

Year 6 Autumn newsletter

It's been a long autumn term and we're so proud of how hard the children have worked. We've been especially impressed with the positive attitude shown by everyone and the determination to tackle areas of the curriculum that they found tricky. Many in Year 6 have done a particularly good job in becoming good role models to the rest of the school. We're sure this will continue right up to the end of the school year!

Maths

In Maths we've done lots of work to reinforce and practice our calculation skills in preparation for the arithmetic part of the SATs in May. We have been using written methods and mental approaches to build both speed and accuracy and to improve our scores each week. The children have also applied their maths skills to problem solving, considering a variety of approaches to finding the solutions to tricky and less obvious questions. We have also looked over lots of the important vocabulary needed to explain our answers and ideas.

Our themes of World War 2 and Extreme Earth have allowed us to use a range of different texts including *Goodnight Mr Tom* and *Shackleton's Journey*. The books provided the basis for lots of different writing styles. These have included historical story writing, persuasion, balanced arguments and biography. In addition we have focussed on our skills in grammar, punctuation and spelling with sessions to ensure the children have a strong grasp of these technical aspects of writing. Our weekly spelling tests have helped support this and it has been great to see so much progress and improvement in the scores achieved. Finally, we have worked on comprehension skills, finding and explaining the information found in a text as well as improving the children's abilities in reading between the lines and inferring information that may be less obvious. The children's reading homework has been a great support in supporting this.

Literacy



Science

Our Science lessons have been great fun as we looked at electricity and light. We worked on creating a range of circuits and investigated how bulbs and motors were impacted with additional batteries. We learned the scientific symbols for each part of the circuit. When looking at light we discovered how rainbows are created while considering the difference between opaque, translucent and transparent objects. We also worked with mirrors to show how light beams can be redirected and help us see round corners.



Topic and other subjects

We've packed in lots of Topic work this term as we looked at World War Two and how this impacted children and those on the "home front". We spent time learning about the causes of the war and found out about life as an evacuee. The Blitz was another focus and we were able to watch contemporary news reports describing the devastation in London and other big cities around the UK. We also learned all about rationing and the push to encourage people to grow their own food.

Our Topic work has taken us all around the world as we focussed on Extreme Earth and how countries are affected. We researched the locations of volcanoes and earthquakes, and how the boundaries between tectonic plates are most vulnerable to these major events. We also had a weather focus as we considered the hottest, coldest, wettest and driest places on Earth. It showed that we're pretty lucky to live in the UK!



During Art this term we looked at the work of Henry Moore as inspiration for our own sketching and painting. We focussed on Moore's work in World War 2 as an official war artist, recording the Blitz and drawing those sheltering from the bombs in London. We then moved on to the work of Alberto Giacometti and his elongated sculptures which are now displayed in some of the most famous museums across the world.

We've had a particularly energetic term with the Hampton College football and netball festival as well as the Cross Country race in November. We were delighted to come first overall competing against all the Hampton primary schools.



And finally...



Among the other highlights this term was our girls football team taking part in a tournament at the Grange while the boys competed in Peterborough United's EFL cup at their training ground at Nene Park Academy. A big well done to all those children who represented the school.

As we head towards a well earned rest at Christmas we would like to recognise all the children's hard work so far. Their efforts have already resulted in some fantastic progress. Finally, we would of course like to wish all our pupils and their families a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming them all back, happy and healthy, on Thursday, January 4th.

Mr Milner, Mrs Smith and Miss Shepherd