



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

Spring Term Learning Newsletter

Welcome to our first learning newsletter of 2022. Our children have all experienced their Stunning Starts and are engaged in learning about their topics.

Hot Chocolate Friday



Each Friday we commend and applaud our Stars of the Week and Values Champions during our Celebration assembly. Last week we launched Hot Chocolate Fridays - this is our reward for all the children who have achieved either award. Two children from every class will meet for a chat over hot chocolate and cookies with the Head Teacher. The first 'Hot Chocolate Friday' was a great success and the children absolutely loved it – as did Mrs Normanton. These will take place every Friday afternoon straight after lunch.

Cygnets

Cygnets have enjoyed learning all about 'Under the sea'. They have learnt about different sea creatures, thought about what it is like to swim under the sea and discussed about how important it is for us to look after our seas and oceans.



They have also loved exploring the outdoors at forest school and their outdoor area!



Newts & Tadpoles

Reception have had a wonderful start to the year learning all about 'Our World'.



We began by exploring what our world looks like, creating our own collages of land and sea and drawing maps to explore and find buried treasure! These have been very handy for our pirates in the role play area!



We have been working extra hard on our phonics in Reception and are so proud of how many children are starting to write words in their choosing learning time. We have also enjoyed reading and listening to lots of stories. Using QR codes, we can now select a whole range of books to listen to in our reading areas.



Frogs & Toads Stunning Start

We were so impressed with how the Year 1 children settled back into school after their very exciting Christmas break. They were so caring and eager to share their learning when Miss Gibbs and Mrs Owen returned to the classroom.

We had an amazing start to our topic 'Step back in Time' where the children got to experience school life in 1950. Jacob and Georgie said that they enjoyed looking at the photos from 1950 and talking to their friends about what they could see. Lots of the children said how much they loved wearing a shirt and tie as it made them feel like the big children in Year 5 and 6.



The children separated into a class of boys and a class of girls to take part in activities such as reading John and Janet books, PE, learning the ten times table by rote and writing on "chalk boards" during our Phonics lesson. Sofia said she really enjoyed feeling what it might've been like to write on chalkboards with chalk. Towards the end of the day they got to try spam and marmite sandwiches whilst watching an episode of Bill and Ben.



Frogs & Toads Stunning Start



Bluebelle "I liked the spam sandwiches because it tastes like ham".

Joseph "I didn't like the marmite sandwich because I did not like the sauce on it."

Eden "I think I liked spam sandwich because it like ham and sausage together".

Isobelle "I liked the colour of the marmite sandwich".

Jeremiah "I liked the spam sandwiches because it reminded me of turkey."

Felicity "I didn't like the spam because it was a bit like ham which I don't like."

At the end of the day we had reflection time and spoke about why school life has changed over time.

Emerson and Louis said they did not want to go to school in the past because they preferred the books in the present day and thought reading new books was fun.

Bella said she didn't like looking at the black and white photos and watching the black and white videos because she missed the colour.

Chloe said she liked being in a separate class from the boys.

Jacob said he thought the classrooms have changed over time so they are more fun and have lots of colour and pictures on the walls.

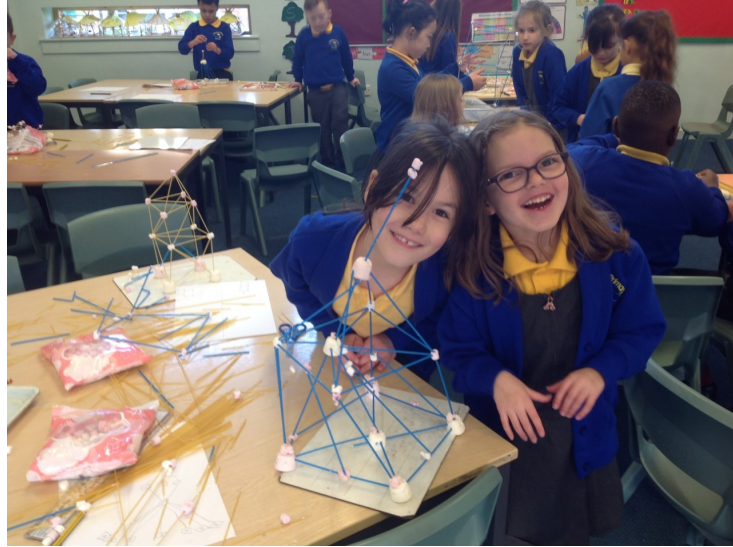


Butterflies & Dragonflies Stunning Start

Year 2 Children had a Stunning Start with the Great Fire of London!



