



TALK OF THE TERM



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

The spring term has flown by so quickly and has been very eventful here at St. John's Primary! Despite the short half terms, we have crammed in so much!

During the Christmas holiday, Storm Gerrit left its mark in the shape of a flooded year 1 classroom, so our first job of the term was to relocate to the library to await the completion of work. The children in year 1 took it all in their stride but have found the library books a bit of a distraction. It's good to know we have such enthusiastic readers!

In February, the builders arrived to begin work on our new £1.5 million construction project to build 4 new classrooms. Due to the location of the work, staff and children had to learn completely new routines to enable them to access their classrooms and the playground. Changes to break and lunch times were implemented to reduce numbers on the playground, which has temporarily shrunk in size. Thanks to all the staff and parents for their patience and understanding throughout the spring term whilst the builders were preparing the ground.

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Our spring term began with the launch of new attendance incentives for the children. We have introduced trophies for the class that has the best attendance each week in each key stage. The winning class has a block added to a new bar chart display in the hall, and there is fierce competition between the staff to encourage their class to be the winners. Overall winners will receive a class reward in the summer. In addition, there is an individual incentive for children who achieve 98% or better attendance each half term. Each child who achieves the target has their name entered into a draw to win a gift voucher and the draw takes place in the first worship of each half term. Each term, parents can also win a voucher for their child's attendance. We are looking forward to announcing the spring-term winners after the Easter holidays.

Our spring values were generosity and service, and each Monday in worship, staff selected their value champions for the week. There have been so many excellent examples of children showing their generous natures through sharing and helping each other and we are really proud of the way they conduct themselves.

A number of children have taken part in sporting events in the spring term, which included a swimming gala, cross-country event and a girls football festival. Year 5 were lucky enough to be invited to our neighbouring secondary school, Baxter College, to watch their production of Grease; it was great to see so many of our former students taking on roles in the performance!

On International Women's Day, all the girls in school had the opportunity to take part in football taster sessions, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We are continuing to encourage new sports in school too. In spring, many children had a chance to try their hand at Tchoukbal, which is usually played with a ball on an indoor court with a small elastic rebounder on each end. Teams score by bouncing the ball against the rebounder and getting it to bounce on the floor of the court without being intercepted by the defending team. The children loved this new sport, and it was great to see them learning and improving a wide range of skills including teamwork to play the game.

We celebrated Mother's Day at St. John's by inviting our mums to join their children in the hall for afternoon tea and crafts and the five sessions proved very popular, with many positive comments from mums who enjoyed some quality time with their families. In what proved a very busy week, we also celebrated World Book Day with our traditional annual breakfast and a book. PTA provided breakfast for everyone, and many parents and family members joined us to share some stories and books with their children. Everyone had the opportunity to come dressed as a character from a book or to wear their sleepwear to school, with some parents entering into the spirit and also turning up in onesies and oodies! We also ran a competition to turn a paper plate into a book character, with a large number of entries making it very difficult to pick winners. These events are always popular at St. John's Primary, and we love to have visitors in school to share these special occasions.

Thanks to all of our parents and carers for their support this term and Happy Easter to all of our families. I hope you all have a relaxing, well-deserved break!

BY MRS S. FINLAY - ACTING HEADTEACHER



RECEPTION - SPRING TERM 2024



This term began with the topic 'Jump into Spring'. Through various stories we looked at changes, growth and lifecycles of ourselves, animals and plants. We started to prepare our planting beds ready to plant seeds and we planted some raspberry bushes. We celebrated the Chinese New Year by tasting foods, dragon dancing, storytelling and Chinese lantern making. The children enjoyed the special Science Day and explored floating and sinking.

After half term, we found a crime scene in our role play area! We had to investigate who had made the mess by looking at the clues; porridge on the floor, different sized bowls and spoons and a girls hair bow. The children were very excited and lots of the children decided that the clues pointed to Goldilocks!

We continued the topic of 'Once Upon a Time' by exploring different traditional tales. The children have enjoyed making story maps and have acted out each story to help them retell and write about each story. We made gingerbread men when reading 'The Gingerbread Man'. This helped us to explore changes of state in relation to foods both cooked and uncooked. We explored the settings for each story by making collaborative art pictures. Our link to DT this half term has been to have a go at sewing a simple bookmark.

