Blog w.e. 01.03.19

Welcome to the first blog of the second half of the spring term! I hope that you had a lovely family week and managed to spend some time together over the half term break. What a glorious week it has been – it’s surprising how much better a little sunshine can make us feel! It has been a busy first week with lots of great things planned for the half term ahead. Seeing all of the children back in school ready to learn and showing their MAGIC attitudes has also been great this week – they have all settled back into hard work immediately.

 This week in Year 3, the children have been discovering the language features and structure of a diary entry. They have read lots of different examples of diary entries and have begun to plan their own based on our class text, Stig of the Dump. In Maths, Year 3 children have been developing their knowledge and understanding of division, dividing 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers. This has proven to be a challenging task, however the children have made use of Deines maths apparatus and bar models to represent their calculations in order to make them easier to solve. I am very proud of their ongoing effort and perseverance in this unit as it is quite a tricky concept at times! In creative lessons, Year 3 have built on their prior learning about a Stone Age person’s diet by investigating the different foods that they would have eaten. The children were fascinated by the different clues that they found which taught them lots of information about their diet! Why not ask your child about what they discovered - I’m sure that they would be delighted to tell you all about it!

Hufflepuff have come back with fantastic attitudes to learning after a week off: we think a week of rest and relaxation was just what the children (and teachers) needed! This week in English, Y4 have been learning how to use apostrophes for possessive and plural nouns; this isn't the easiest skill to learn but they have shown true resilience and gumption throughout the week to achieve their goals. There is still some more work to do around this, but the teachers are so proud of how the children have worked with the new skill. In Maths, children have continued with Power Maths where, towards the end of the week, they began to look at division before moving on to division with remainders next week. As part of creative this week, children have used their creative designing and sketching skills to design new album covers for their designated rock artist and have begun to explore them through reading and completing fact files.

The first week back after half-term has seen Ravenclaw plunge head-first "down the rabbit hole" into Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'. The children have focused on developing the use of dialogue within narratives with the use of inverted commas to show direct speech and have enjoyed putting themselves in the mind set of Alice to develop the character's thoughts and feelings. In Maths, Ravenclaw have re-capped their knowledge of area and perimeter to ensure that their learning is secure and are showing much more confidence now with this concept – well done Y5! In Science, Year 5 have moved onto a new topic of 'Animals and Humans' by identifying and classifying different types of animals whilst in Music, the children have begun to express their feelings by listening to different types of music and focusing on famous composers such as Danny Elfman - the man responsible for many famous soundtracks: Alice in Wonderland, The Simpsons; Spiderman; and The Avengers. A busy week in Ravenclaw this week!

In year 6 this week, children have written their own setting description based upon the poem ‘The charge of the Light Brigade’. Their application of figurative language, extracted from a range of battle scenes found in famous texts, has created some fantastically emotive and suspense-filled pieces. In Maths, they have got to grips with the strategies for multiplication and division relating to fractions. Fractions are always tricky but the children have wowed teachers with their application of these skills during their daily arithmetic quizzes. In Science, the children have built on their prior understanding of light by identifying natural and man-made sources. They have discussed that light travels in straight lines. In order to test this, they have had the opportunity to build their own periscopes, the likes of which can be found in use in submarines. I am sure that the children would love to share all of their learning from this week with you so please do ask them about it all!

Hopefully you will have seen on our Facebook page that Isabel in Year 5 is performing in the ‘Giselle’ ballet at the Regent Theatre on Friday and Saturday this week. This is a fantastic achievement – please go along and support her if you can.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend – please remember to keep working on spelling, reading and times tables at home in order to support the progress of your children.

Mrs Carrigan