

March 2022

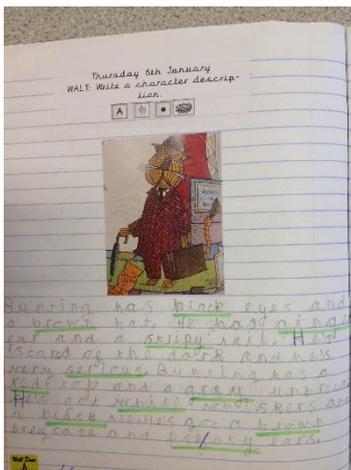
Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy term it has been! We have been so proud of everything the children have achieved and we have seen excellent progress being made.

Our topics this term have been Toys and Space. Here is a flavour of some of what the children have been involved in.

Toys

During this topic we have explored different stories relating to the theme, ‘toys’ which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. Firstly, we focused on the story ‘Lost in the Toy Museum’ by David Lucas and then moved onto ‘Kipper’s Toybox’ by Mick Inkpen. The children built their writing stamina and extended their vocabulary by describing characters and settings. They also worked hard to extend their sentences by using conjunctions, such as ‘and’, ‘because’ and ‘but’. They really enjoyed using this theme to write riddles about their toys and making connections with our materials work in science.



The children have explored toys from around the world and compared them with toys the children have in the UK. We have also looked at toys from the past and compared them with toys today. To help the children with this, we were lucky enough to have Peterborough Museum come in to run a workshop with the children to show them toys from the past. They also spent time at home asking parents and grandparents about the toys they used to play with. The children also loved designing, making and evaluating their own pop-up toy in Design and Technology.



The toys topic helped the children make excellent links to their science work where they learnt about different materials and their properties. They gave lots of thought as to why certain materials are suitable for certain toys and experimented by trying to keep a teddy dry and with a floating and sinking investigation linked to the book ‘Who Sank the Boat’ by Pamela Allen.

In art, the children used a variety of media to carry out close observational drawings of toys. This included pencils, charcoal, chalk and pastels. The children learnt about tones, shadows and light and dark.



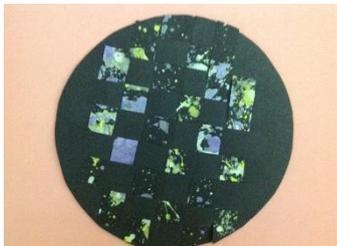
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Space

After half-term we looked at dictionaries, focusing on how we use them and how they are organised, linking to our topic of space. We then moved onto exploring stories with a fantasy setting, 'Space', by looking at 'Man On the Moon' by Simon Bartram. The children created and described their own alien, made lists of what they may need in space and wrote an advert for Bob's job when he needed to take a holiday. They also enjoyed the story of 'Whatever next?' by Jill Murphy when they described Baby Bear, created a story map and retold the story in their own words.



We continued our 'Space' theme in our history work by finding out about astronauts; making comparisons between past and more recent space travel events, and understanding more about reliable sources to find out about historical events. In geography, the children looked at rural and urban areas and their characteristics. Whilst in art the children loved creating their space collages as well as practising their weaving skills.

In science, we continued our seasonal change work as we moved from winter to spring and learnt more about how this affects daylight hours. We made the most of our visits to Forest School with our work around plants later in the term and tasked the children with labelling the main parts of a plant, identifying what plants need to grow and distinguishing between wild and garden plants, and different types of trees. The children have also further developed their 'observing change over time' skills as we have grown our own sunflowers from seeds.



In computing, we have focused on data and how we use information for grouping and in PE the children have been increasing their stamina through a block on fitness as well as building their sending and receiving skills.

Our maths focus for this term has built on the foundation of skills from term 1 and further developed the children's addition and subtraction; with a clear focus on real life problem solving and mathematics in everyday life. We continued learning about money and measuring length and weight through various practical activities and written activities. We continued our mental and oral maths tasks to build fluency for number bonds, doubles, halving and unknown values in number sentences. We also looked more into multiplication and fractions.

During the whole term we have been following the Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme, focusing on diversity, communities and safety around medicines.

In Religious Education, we looked at family life in Islam and the different milestones of a Christian family, linking the Easter story to our literacy work.

We are so proud of the children and their achievements so far. It is amazing to see the progress that they have made. Thank you to all parents for your continued support, we hope that you enjoy a great Easter holiday!

From the Year 1 team.