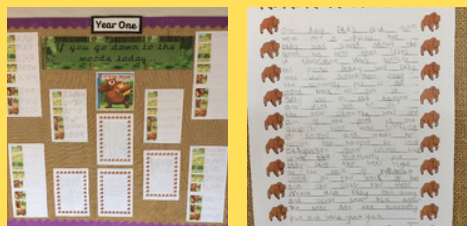


In Maths we explored doubling, halving, pattern and 1 more and 1 less.

YEAR 1 - SPRING TERM 2024

The children returned in January well rested and excited for the new term. With a flooded classroom and an unexpected room change for some of the children, it was a busy beginning to the term, but all of the children coped brilliantly and settled well into the new learning space. They have worked really hard this term and completed lots of different learning activities.

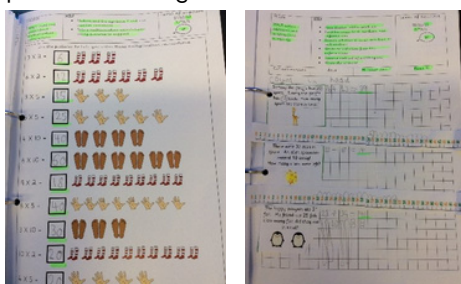
In English, we began the spring term with, 'It's the Bear', a lovely rhyming story of Eddie and his mum who go for a picnic in the woods where a big bear lives. During the unit, the children started to use adjectives in their work when writing descriptions of the main characters as well as learning about conjunctions to join clauses in sentences to help them to compare the characters. The children also retold the story in their own words which was a fantastic opportunity for them to apply their sentence construction work from Place Value of Grammar and Punctuation from the previous term.



During the second half of the term we have been reading 'The Storm Whale' which the children have really engaged with. They have completed lots of different pieces of writing from a diary explaining the main character's feelings to descriptions of a raging storm, a letter to the whale apologising for having to let him go and a non-chronological report about whales. The children have really enjoyed their work on this text and we are very proud of their hard work in English!

In our RE lessons this term, we have been learning about the Jewish faith and thinking about 'Who is Jewish and how do they live?'. We have thought about three Jewish celebrations: Shabbat, Chanukah and Sukkot and are relating these celebrations to the way many Jewish people live their lives.

The children have worked so hard in Maths during the spring term, learning about addition and subtraction, recognising fact families and learning to count in steps of 2, 5 and 10. We have also learnt about multiplication and how the symbol also means 'groups of'. We also celebrated World Maths day with a focus on shape, measure and problem solving.



We incorporated fairy tales into our D&T lessons when practising slider, pop-up and pivot mechanisms before designing our own moving picture scenes around a picture from our It's a Bear text from our English lessons. We had some wonderful creations using moving mechanisms to make scenes from the story. We used pop-up books to help us to get a good understanding of moving mechanisms.

Seasonal Changes was our first topic in science where we learnt all about the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter. The children learnt which months are included in each season as well as noticing the weather and temperature changes, changes in plants and animals throughout the seasons, and learning to be prepared with the correct clothing to suit the weather. We also looked at sun safety.

In our Science lessons during the second half of the spring term, we have begun learning about growing plants. We have learnt names and functions of the parts of a flowering plant. We have planted bean seeds and are looking forward to seeing how big they will grow as we continue our plants topic next term- maybe we will have our own beanstalks soon!

During this term, we have looked at pattern in our Art lessons. We explored the different patterns that we could find in our local environment and have learnt how to use the technique of 'rubblings' to trace patterns from the natural world which the children then used to create their own landscape pictures.

During our Geography lessons in this term, we have been learning about villages, towns and cities, the countries of the UK and the capital cities of the UK. We also learnt the names of the seven continents of the world using a song to help to remember these. The children have investigated the climate and weather in different continents and looked for similarities and differences between different countries. We have also looked at bird's eye views and begun to develop our understanding of maps and globes.

