

Dove Bank Times



Headteacher: Mr Cheesman

Issue 14 February 2021

Tel: 01530 262371

Email: office@dovebank.leics.sch.uk

Website: www.dovebankprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @dovebankprimary

Message from Mr Cheesman

Dear Parents & Carers,

Here we are at the end of another unusual half term! Despite the challenges we have faced, it has been a positive 6 weeks since the end of the Christmas holidays. The level of engagement in remote learning has been fantastic and I am so grateful for the support we have continued to receive from you and your families. The staff at Dove Bank have been working tirelessly to provide high quality learning opportunities for the children at home and the children who are in school. The recorded lessons have been well received and I hope they have also given you an insight into the learning that your children experience in school on a daily basis.

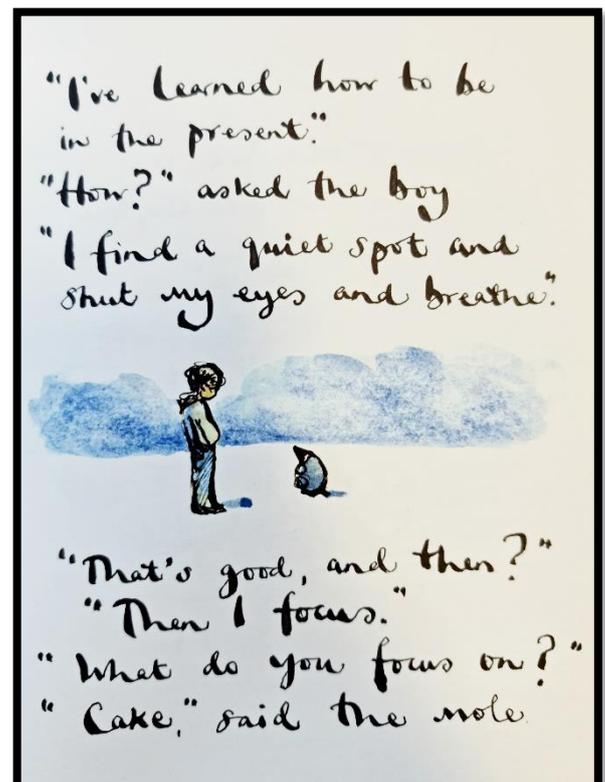
It has also been wonderful to see so many of the children joining in with our live catch-up sessions on Teams – these meetings have included everything from singing and show & tell, to jokes and pancake flipping! I hope as many of the children as possible can join in with the sessions after half term; social interaction with friends is an essential part of children's development and this has never been more important than it is right now.

Although we don't have any certainty about the date that we can reopen the school for all children, the rest of the staff and I are working towards the provisional date of March 8th. We are continuing with our stringent measures for making Dove Bank as safe a place as possible and we haven't had any positive cases since those reported in early November (touch wood!) All staff are having COVID tests twice a week to give everyone an added layer of protection and peace of mind.

When we do eventually welcome all children back into school, whilst we will be working extremely hard to assess where the children are with their learning and teaching them what they need, we will continue with our strong focus on wellbeing and happiness as an utmost priority.

I sincerely hope you all have a fun and restful half term break – you deserve it!

Warmest regards
Mr J Cheesman



Oak News

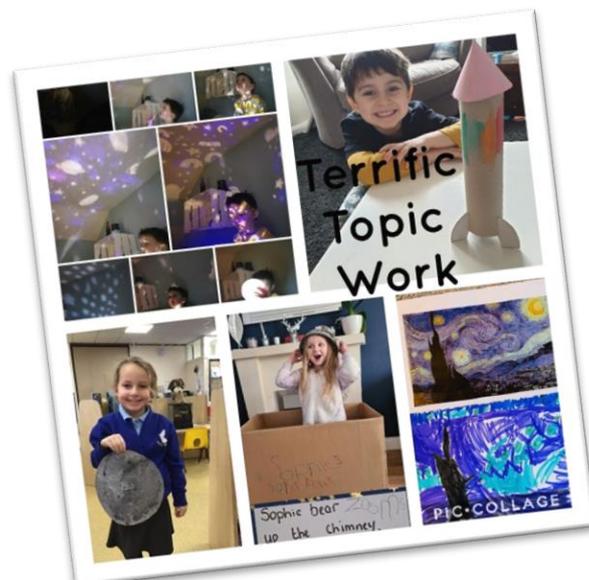
It has been a very busy half term for Oak Class. The children at home and at school have been working so hard and producing some absolutely fantastic work!