Butterflies & Dragonflies Stunning Start

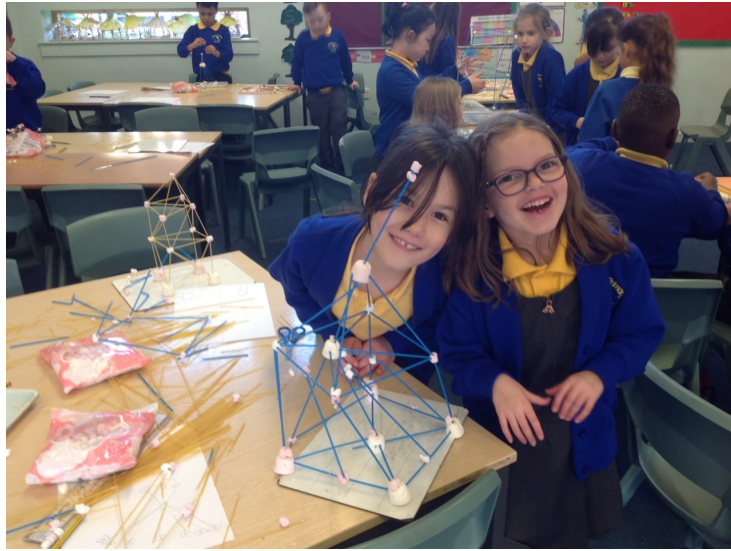


This term we have returned to school thinking about aspiration which is one of our school values as we thought about New Year Resolutions. Lois has set herself the aspiration of "completing harder work and taking on harder challenges!"

All of year 2 will review these at the end of this half term. Some are aspirational targets for outside of school. What are the aspirations of our adults? We would love to know some of them.

We were also welcomed back to school with the site of a time machine that had been built in our classrooms. We weren't sure where it had come from but were curious to know why it was there. We also answered lots of questions about our current stimulus for learning - The Great Fire of London. Neve, Eddie, Olivia and Anabelle really impressed us with the learning they had completed over the holidays so they could answer more questions and with more detail - well done to these children!

Butterflies & Dragonflies Stunning Start



After answering these questions we decided to be brave and enter the time machine and go back in time to 1666. Why 1666? Well 1666 was the year of the Great Fire. We went back in time and on arrival we met a man called Samuel Pepys. Just ask the year 2 children who he was and what he did. You will learn all about him at our mid term celebration (Wednesday 9th February 1.30 – 3pm) when you can visit our school museum where we will be sharing with you all the amazing things we have learnt already. We are so excited by the opportunity to run a re-enactment of the events of 1666.

We have also continued to enjoy the opportunities of Forest School, despite the cold and wet conditions—we have loved it! We hope you have loved our creations?

We are so proud of the learning that has taken place already and impressed with the added focus the children have displayed. Thank you for all of your support and we hope you will be able to make our mid term. celebration



Kingfishers & Wagtails Stunning Start



When the Year 3 children arrived on the first day of term, they were horrified to find police tape cordoning off their classrooms. As rumours circulated between the children, it became clear that an earthquake had struck Lakeview School the day before. Although the classrooms were out of bounds, we used this opportunity to explore earthquakes in the Creative Suite, while the classrooms were repaired and made safe.

In their first task, the Kingfisher and Wagtail children worked together to uncover clues about the events. As they pulled pictures and facts from a Mystery Box, the children demonstrated fantastic learning behaviours as they presented their clue and actively listened to what each other had to say. They used their inference skills to look at evidence to understand the features and effects of natural disasters, including earthquakes and tsunamis.

After break, the children were challenged to become earthquake architects and create a structure that would withstand an 'earthquake'. They looked at existing buildings from earthquake zones, such as Japan, and how these structures allow buildings to move. They were allowed to use spaghetti, marshmallows (of various sizes) and straws to represent the different structural and safety features of an earthquake proof structure. The children enjoyed the challenge to see how high they could build their towers, whilst also maintaining structural integrity.

Later, in a further team building exercise, the children learned what a seismograph is and then built their own. They were then able to record how powerful an 'earthquake' was and consider if their structures had been built correctly to withstand it. This was a fantastic introduction to Year 3's Active Planet topic in which the children will be learning about different natural disasters and where they occur in our world.



Herons & Mallards Stunning Start

Last Friday, year 4 turned into Romans for the day. The children got the chance to experience a range of Roman themed activities to kick start our history topic. They have all contributed to a class mosaic after learning all about them and these will be on display at our fabulous finish. We challenged the children to match Roman numerals to the equivalent digits and use these to solve mathematical problems. After finding out some interesting facts about the Roman diet, for instance, they liked to lounge whilst they were eating, the children were able to try some typical Roman foods. The bread and cheese went down very well however, they weren't so keen on the olives! In the afternoon, we created mini Roman peg dolls using cocktail sticks for spears. These are displayed in the classroom and the children are excited to bring them home at the end of the topic to show you. To end the stunning start, all children took part in some Roman dance from an external PE teacher.

"I really enjoyed dressing up because it was fun." Ava, Mallards

"I thought the food was yummy, even the olives." Braden, Mallards

"My favourite bit of the day was learning the Roman song." Francesca, Herons

"I loved making the Roman peg dolls because I designed the outfit." Pati, Herons



To continue our learning on Romans, the children will be writing their own version of the myth Romulus and Remus before starting to learn how to write a newspaper report. Keep an eye out for these in a future newsletter. Lastly, we are very excited to be able to go on our first school trip in a while to the Verulamium museum on 24th February.