Our PE for this term has focused on ball skills, firstly with dodgeball and during the second half term football. A small group of children went to a mini-kickers session organised by Baxter College where the staff and children there were very impressed with our amazing football skills!

Our PSHE learning has focussed on the topics 'Dreams and Goals' where the children learnt about resilience to support them in achieving challenging tasks, and 'Healthy me' where they have found out about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The children were very knowledgeable when talking about how to use medicines safely.

What a busy term we have had in Year 2! It has flown by with a huge amount of learning completed by the children.

We returned after the Christmas break and began our new story of Hansel and Gretel for our English lessons. The children created a beautiful display, which included the adjectives that the children had collected to describe the setting and the characters. Their vocabulary choices have vastly improved and the class really enjoy learning the meaning of new words to include in their writing.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the story of Hansel and Gretel. As well as simpler version of the story, we also read a class book of Michael Morpurgo's version, which is a darker tale with some wonderful descriptive language, which came through in their writing. We continued with the theme of fairy tales and looked at Little Red Riding Hood. The children have been given plenty of different writing opportunities, including diaries, wanted posters, descriptions and instructions.



In maths, the children have worked hard to increase their confidence in the four operations, using the different strategies taught to solve various problems. They have worked on fractions of quantities and we are now focusing on the more practical elements of maths. We are learning to tell the time on an analogue clock as well as collecting and presenting data using tally charts, block graphs and pictograms. This links to our learning in our computing lessons.

World Book Day was an enjoyable time for the children! We loved seeing the children dressed up in their costumes and nightwear and sharing a book with friends and family.



In our design and technology lessons, the children had the chance to design a pouch for Hansel or Gretel. The children had to cut the fabric, thread the needle and use a running stitch to make their pouch. The children amazed us with their sewing skills – we think we may have some future fashion designers in the making!

During history, the class have been learning all about Kidderminster. They have looked at Sir Rowland Hill (his statue is outside the town hall) and enjoyed making their own ink from berries to experience writing with a quill! The children also learnt about the carpet trade that Kidderminster is famous for, and tried their hand at paper weaving.

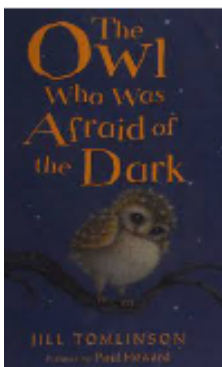
In science, the children have been learning about animals and humans. They have had opportunities to become mini scientists by carrying out investigations, making predictions and considering how to keep it a fair test. The class have learnt about life cycles as well as thinking about how humans can stay healthy. They enjoyed their science day, learning about Thomas Edison and investigating how to make human circuits that including batteries, switches and of course, light bulbs!

I would like to say a huge well done to all of the children for their hard work, not just in the classroom but also with their swimming lessons. The progress that has been made is very impressive.

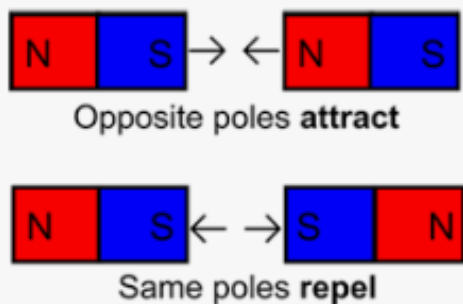
Thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support. We would like to wish everyone a restful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming the children back for an action-packed summer term!

YEAR 3 - SPRING TERM 2024

In English this term we started off by working on the classic story 'The Snowman' in which the children explored letter writing and writing their own adventure for the boy and the Snowman. It was lovely to see the children using their own imaginations to write some super adventures. We then continued by exploring the Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark. The children have analysed the text and looked at different ways and features authors can use to make their descriptive writing more vivid. They have gone on to write a non-chronological report on barn owls and they have written their own diary entries from the point of view of Plop the owl.



During Reading Gems, we have read about 2 different Saints - Saint George and Saint Patrick. We have also read about garden birds, cats, art and nature to name but a few. During these sessions the children have used their retrieval skills to find the relevant information to answer questions. They have also defined words and summarised the text.