We have enjoyed some fantastic topics this half term including learning all about Antarctica and the wildlife found there. A particular favourite was watching Steve the penguin on his daily adventures. We then launched the space rocket and whooshed off to the moon! We made moon rock and learnt all about the planets. We even found out that Jupiter had 79 moons! We are ending this half term with a celebration of Chinese New Year.

We have introduced our new phonics scheme, Monster Phonics, into Oak Class and the children are loving the monsters! *Angry Red A* and *Tricky Witch* are definitely the favourites!

Miss Hopper and Ms Earp are missing all the children very much and would like to say a huge thank you to the parents at home for all of your wonderful support; the children couldn't do it without you and it has been a real treat to see the photos of everything you have been getting up to!



Elm News

Elm Class have enjoyed exploring our topic 'Bright Lights, Big City'. First we learnt lots of facts about Queen Elizabeth II. We know who she is, where she lives, who her children are and we can tell you some other interesting facts too! Then we read the story 'The Queen's Hat'. We designed our own hats and crowns for the Queen. We wrote speech bubbles about what the characters in the story might say.



Next we learnt about The Great Fire of London. We listened to a retelling of events using the Now Press Play resources. It was

fantastic it sounded like we were really there. We can tell you where the fire started, how it started and how long the fire lasted. We also know it was a long time ago. We learnt the London's Burning song and can clap out a beat to it and we made some fantastic bread.



After that we began investigating what a Landmark was and where London is. We then read lots of facts about London Landmarks. We wrote information about the Landmarks and we built them. I think we are now London Landmark Experts!



Birch News

Well, what a strange term it has been. However, nothing stops Birch Class learning! We have loved our topic "Beat, Band Boogie!" First we explored percussion instruments and practised making music with rhythm. We even made our own instruments using recycled materials.

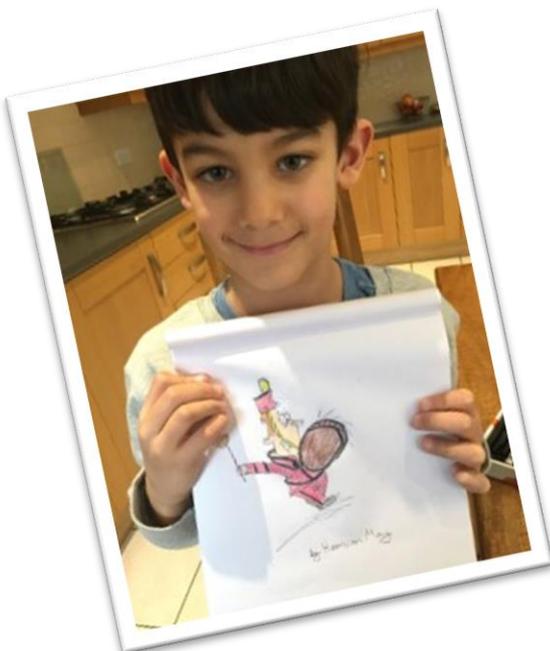
In English, we read the story of the Tin Soldier, rewriting it ourselves and changing the ending. We made stick puppets and retold the story in different ways including a comic strip.

We have also been developing our art skills, drawing horses and drummers. The ideas came from reading "Not Bad for a Bad Lad" in class which tells the story of a boy who loves horses and becomes a drum major in the Queen's parade.

We are keen to learn our spellings in as many creative ways as we can, such as this scribble spell pattern in different colours.

We've also been enjoying Monster Phonics. The funny videos really help us learn the spelling patterns we need to know.

In science, we have been experimenting with sound. We found that sound can travel through water and we made a glass jar orchestra! Some children managed to play "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" on the glass jars! In maths we have been enjoying learning about different shapes, making symmetrical patterns and art work.



