Blog w.e. 24.01.2020

Wow, the end of week 3 already! Goodness me these terms really do fly by! As always there have been lots of fantastic learning opportunities taking place in all classes this week. Year 6 and Year 3 have exciting visits coming up over the next couple of weeks and I know that they will be looking forward to these.

This week, Year 3 have begun to look at the properties of soil and the impact it has in our lives. The children have started to realise that different soils are built up of various components and affect the growth of different plants. The children are going to be testing which soil is most fertile. In preparation for this they have been working hard, creating an equipment list and a method that they plan to follow. The children have been discussing the different variables, considering what needs to be changed and what needs to be kept the same to ensure they carry out a fair test. In English, Year 3 have started to read their new class text ‘The Street Beneath my Feet’ and are working hard to develop the skills needed to successfully write a number poem. They have been reading what can be found in the different layers of the Earth’s crust, focusing on key vocabulary and carrying out comprehension questions. Why not ask them if they can recall the different layers? Maths has been particularly tricky this week as the children have been looking at multiplying a two digit number with a one digit number. They have had to recall and combine a number of previously learnt strategies such as partitioning, multiplying and adding to help them solve the questions in Power Maths. During the week the children have continued to reinforce their understanding through the continuous use of concrete and pictorial resources to support their learning.

Year 4 have had another busy week problem solving with multiplication in Maths. The children have been looking at how we multiply multiples of numbers and finding factors.  They have really had to use their knowledge of times tables to help them this week, especially when applying their knowledge to problem solving.  During English Year 4 have used all of their knowledge of the story of the Pied Piper to begin their big writes.  They are writing a retell of when the rats invaded Hamelin town! The children have been using their skills to include interesting prepositions and adjectives to add detail to their descriptions.  I am looking forward to reading some of these when they are all finished.   In French this week, children have learnt to say different colours and ask what colour something is – why not try this out at home – I’m sure you’ll be impressed with their knowledge.  During Science pupils have begun to investigate materials and find out which material would be the best to muffle sound.  They have been making their predictions and thinking about how to plan a fair test. The children are all excited to complete their investigation.

In Year 5 this week, the children have continued to read ‘The Man Who Walked between the Two Towers’ by Mordicai Gerstein and have written fantastic narratives from the perspective of the main character Phillippe and his flashback of tight rope walking between the steeples of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris – I can’t wait to read some of them! In Maths, the children have been learning all about multiplication, focusing on multiplying a 3 or 4-digit number by a 2-digit number using a variety of methods, such as the grid method and short and long multiplication. We want them to realise the most efficient method to use depending on the question posed as this will really help them. During Science this week, Year 5 have discussed what a pulley is, where we may see these in real life and why they can be helpful. Using the bottles and flat lids that the children brought in from home they conducted an investigation to find out how pulleys work by trying to lift pencils off the floor onto their desks – the children loved this and found out lots from their practical exploration. The children have been very excited about swimming, they are continuing to develop their different stroke styles, and are becoming more confident every week! In PSHE, the children have been discussing the importance of touch in a range of contexts and the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch. They have also considered how to take responsibility of their own safety, the safety of others and being able to seek help in an emergency. In art, Year 5 have started their new topic of shading and skyscrapers, they have discussed the different types of shading techniques and the put these into practice by sketching and shading 3D shapes.

Year 6 have completed mock SATs assessments this week in order to help to prepare them for the real thing. This process allows staff to identify what support your children need and give the children the opportunity to see that SATs are not a scary thing as we really do not want them to be worried. The children have been very mature in their approach and we are so proud of them. In addition to this, the children have been developing their understanding of animal classification: they have looked at the category of micro-organisms and looked at the three main sub-categories (monera, protista and fungi). After researching the different categories, they have created a presentation for their peers. Next week, Year 6 will visit Forest Park to use their scientific understanding of classification to identify the species that can be found there. The children have also begun their computing task of designing an app: identifying the capabilities of smart phones and comparing the inputs and outputs of different models.

Another busy and productive week! We are all very excited about all of the new opportunities that our new curriculum is bringing to life and the links between subjects that the children are starting to make – it really is supporting their learning well.

Please continue to support your child at home, especially with their reading and times tables. It has been proven that reading is the key to unlocking learning and therefore it is crucial that we help our children to become confident and fluent readers and as parents and carers you play a crucial role in this. Miss Simpson is working very hard to organise the new reading books that she has purchased, which will be closely matched to pupils’ reading levels. She will be writing to you all shortly to communicate about these. Thanks you for your help in fundraising, which has helped with the purchase of these books.

Enjoy your weekend

Mrs Carrigan