In our Maths sessions this term, we have spent a lot of time on multiplication using the grid method and division with the bus stop method, all the time revising our addition and subtraction methods. We have worked hard on this! We handling, using pictograms, tables and bar charts. Finally, this term we have moved onto fractions looking at unit and non-unit fractions and tenths.

For science, earlier on in the term we were learning about forces and investigating magnets. We had fun investigating how magnets react with one another and conducting an investigation in which we had to find out which was the strongest magnet. We had some very long paper chains! We are now moving onto 'animals including humans'. So far we have looked at all the bones in the body. Did you know there are 27 bones in an adults wrist? Also, we carried out an investigation to see if people with longer arms can throw the furthest and people with longer legs can jump the furthest.

In RE we have studied Islam, including prayer. We have now started our topic on Judaism with our fantastic trip to the Synagogue. It was lovely to see how the synagogue was set out, learn about the different festivals, look at the various artefacts and see their beautiful Torah Scrolls. We look forward to learning in more detail about the different festivals of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur when we come back after the Easter holidays.

In computing, we have continued with stop frame animation, in which the children have explored making their own animations on the iPads. This was great fun!

In Geography, the children have looked at the conservation of bees and discovered how important they are to us all and the world. A letter to the Mayor has been written about how we need to make sure we are doing something about their conservation. We are looking forward to a visit from him in the near future. Great fun was had during a Forest School session where we made seed flings to scatter around school and in Forest School. Also, behind our classroom a special wild flower garden has been constructed and wild flower seeds and seed flings have been spread. We look forward to watching a beautiful spectacle of wild flowers. We have also just started our topic on the UK, which we will continue next term.

In PSHE we created gardens for different groups of people, e.g. visually impaired and stuck to a budget to create it. We are now looking at how to keep healthy in 'Our Healthy Me' unit focusing on the foods we eat and exercise.

Art focused on drawing this term and we looked at Leonardo Da Vinci. We carefully drew eyes, lips and a nose before going onto complete a face portrait. There were some truly magnificent portraits! We then went onto to draw the Mona Lisa. There are definitely some budding artists within our midst!

Finally this term, we made some seasonal tarts in DT. We looked at where our food comes from and complete a seasonal food wheel in the UK. Food safety and handling were examined and the children had a go at making Japanese fruit skewers.

YEAR 4 - SPRING TERM 2024

We began the term by looking at a book called Moonshine Dragon. The children's imaginations were amazing and they created a follow-up story for Patrick and Dragon.

During the second half term, we looked at an anthology of poems called 'Poems from a Green & Blue Planet'. The theme of the anthology is diversity and we have discussed how the editor has chosen to represent this in the anthology. We have looked at poetic devices and the power of words. By the end of the term, we will have created our own anthology of poems titled 'Poems from a Year 4 Classroom' following the themes of the book.

In Maths, we have been learning about decimals and fractions and used these to work on number problems. We used our four operations and our knowledge of decimals to complete one and two-step problems using money. We have also explored symmetry as well as fractions of quantities.

In RE, we continued our topic of Hinduism and found out how Hindus practise their worship in Britain today. The children were fascinated by some of the rituals that they follow and really enjoyed the story of Rama and Sita. We were fortunate enough to visit the Mandir and experience the way in which Hindus worship.

We were very lucky to be able to have some Forest School sessions this half term where the children got to toast marshmallows over an open fire! They also took time to notice the diversity within Forest School amongst the trees and the wildlife. This linked well with our English poetry topic and helped us to appreciate the wonderful world that we live in!



Our science topic of electricity continued into the first part of the term. We were able to create our own electrical switches and test if they were effective. Science Day allowed us to test materials for their waterproofing and fire resistance qualities. We enjoyed going into forest school and making rafts using our findings. Our next topic enabled the children to use their investigative skills when learning about sound. They learnt about how sound travels through the ear and how volume and pitch effect their hearing. Some of them now realise the impact of their volume!

Our Geography unit allowed us to learn about the UK. We discovered the countries of the United Kingdom and the regions within England. We explored physical and human features as well as different types of settlements. We studied different types of maps using a compass, four-figure grid references, keys and symbols. We also considered the arguments for and against building a supermarket on Brinton Park!

