

Dove Bank Times



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Message from Mr Cheesman

Another half term has whizzed by in the blink of an eye and we are about to embark on the final stretch of this academic year. Despite the obvious issues caused by the pandemic, it has still been a fantastic year so far!

Throughout this year, we have been working on gaining and renewing certain accreditations to help us improve and develop further. The details of these are as follows:

Route to Resilience - Funded as part of the local NHS Future in Mind programme, Route to Resilience is an evidence-based and practical approach to supporting schools and families in their work developing the character, resilience and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

Beyond Bullying Bronze Award - To achieve the award, schools are required to show evidence of good practice in 6 key areas. These include 'School Culture and Curriculum Planning' and 'Behaviour, Rewards and Recognition'.

Modeshift Stars Education - This award recognises our work in creating, developing and implementing Travel Plans. It also recognises monitoring and evaluating Travel Plans and the initiatives contained within them.



With a fair amount of uncertainty still surrounding the easing of the lockdown restrictions, we are planning on keeping things simple for this coming half term. Our emphasis will be on excellent, focussed learning as the best form of recovery.

Warm regards

Mr J Cheesman

Oak News



Oak Class have had a wonderful half term, full of fun, learning and imagination. We began by imagining all the different uses for a cardboard box. We had cars, rockets, boats, houses, castles and unicorns to name a few. Following on from children's interests, we moved on to learning all about worms. Did you know that they have 5 pairs of hearts? They are also amazing at recycling and help plants to grow.

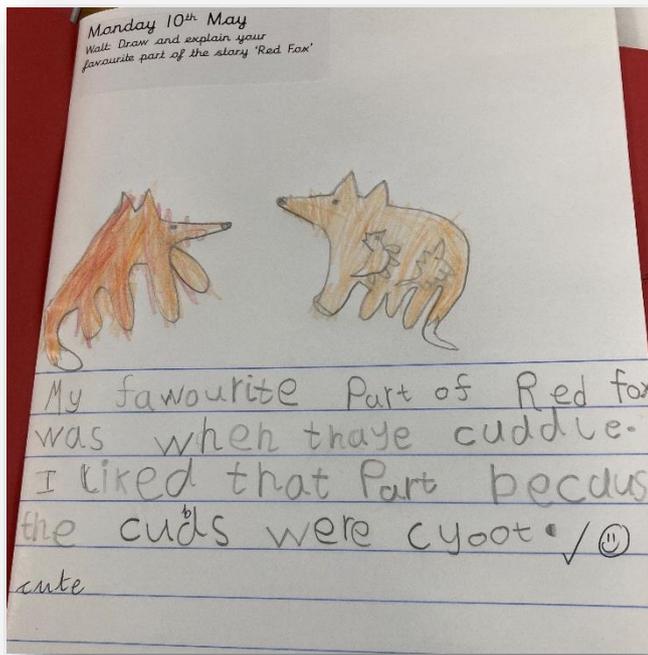
Story telling has been a huge part of our learning in Oak Class and we have continued this by retelling Little Red Riding Hood. We wrote our own stories based on this tale and we even had Granny getting married to the wolf! Amazing!

We have learnt about Amelia Earhart and Amy Johnson, and the important roles they had in flying. The children were horrified to learn that girls and women were not really allowed to learn to fly aeroplanes and were supposed to only play with dolls. We had brilliant discussions about how this has changed and why.

The children have loved dinosaurs this year and we just had to spend some time learning about these fascinating creatures. The children have learnt about herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. We spent time on the playground measuring the length of some dinosaurs too. Did you know an Apatosaurus was 21m long? This is the same as the length from the green fence where we come into school in a morning to where Oak Class line up!



Elm News



Elm Class have been very busy this half term. We have been reading a story called 'Red Fox' in English (linking to our Paws, Claws and Whiskers topic) we made some stained-glass windows to follow on from Christian churches.

We had a fabulous outdoor maths lesson for 'outdoor classroom day'. Elm Class have also been working on their sketching skills in art.

The children enjoyed a brilliant week learning about foxes and habitats.



Birch News

What a creative term we have had! Our topic, Muck, Mess and Mixtures started with some hands-on experiences of different substances. Using our senses, we described the gooey, stretchy, slippery and shiny materials.

Later we became scientists, investigating in all sorts of different ways. We added water to some things, we melted others in the oven and then tried mixing water with oil to make lava lamps!

We also found out about recipes and how to follow them. This meant we could cook making shortbread, flap jack and bread rolls.



In art, we have been learning about the amazing work of food artist, Carl Warner and the detailed art work of LS Lowry. We had a go at our own collages in the style of Matisse and have been drawing careful line-drawings of cats.

In English we have enjoyed George's Marvellous Medicine and The Day the Crayons Quit. We even wrote a letter to persuade the crayons to come back!

