

Our Curriculum

What a great term of exciting activities within our curriculum! The summaries below show examples of some of the work the children have covered in their topic areas across the year groups. We have also had a variety of school trips and a very successful House Learning Day around the theme of "Careers". We hope the children have enjoyed their learning experiences and have shared their learning with you at home.

Mrs Waller

Science

All around the school we have been engaging in science activities and keeping scientific enquiry at the front of our minds. Here are some examples: As part of their work on life cycles, Reception had an amazing experience watching their ducklings hatch, grow and develop. Year 1 have been identifying and sorting a variety of animals, and are looking forward to taking part in an animal handling workshop. Year 2 have been busy planting seeds and bulbs to observe how they grow into mature plants. Further up the school, Year 4 went on a bug hunt and used branching databases and classification keys to help group, identify and name living things that were found. Year 6 are enjoying their topic on light, focusing on how the eye works. They have carried out a number of investigations to explain how light is reflected and refracted.

Miss Taylor

Computing

The children have continued to work hard on a range of ambitious projects in Computing this term. During their recent class assembly, Miss Taylor had the opportunity to share Year 2's, Fire of London themed work on algorithms. We were very impressed with how they had used the Scratch Junior software on the ipads in order to do this. Year 5 have been creating original visual patterns whilst Year 6 have used their work on WWII to code their own propaganda themed web pages using a combination of HTML and CSS. The children have also enjoyed the opportunity of visually manipulating images during our House Learning Day, when we had a visit from a parent who taught us about the product design industry.

Mr Yeldham

Geography

In Geography this term, the children have been busy learning about the world around them. For example, in Year 2 the children have been locating the countries within the United Kingdom. Year 3 children have been building on this learning and are now locating countries around Europe. Year 5 are busy writing persuasive letters to Michael Gove about climate change and we look forward to a response!

Mrs Waller

This term the Eco Committee have focused their attention on improving our school environment. Our team of 'litter pickers' have worked hard to keep the playground a happy place to be.

Mrs Lawton

English

This term in Stars Class the children have used the exciting experience of ducklings hatching in the classroom as a prompt for some super descriptive writing. In Year 1, the focus has been on cross-curricular writing. The children have written about their trip to the church and Baptism. They have also written instructions after making sandwiches in DT, as well as a cress diary in Science. In Year 2, their writing has been based around their history topic on the Great Fire of London. They wrote a diary of the events and wrote instructions for making bread rolls. Year 3 have had great fun writing 'twisted' traditional tales. There has been a persuasive writing focus in Year 4, 5 and 6. The whole school enjoyed our week of various World Book day themed activities including the competition to turn a paper plate into a character from a story.

Mrs Wright

Maths

All classes have continued to follow our new 'Maths Essentials' curriculum which helps children to consider maths from 'concrete', pictorial and abstract perspectives.

When I interviewed children from all the classes about this, I was impressed by the way they had responded to a variety of challenges including investigations, problem solving and 'destination questions'.

Mr Yeldham

Design and Technology

There has been a variety of D&T activities over this term. Stars class loved their recent cooking day where they made pasta bakes and lemon muffins. In Year 5, the children have been making CAM models of Victorian toys linking to their topic work. Year 3 have been designing healthy pancakes and in Year 4, the children have been trying their hand at Mayan weaving as well as making Mayan clay tiles decorated with Mayan writing. Year 2 made bread with different flavours and Year 6 are getting ready to start making model spitfires.

Mrs Paganuzzi

History

There have been lots of exciting History days across the school this term. Including for our Year 2 children, who thoroughly enjoyed their Great Fire of London workshop. Year 4 enjoyed going back in time to the Anglo-Saxons and Year 6 played an active role in their World War II day. It has been great to see some cross curricular work across the school, for example, Year 6 worked very hard in their Music lessons to rehearse and perform a music medley of WW11 songs. Lower down in the school, Year 1 have been writing about the theme "Now and Then" which has included comparing a range of things across the years, such as, electricity and transport across the ages.

Mrs Waller

PSHE

There has been some interesting and varied learning in PHSE this term. In Reception class, the children learnt how to look after their duckling visitors and were all very caring. Children across the school have been learning about the jobs people do. For example in Year 2, Mrs Wicks visited the children to discuss her role and then they wrote a job advert for a Head teacher. In Year 3, the children wrote poems about how unique we are based on Michael Rosen poems. Further up the school the children in Year 6 have been learning about the Holocaust. They have reflected upon the tragedy of it and considered how we can ensure it never happens again. Also this term we are holding a parent coffee morning that enables us to help children understand and begin to regulate their emotions.

Mrs Parrott

Music

All year groups have spent their music lessons creating and composing their own music to perform to their class or in assembly. Year 3 continue to make really good progress in their violin lessons and are working towards sharing their learning with their parents and carers next term. Many of our older children who learn musical instruments, in and out of school, have shared their learning in our music assemblies on a Wednesday morning. The Y5&6 choir children took part in the Harpenden Schools Music Festival in a choir of 120 children alongside bands of musicians from local secondary schools. Year 3 & 4 are looking forward to sharing their Easter Assembly songs at the end of term. Ukulele club continues to go from strength to strength after school on a Tuesday.

Mrs Barker

PE

Reception and Year 1 have been busy playing team games and building up their skills. Year 2 have been focusing on dances which show the movement of fire. Year 3 have been enjoying swimming: learning different strokes and practising swimming lengths. They are also developing football skills focusing on passing and dribbling. Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed creating dance routines linked to a book from their English lessons, "The Fire maker's Daughter" and have been developing their hockey skills. Year 5 have been putting sequences together in gymnastics and have then developed their own routines based on high intensity workouts to increase their stamina. Year 6 have been putting dance routines together in the style of Bollywood dancing and are now relishing playing and developing their basketball skills.

Mr Brittin

French

In French this term, the children in Key Stage 2 have continued to develop their speaking and listening skills. For example in Year 3, the children have been naming parts of the body, family members and items of food. Year 4 have been building on this by naming a broader variety of food items, saying what they like to eat and naming cutlery. The children in Year 5 have been learning the vocabulary to describe seasons and holidays. Year 6 amazed us when they gave a World War II news update in French as part of their class assembly. They have also been naming the countries who were involved in World War II and reading stories from this time in French!

Mrs Shorthouse

RE

In Reception, the children have been learning about the symbolism of hot cross buns and enjoyed a visit from a local Christian group to explore the Easter story. Year 1 have visited a local church to learn about the ceremony of baptism and about Ash Wednesday. Year 2 have focused on the ways that people give thanks to God, with a focus on Judaism, Hinduism and Christianity. Year 3 are working on the Easter story and Lent. They have written a news report about a story from Christianity. Year 4 are learning about Sikhism, including places of worship and traditions. Year 5 have continued their learning about Judaism with a trip to St Albans Cathedral to take part in a Jewish exhibition. They explored ceremonies and traditions and had the opportunity to discuss the faith with volunteers.

Ms Russon

Art

Children across the school have been enjoying a variety of artistic activities. They have been sketching scenes in Year 4, linking work to the Easter assembly. Year 3 have been sketching and shading, and using light and dark, as well as looking at perspective. Year 2 have been looking at the life of Van Gogh and using his work as inspiration for their paintings. Year 6 have looked at Lowry paintings, revisiting perspective and painting their own artwork in his style. Year 1 have learnt all about colour mixing and have started work on observational drawings. Reception have been creating images of their favourite characters using mixed media.

Mrs Paganuzzi