In DT, we have been looking at pneumatic systems (using air pressure to create movement). We have explored and created our own pneumatic devices using syringes and pies. We will use these to create our own moving monster!

In P.E, we have been doing self-defence sessions and learning the importance of discipline. We learned how to defend ourselves if a situation arose in our lives outside of school. During the second half term, we developed our football skills and we practised controlled dribbling and passing with the inside of our foot. We learned the inside and outside hook, drag back and used these skills in mini skills games.

Finally, in art, we have been looking at the life and work of William Morris. The children have been discovering how, during the industrial revolution, Morris returned to the natural environment for his inspiration. He was an early environmentalist and they were fascinated by the fact that this topic was being discussed in the early 1800s. They got to create a Mother's Day card using mono printing and block printed a small piece of wallpaper in the style of Morris.

The children looked amazing on World Book day with their various costumes and a big thank you to those that attended the book and breakfast event- it was really lovely to have you all in. The children managed to persuade the chairs and tables that had quit to come back!

It has been a very busy half term and we are expecting an even busier Summer term!

The Year 4 team

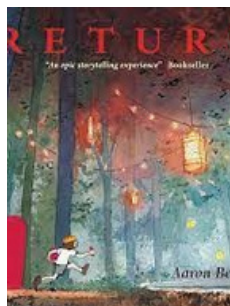


YEAR 5 - SPRING TERM 2024

In English, the children looked at 'The Lost Words' by Robert Macfarlane which is about words that have disappeared from children's dictionaries because they are no longer being used. We started the unit of work by going to Forest School where the children had to find their own 'lost words'. They analysed several of the poems and then wrote their own, producing some outstanding pieces of work.

During the second half term, we looked at the 3rd book of an Aaron Becker trilogy called 'Return'. This is a wordless book which help promote imagination. The children have used this book to write a diary and a story.

In Science we began the half term with our key question being: How do living things reproduce and why is this important in the life cycle? We have looked at the different stages of life cycles for mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians. We also used the laptops to complete our own research to produce drawings of some of the life cycles.



During the first half of the term, the children went on a trip to the Worcester Mosque to help them answer our RE unit question: What is it like to be a Muslim in Britain today? It was lovely to see the children so engaged during the trip and finding out more about Islam, asking really thoughtful questions. We continued the the second half term to look at the 'Torah' and why it is an important book to the Jewish community.

In art, we looked at work by the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian and used his work as a basis for our own masterpieces!

In PE, our dance theme was 'Martial Arts'. We warmed up to 'Kung Foo Fighting' and copied the various moves, then used this as a basis for creating our own routines.

We have also had Dan from the Harriers in on a Monday afternoon to teach us. He taught us some great skills and we had some football matches to end the term.

We'd like to wish all parents and carers a very Happy Easter.

YEAR 6 - AUTUMN TERM 2023

Even though this term has been very short, it has been full of fantastic learning and new experiences that the children have fully embraced.

In English, the term commenced with an exploration of the text 'The Lion and the Unicorn', a compelling narrative set amidst the backdrop of World War II. Through this text, the children wrote newspaper articles, heartfelt letters, insightful diary entries and captivating narratives. In the second part of the term, the children immersed themselves in the world of 'Darwin's Dragon', a text that sparked their imagination. From writing messages in a bottle to writing a non-chronological report about their own mythical species of dragon, they showcased their versatility in writing.

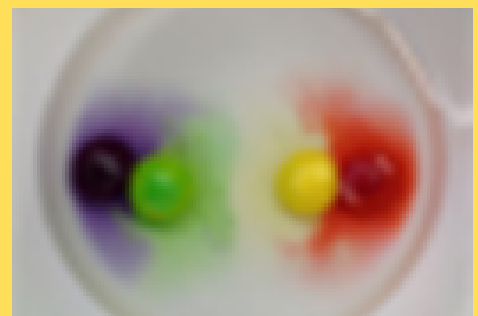
In mathematics, the children have been diligently preparing for the upcoming SATS, showing resilience and determination as they improve their fluency in key mathematical concepts and develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Our key question for science this term was: "How do animals living systems work together to maintain a healthy body?" We have thought about healthy eating, the circulatory system and how the nutrients from the digestive system move into the blood stream and are distributed around the body. We have also considered things that are harmful to our bodies. Whilst studying the circulatory system, we created a representation of how the heart pumps to aid our understanding. We also used sweets to investigate how nutrients pass into the blood stream to be distributed to the cells in the body.