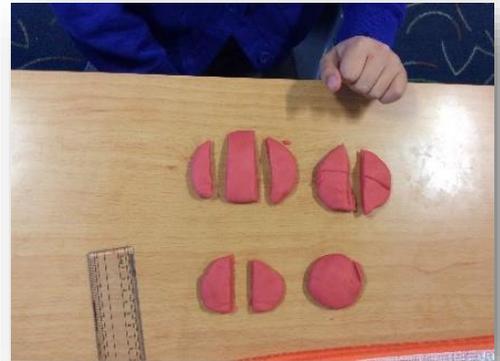


Pine News



This half term in Pine, we have been really busy working on our new topic called Urban Pioneers! We have been learning about the culture of city life and we read a poem called 'Last Night I saw the City Breathing' by Andrew Fusek Peters. We acted out each verse and then wrote a new verse of our own. We moved on to learning about graffiti and how the streets all tell a story through the graffiti they show. We had a go at writing 'Graffiti Style'.

In maths, we have been learning about fractions and we divided our playdough into different fractions. We also used smarties to find fractions of amounts and then we used some fresh smarties to decorate biscuits in our own graffiti style.



We have investigated our own surroundings and went on a picture hunt around the school grounds to find out where certain pictures were taken from the close-up snap shot that we were given. We then went on to take pictures of our own using the iPad, we shared these in class.



Maple News



Maple Class have enjoyed learning all about the USA and Native Americans in their topic, Road Trip USA. We have read 'The Indian in the cupboard' by Lynne Reid Banks and used this book as the inspiration for our narrative writing. In topic lessons, we have researched and located the different states of America. In DT, we have built models of The Whitehouse and used electrical equipment to create circuits and light up our models. We have also looked at Native American dreamcatchers and created our own.

In Geography we have researched tourism in New York and written a postcard home. In History we researched great American icons and picked our favourites and wrote a biography about them. We have also found out about the Iroquois, placed significant events from their history on a timeline and researched information about their lives.

All in all, it has been a fantastic half term and the children have settled well back into school.



Sycamore News



Sycamore Class have really embraced the genre of action and adventure with our class text: Alex Rider Storm Breaker and our topic all about communication and technology. In English, we have really pulled apart action and adventure narrative to work out how exactly an author makes them so exciting, and we have learnt how to apply some of this excitement and build up in tension to our own writing. We have applied all that we have learnt about sentence structure to create tension by writing our very own action and adventure narratives.

In maths, we have delved into the number system in even more depth, by learning about what happens when a number becomes less than one in value. We have then returned to divisibility rules for our 4 and 8 times table to make some of our more daunting looking conversions to decimal a bit easier to manage within our fractions, decimals and percentages topic.

In topic time, the children have learnt that an effective website follows a number of technical rules and features. They have used these features to evaluate websites, including our own school website, and we have created a mock homepage for our school website with our improvements added in. As a class, we have also really enjoyed PSHE this term, where we have learnt about ourselves and others, and become aware of the stereotypes all around us. We finished off this half term with the last of our gymnastics sessions, in which we have made huge progress with our cartwheels and roundoffs.



Reminders

Lateness: Please ensure that your child arrives on time for the start of school. Learning in the classroom starts straight away with an early morning task so it is important your child is on time. The school gates are opened at 8.45am and school begins at 8.55am.

Attendance: Full attendance and punctuality at school is essential in ensuring your child gets the very best education they can. Please phone in on the first day of your child's absence and let the school office know the reason. You may be asked to bring in proof of medical / dental appointments.

Parking: It is very busy outside the school at the beginning and end of the school day. Please take care when parking around the school and respect our neighbours. Please do not park in the bus lane as this is for dropping off only.

Contact Details: Please can you ensure that all your up to date contact details are held by the school especially if you have changed address or phone number within the last few months.

Uniform: Please ensure all items of clothing worn in school are labelled with children's names as we have a large amount of lost property.

Jewellery: We prefer pupils not to wear jewellery. However, children may wear watches and those with pierced ears may wear sleepers or stud-type earrings whilst in school. We request that pupils remove earrings prior to PE/Swimming lessons. If you are planning to have your child's ears pierced, it would be helpful if this took place during the summer holidays as it is usually recommended that the earrings should not be removed for six weeks.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 7th June: First day of 2nd half of summer term

Tuesday 8th June: Parent meeting for new Reception Class intake

Thursday 10th June: Circus Skills workshops for all classes

Monday 14th June: SRE Week in KS2 (Maple & Sycamore Classes)

Friday 25th June: End of Year Reports to parents/carers

Tuesday 29th June: Move-up Morning (children meet new classes / teachers)

Wednesday 30th June: Potential date for Sports Day (information to follow)

Wednesday 30th June: Parents' Evening

Thursday 1st July: Parents' Evening

Wednesday 7th July: Y6 Treat Day & Awards

Thursday 8th July: Talent Show

Friday 9th July: School closed for Summer Holiday!