Pine News

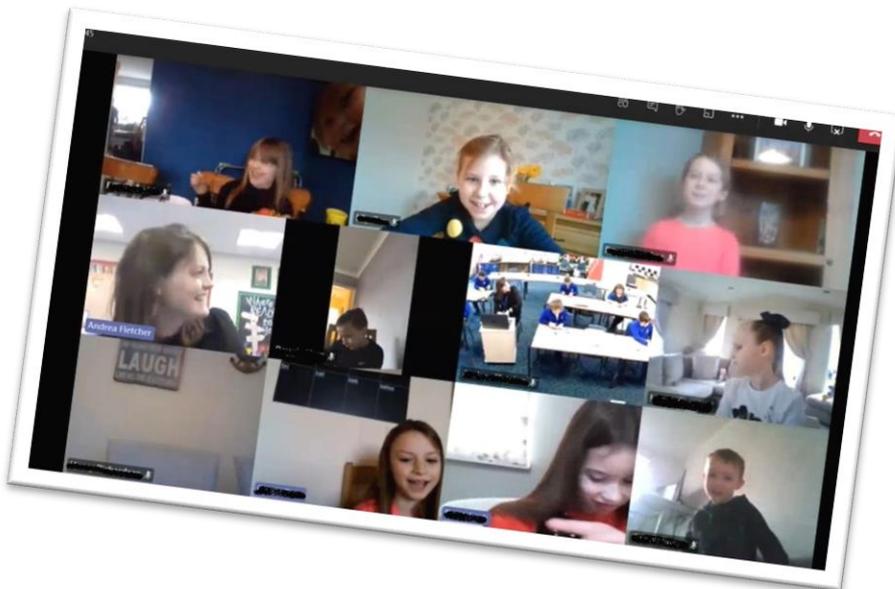


This half term in Pine, we have really been getting our teeth into our topic called Scrumdiddlyumptious! Whether we have been learning at home or in school, we have been finding out about how different foods, including eggs, milk, pineapples and bananas, get from the farms to our fork and how we can support the farming industry through our food choices and switching to Fair Trade products where possible. We even used some of the food we were investigating to make bird feeders and mud gardens.

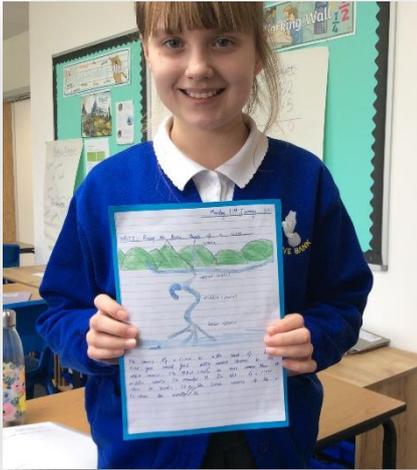
We have been studying a range of different recipes and we decided to have a go at making bread, we were really pleased with the results!



We have really missed having the class all together, but our weekly Teams meetings have meant that we can see each other and have some fun and games.



Maple News

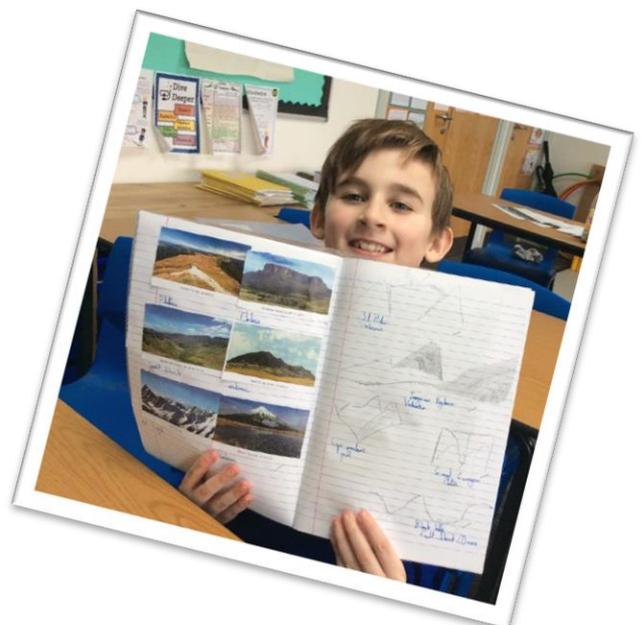


This half term, Maple class, both at home and in school, have been finding out about rivers and mountains in our topic Misty Mountain, Winding River. During this topic, we have learnt all about the characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world. The topic began with an Inspiration Day, where we carried out a detailed study of the River Thames and began our companion project, Vista, by starting to research landscape painting.

