliet'. The children absolutely loved performing freeze frames and acting out parts of the play.

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our Fabulous Finish, we hope the children's scones were delicious and you enjoyed seeing the children's art work and DT work from this term. The children loved showing off their sketch books and showing you work from previous years to share their progression.



Year 6



It has been a fantastic half-term in Year 6 where the children have fully immersed themselves in their learning and shown brilliant progress and results. We are always proud of their efforts, but this has never been truer than during their recent mock SATs where every child has given their all to show their absolute best.

'I really enjoyed the mock SATs because I got to challenge myself and aim for Greater Depth'- Jacob

'I thought they would be harder than they were- it was just a normal test'- Lily

One of the many learning highlights was the DT project for the Christmas Fayre where we challenged the children to make complex structures out of wood. This required them to saw accurate lengths before fixing them at precise angles. Many were surprised just how tough the sawing proved to be but, with a little perseverance, everyone was able to create a finished product to be proud of.

'When we did DT, I found it a bit hard to cut the wood accurately but I found it easy to glue them together- Olivia

*'I enjoyed cutting and gluing and I'm proud of what I've done'-
Torin. 'Creating the calendars was a very fun experience because
we learnt many new skills like sawing, painting and much more'-
Callee*

Year 6



In English, the children wrote poetry linked to our class text 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick. Within their haiku, cinquain and narrative poems, they used a broad range of vivid and descriptive expanded noun phrases as well as a host of figurative language to bring their poems to life and tug on the emotions of the reader.

'I found counting the syllables hard but it was really fun to learn about' - Lissie

'It was fun to learn about different types of poems and trying to add figurative language to our work' - Jess

A new concept which the children have got to grips with is percentages and they have shown they can quickly and accurately find 1%, 10%, 25% and 50% before using these in combination to calculate other amounts. More than this, they have also started to create links between equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages, comparing between them.

All of their hard work was rewarded when they were able to show off their achievements to parents and families at our Fabulous Finish. With drama, DT, maths, PE, English, Art and lots more on display, there really was something for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the children's learning and for taking part in the art and maths challenges. *'I was nervous talking to the parents but I enjoyed telling them about PE' - Jamie* *'I really liked the fabulous finish because we got to show the parents all the work we have done so far' - Isla*