Blog w.e. 01.02.19

What a chilly week it has been! Although the elements have threatened to be an unwelcome distraction this week the children have been as focussed as ever with their learning and the weather hasn’t managed to beat us! It was fabulous to see that the vast majority of children were present in school on Wednesday despite the freezing conditions so a huge thanks to all parents and carers for venturing out to ensure that no learning time was missed.

Year 3 children have had another fantastic week, jam-packed with lots of exciting learning. In Maths, the children have been using their impressive addition and subtraction skills to solve lots of missing number problems and to draw diagrams such as bar models and part-part whole models. Why not ask your child to show you one of these and explain how they represent a calculation? In English, Year 3 children have been learning all about direct speech including why and how it is used in writing. They are all doing such a great job at learning how to use new punctuation such as inverted commas and commas after speech verbs. The Year 3 teachers and I are extremely impressed with their effort! In art lessons this week, the children have been using a range of art techniques and skills to create a triple of Stonehenge, which has allowed them to explore the mediums of pencil to sketch, oil pastels and paint. I have seen lots of superb examples of sketching techniques such as hatching and cross-hatching and some excellent oil pastel work and painting where the children have used more than one shade of colour to create a 3D effect. Another great week Year 3! Well done!

Y4 have also had an exciting week this week in their creative lessons; they have been learning about what Roman Soldiers wore for battles and tried to imagine how heavy some of the armour was. As well as this, they've written a diary in the life of a Roman Soldier which allowed the children to begin to empathise with the character from the video stimulus that was used. In Power Maths, children have continued to use their multiplication skills to solve problems and have mastered using correct mathematical vocabulary around multiplication. They are also becoming more confident in creating their own pictorial representations to support them with their calculating which is fantastic! In English, children have been busy un-picking non-chronological reports to identify and locate the key features in readiness to write their own reports all about roman jewellery.

Year 5 have been super focused this week. The children have been learning about the revolutionary 'Victorian Era' and the great impact this time had on Great Britain. In particular, the children have explored similarities and differences between different aspects of Victorian life compared with modern Britain today including family, home-life, fashion, school-life and work. There have been some wonderful questions throughout this topic and it's fair to say that they were genuinely surprised by the daily routines of children's life (including discussion around the 'dreaded' cane!) Great Victorian influences, including the inspiring Florence Nightingale, have been discussed and children have begun to learn about the social classes and the role of Victorian women through looking at letter extracts. Next week, they look forward to learning about the struggle of women and the Suffragettes! The children have also been learning about formal and informal writing and the use of parenthesis by using brackets!  In Maths, children have completed some excellent but challenging work involving multiples and factors and they have reviewed some very difficult mathematical concepts from assessments completed last week. A busy week to say the least!

In Year 6 this week, the children have added more detail to their evacuation leaflet including designing the cover to appeal to their readers: children evacuated during the war. The classes have thoroughly enjoyed learning about strengthening materials in order to design, make and evaluate an Anderson shelter which would withstand an air-raid attack. They had to think carefully about their designs in order to meet the brief (not all of the shelters stood up to the test but the children had a great time learning). In maths, the children have been comparing and ordering fractions. They have had to use all of their knowledge of conversions in order to find common denominators which allowed them to solve the problems.

Some of you have noticed that we now have a Facebook page and are starting to use this to showcase school events, pupil achievement and useful information. The link is on our website.

Wishing you a snow-free weekend and let’s hope that this cold weather leaves us very soon. Please continue to keep up the excellent work with supporting your children with reading, spelling and times tables. Best wishes

Mrs Carrigan