Our topic continued with a focus on landscape art and the children looked at famous landscape artists and learnt about the techniques that artists use when composing landscape images, such as colour and atmosphere. We experimented with techniques such as shading and cross hatching, to create atmospheric perspective and used these techniques to create a monochrome landscape. We then used the digital art package Pixlr, to investigate warm and cool colours.

In Geography, we studied many aspects of river and mountains both in Britain and around the world. We also improved our map skills by learning to locate features using 4 and 6 figure map references.

All in all it has been a very busy half term and although I have very much missed the children who have not been able to attend school, I have been very impressed by the standard of work they have completed at home.



Sycamore News

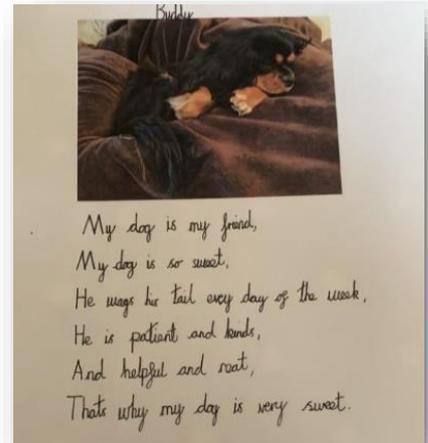
The cold weather this term has been fabulous for setting the scene in our class book, King of Cloud Forests (Michael Morpurgo) and we have made the most of the experience by using our FANTASTIC table and crafting beautiful 'showing' sentences for our narrative writing. We have shown off a range of writer's techniques, including pathetic fallacy and used this to create a strong mood across a new chapter of the book, written by us from the perspective of another character.



In maths we have battled through some really tricky lessons on multiplication and fractions. A huge well done from me and Mrs Good for all your perseverance with these tricky topics.

This half term has also seen the successful introduction of Wellbeing Wednesday in Sycamore Class. We have been mastering our maths topics outdoors and spreading poetry across the walls and floors of the school and our homes. We can't wait for more Wellbeing Wednesdays after half term.

After half term, we're off on an exciting expedition with Charles Darwin and his crew on HMS Beagle. We will discover how he developed his theory of evolution by natural selection. We will also be delving into biology! Do you know what's so special about a lava lizard, or why the blue-footed booby has blue feet? We'll see how animals adapt to their environments over time and meet some of the world's greatest explorers and naturalists. Imagine how humans will evolve in millions of years. It's a scary thought. Ready to trace the origin of species? Let's set sail.



Reminders

Track and trace over half term

Please note – the school office email will not be monitored regularly during half term. If you need to report a COVID-19 related issue, please use the following email address: covid@dovebank.leics.sch.uk.

It is very important that we continue to monitor COVID infections during half term so that we can trace and inform any necessary close contacts of anyone with a confirmed positive case of the virus during the infectious period. To ensure that all contacts are traced, it is vital that the period of time for becoming symptomatic and needing to inform the school continues until 3.30pm on Sunday 14th February. This is so that we can trace any contacts who were potentially exposed to the virus during the infectious period when the children were still at school.

For the period after this, NHS Track and Trace will cover social contacts. If parents contact the school to inform of a positive case, it is vital to tell us when symptoms were first observed.

For any children who become symptomatic, I urge parents to sign them up for a test immediately. Testing capacity is strong locally and there is a high probability of a result in less than 24hrs.

Face coverings: Please remember to wear a face covering at all times when dropping off and collecting children from school. This includes whilst queuing outside the school gates.



Dates for Your Diary

Monday 15th – Friday 19th February: Half term

Thursday 4th March: World Book Day

Monday 8th – Friday 12th March: British Science Week

Wednesday 17th March: Friends of Dove Bank meeting (7.00)

Friday 26th March: End of Spring Term

Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April: Easter holidays

Monday 12th April: Start of Summer Term