In RE the children have been deepening their understanding of different world religions. We explored Hinduism, looking at the question of why Hindus strive for goodness. This half term we have been looking at Salvation and what Christians believe Jesus did to 'save' people.

Our Geography lessons focussed on the pressing issue of plastic pollution, prompting insightful discussions and actionable steps to reduce our environmental footprint. Artistic expression flourished as the children indulged in the task of designing, sculpting and painting their own birds. From majestic kingfishers to charming robins, their creativity was impressive.

In PSHE education, the focus was on cultivating healthy lifestyles and nurturing aspirations for the future, encouraging our students to set meaningful goals.



As we reflect on this term, we would like to say well done to the children for all their hard work which is good preparation for the upcoming SATS in May.

Wishing you all a very restful break.
The Year 6 team.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND WORSHIP

SPRING TERM 2024

In RE this term we have continued with various 'Big Questions' following the locally agreed syllabus. The children have worked towards a final piece of work that will explain what they have learned towards answering their 'Big Question' focus.

Year 5 visited 'Worcester Central Mosque,' as part of their unit, 'What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?' The children were able to apply the knowledge that they had learned in school to asking and answering questions while at the mosque. It was a fascinating experience for them.

Year 3 visited 'Birmingham Progressive Synagogue,' as part of their unit that asked, 'How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people?' The children wore kippurs that they had made themselves and behaved impeccably.

Year 4 went to visit a Hindu Temple as part of their unit that asked the big question 'What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain Today?'. These trips are such a valuable experience as they help children to see the importance of developing tolerance, respect and understanding of different religions and cultures so that pupils can promote good relationships in the years to come.

We have explored the values of generosity and service this term. The children have been showing how they live out these values in their school life and lots of children have been nominated as value champions for this.

Our Worship Reps are continuing to take on more of a role in our worships. They are leading the prayers, introducing visitors and helping to tell any stories that we read.

Our Easter Service was led by our Year 3 children at St. John's Church and all of the children will take part singing songs that they have been learning this term. It was a delightful experience.

MUSIC SPRING TERM 2024

This term reception had lots of fun in music lessons firstly learning songs and performing rhythms about nature and then singing songs about a variety of traditional stories. Year 1 sang songs about the seasons and created their own rainstorm with their bodies, voices, and musical instruments. This half term they have been learning to read music notation and play tunes on the chime bars.

Year 1 sang songs about the seasons and created their own rainstorm with their bodies, voices, and musical instruments. This half term they have been learning to read music notation and play tunes on the chime bars.

Year 2 learnt about Samba music from Brazil. They performed a samba piece on percussion instruments and then composed their own samba rhythms. They have also played a variety of tunes on chimes bars and composed their own tunes too.

Year 3 studied the piece "Carnival of the Animals" and have all passed their white Karate recorder belt. They have been rehearsing hard for their Easter Service and this will take place at St. John's Church at 2pm on Thursday 21st March.

Year 4 have been learning about music from the Classical Era and performed some classical tunes on the keyboards. They are currently learning about music from the continent of Africa.

Year 5 have learnt about American blues music and wrote their own lyrics for a blues song. They are currently studying pieces from "Pictures at an Exhibition" and composing their own sound picture pieces.

Year 6 have learned all about 20th Century Classical Music and have played a minimal piece and composed their short pieces of music in different 20th century styles. They have also done some ensemble playing using the different sized recorders, with everyone having the opportunity to play either a treble, tenor, or bass recorder instead of our usual descant ones. We have also started learning the songs for the Leavers Production.

Instrument lesson pupils all continue to make great progress and 9 of the keyboard pupils have taken their copper music medal exam this term - we are just awaiting confirmation of their results. School choir has started rehearsing a variety of songs for their summer term concert.

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