

Year Two Autumn Term
December 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to begin by praising all of the children for their resilience that they have demonstrated throughout a term that has certainly not been like any other autumn term we have ever known. From the first day back, the children instantly took onboard our safety measures within school and in doing so, demonstrated their maturity. It has been a busy term that has seen our pupils leap back into school with admirable enthusiasm. Subsequently, they've produced a range of fantastic work from across the curriculum.

Our Year 2 journey began with the topic 'Superheroes' where we transformed into superheroes for our WOW day. Throughout the themed day, we created our own clay superhero medals, emblems and spectacular superhero capes. We then used our superhero powers to create a range of super character descriptions from WANTED posters for villains to one about ourselves as superheroes! The children then moved onto exploring the texts 'Charlie's Superhero Underpants' and 'Eliot Midnight Superhero'. To develop our writing, we focused on applying the Year 2 non-negotiables, capital letters, finger spaces and full stops within character and setting descriptions as well as within letter writing. Inspired by their real-life superheroes, the Year 2 children worked extremely hard to write their own letters to inform their chosen individual of why they were their superhero. What heart-warming letters our children devised and sent to their real-life superheroes toward the end of the first term!



Every class within our school is named after a famous historian and as we are called 'Nightingale Class', we found out about who Florence Nightingale is and why she is remembered at the start of the year. We researched her life and found out about the work she did with helping lots of soldiers during the Crimean war. After learning about how Florence Nightingale helped to improve nursing and the way that hospitals were run, our pupils thought carefully about designing their own superhero medicine. Within our outdoor learning, the children then used the natural resources to create their own superhero medicine which could give them any power they desired. What imaginative medicines they designed so that their superhero powers could help others!

Our topic for science within the first term was 'animals including humans'. We began our learning by researching and identifying how animals and humans change as they grow. The children then used the knowledge they had acquired to order the human timeline. It was fantastic to then see our inquisitive scientist become so engaged with finding out about the lifecycles of animals. We were extremely impressed with the excellent home learning they all produced for this area of learning!

In RE, the children learned about what is important to Jewish people. They initially began their RE work by finding out about who Moses is and why he and the Torah are important to Jewish people. The children then discussed what a special place is and found out that the Synagogue is a special place for Jewish people. After finding out about the festival 'Rosh Hashanah', it was fantastic to hear the detailed discussions the children had with each other about which festivals they celebrate for religious and non-religious reasons. The children then learned about why Christmas is important to Christians. As part of their cross-curricular work, the children went on a journey around our lovely school grounds where they found out about 'The Christmas Story'. They then used this knowledge to create a story map to support them with retelling the story.

As part of our Design and Technology curriculum and the topic of Robots, we had the opportunity to take part in an exciting Lego Robotics Workshop delivered by JuniorStem. Pupils began the session by learning the basic commands needed to program the Lego Wedo 2.0 software. Our fabulous Year 2 children worked beautifully with a partner to follow the pictorial instructions, which were provided on the tablets, to create a fairground ride. They demonstrated excellent teamwork skills and we were very proud of the perseverance they showcased, as all pupils successfully built the fairground ride for the mini-figures, Max and Mia. Once each pair had finished creating the 'basic' design, they thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with programming where they created their own algorithms to make their fairground ride move. The radiant beams across pupils' faces was lovely to see when they created their first algorithm and realised that they had been successful not only in their building of the simple model but also with their programming skills too. At the penultimate stage of the workshop, pupils were encouraged to upgrade their rides to make them even more exciting. What spectacular upgrades they made!



At the end of a busy term, the children were extremely excited when they found out that we had two very special visitors coming to our school grounds – and rightly so, who wouldn't want to be visited by the lovely reindeer! As part of the festive build up, we were also extremely lucky to have an excellent pantomime come



to our school who performed a modern twist of Cinderella. The engagement, laughter and impressive dance moves from our children only further emphasised what a credit to our school our children are.

We would like to thank the children for working hard throughout the term as well as all of the parents and carers for their continued support. Enjoy a well-deserved rest and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

From Miss Griffin and Mrs Karavdra



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