In science we have begun to learn about electricity. The children experimented with scientific resources to light bulbs by correctly connecting the parts to create a circuit. All children managed to achieve this and were super proud of themselves! In the coming weeks, children will be making their own switches.

We look forward to seeing you all at our fabulous finish before Easter, details to follow.

Year 4 team

Hawks & Eagles Stunning Start

Year 5 have had a very exciting start to the new term! On the first day back ,the children were all Vikings for the day learning all about how the Vikings lived! We got to take on different Viking jobs and also had a chance at digging for Viking artefacts! We even practiced for battle using shields and bow and arrows! The children really enjoyed getting involved in all the different activities.

In English we have been looking at the poem called The Highwayman and writing lots of amazing description of the character of the Highwayman and the setting that the poem is based in. They then used all this detailed description to write their own poem based around a Highwayman!

In science we have begun learning about animals and their life cycles. They've researched different animals and their life cycles and compared and contrasted these life cycles.

We are excited to continue our learning in these topics over the term and then share this learning in our fabulous finish at the end of the term!



Swans & Cranes Stunning Start



Year 6 have made a great start to the new term. Our new topic, 'Blast from the Past!', began with travelling back to the times of the Ancient Mayan civilization with a visit from the Mayan Chief 'Big Nose' as our stunning start. It was a fantastic day where the children were immersed in the activities: they learned such as how to talk and count like a Mayan, used drama to find out more about the specific rituals and took part in some chocolate tasting. The chocolate certainly had a mixture of reviews from the Year 6's due to its bitter taste! Finally, the day concluded with a reenactment of the Mayan creation story where the whole year group were able to participate.

***'The thing that I liked most about our Mayan journey so far is how the Mayan visitor taught us the Mayan language, sacrifices and drama.'* Isla**

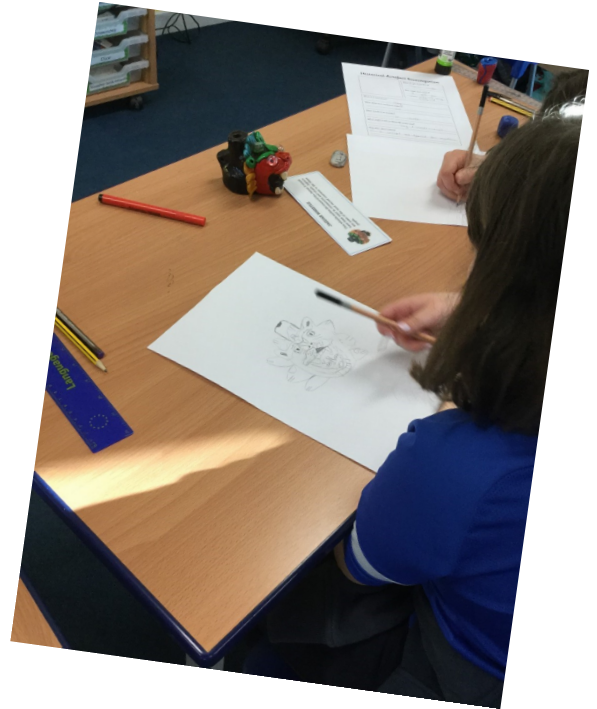
***'I really enjoyed doing the drama on the Mayan day because I got to have fun with my friends and different people.'* Jess**

During the visit, Year 6 were able to see artefacts from the Mayan civilization, including a Mayan mask which played a central role in Mayan culture. In our art lessons this half term, Year 6 will be using additive sculpture to create a Mayan mask using a range of joining techniques. During the planning stage, the children have considered the purpose of the mask as well as how facial features can express emotions. We can't wait to see the final designs.

***'I loved designing my Mayan mask as I find being creative and doing art fun. It really helps me picture what the Mayans wore and why.'* Mia**



Swans & Cranes Stunning Start



We have begun to explore where in the world the Mayans were from and will be continuing to learn some even more historical information about their culture, religion and what caused the collapse of their civilization.

The children are currently reading 'Kaspar: Prince of Cats' (Michael Morpurgo) as the class reader. This story is set in the early 1900s and features a major event in history - the sinking of the Titanic! Children have enjoyed exploring the illustrations and discussing their impact on the reader, and have written a letter from the perspective of the main character, recounting main events in the story so far.

In science, we will be continuing to work scientifically through our unit of work on 'Evolution and Inheritance.' Throughout the half term, we will be exploring inherited characteristics, conducting investigative work of the impact of environmental variables on plants before moving onto how animals are adapted to suit particular environments.

'We have been learning about offspring and how we inherit particular characteristics from our parents. I found it very fun and interesting to learn about this!' Callee

