

# Learning Together

## Spring 2024



Here is some of the fantastic learning that has taken place in the Spring Term.

Let's share and celebrate our amazing learning journeys....

# Nursery

In Nursery, in the first half of the Spring Term, we listened to stories about all sorts of wild animals - 'Going on a Bear Hunt', 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', 'Rumble in the Jungle', 'Dear Zoo' and 'The Selfish Crocodile'. We used our creative skills to make animal masks and sock puppets and used these to tell our own stories. Feely boxes helped us to use new words to describe different textures. We found out about where different animals lived and if this was a hot or cold place. We learnt the names of the animals and roared like lions, growled like bears, snapped like crocodiles and hissed like snakes!

For the second half of the Spring Term we learnt about Traditional Tales. We joined in with the repetitive phrases in the stories, thought about how the characters were feeling and acted some of the stories out. We built strong bridges for 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and put buttons on 'The Gingerbread Man' to improve our counting and number recognition skills. We had a very busy, but exciting Spring term!



# Reception



We have had a great Spring term in Reception! We have loved our topic learning all about different 'animals'. One of our favourite stories was 'What the ladybird heard'. We thoroughly enjoyed re-telling the story, playing with the the small world toys and pretending to be the animals. We had great fun making our own maps of the farm like in the story.

In DT, we had so much fun creating our own 3D animal sculptures out of junk modelling. We designed, made and evaluated our work. We used a range of different materials and painted our animals. We were so proud of our amazing creations!

We were so excited for our new topic 'Traditional Tales, re-telling some of our favourite stories including 'Little red riding hood' and 'Jack and the beanstalk'. We loved our freshwater theatre workshop, where we got to act out different stories and get involved using the props. It was great fun!

We have worked hard with our phonics skills and reading words with sounds that we know. We have been working on our sentence writing and we have really enjoyed writing speech bubbles and making posters as part of our Literacy learning.

# Year 1



Spring Term saw Year 1 off on a trip to Hall Place. We played with toys from the past and compared them to toys we have and play with now. We found out that most of the toys we play with now, people in the past played with - it's just the material that they are made from that is different. We also had the opportunity to look at, hear about, learn about and handle some owls. This linked really well with our science topic of 'animals including humans'.

In our PE lessons we learned how to dribble a ball with increasing control. We learned about keeping the ball close to us and stopping it with our feet. We also learned attacking and defending skills and have started playing fun games like 'Stuck in the Mud' to help us practise our skills.

In Design Technology we learned about mechanisms. We designed and made our own moving story book The 100 Decker Bus .We followed a design to create moving models that use levers and sliders. We evaluated our finished books to see whether it moved as planned.

## Year 2



During the Spring Term, Year 2 reenacted The Great Fire of London, for our history topic. The children made cardboard houses and used our knowledge of historical events to recreate the fire spreading from Pudding Lane. Also, we learned all about Paddington Bear and his favourite food. We realised that marmalade sandwiches are unhealthy, therefore we wrote letters to Paddington explaining how he needed to change his diet to eat healthily. This linked to both our science and D.T units about balanced diets.

In Design and Technology, we learned all about healthy eating and created our very own healthy wraps. The children tried various different vegetable combinations before creating and eating their own delicious healthy meal.

In our PE lessons, we learnt how to use and navigate maps. The children practised orienteering in a variety of ways using the correct language, abstract maps with symbols and finally more traditional maps of our school.

# Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful Spring term full of amazing learning!

In English we read a fantastic book called 'The Stone Age Boy' which takes the reader (and the boy) back to the Stone Age. We learnt about the main character who falls and finds himself waking up in the Stone Age. Through his experiences we developed our learning all about the Stone Age. We thought about the events that happened to the boy before writing our own version of this wonderful historical narrative.

In our history lessons, we have been learning all about the Stone Age. We found out the this period in history spread over nearly 700, 000 years! We loved learning about how early people used stone for tools to hunt and survive before developing the skills to create bronze and iron to create stronger tool and weapons. We absolutely loved learning about this period in history and cannot wait to make connections with our next history unit in the summer term: The Romans.

Throughout the Spring term, Year 3 were extremely busy rehearsing for their 'Spring Sing' concert to the parents. We absolutely loved rehearsing and showcasing our poetry and singing skills in front of our teachers, parents and carers.

In Danson Science Week we carried out an observing over time investigation about the growth of daffodils as the theme of the week was time. We were really excited to come into school each morning to see how they had changed. We then drew labelled diagrams each day before drawing a conclusion about why they had changed throughout the week.



# Year 4



Year 4 have had a busy and exciting Spring term!

In English we read a fantastic book called 'The Bicycle Spy' which is set in WWII France. We learnt about the main character, Marcel as he finds out his parents are in the French Resistance working secretly against the Germans. We considered Marcel's thoughts and feelings throughout the events before writing a diary entry.

In our Geography lessons, we compared the features of our region, Greater London and a similar region in France named Ile de France. We explore the physical and human features of these regions as well as considering the land use in both areas.

Throughout the Spring term, Year 4 were busy rehearsing for their 'Spring Sing' concert to the parents. Each class worked hard to recite a sprint themed poem as well as a class song. In addition, as a year group we sang a collection of spring themed songs. We thoroughly enjoyed sharing this performance with parents and family members.

Another exciting moment of the spring term was when we visited the British Museum in London. We used this experience to consolidate our previous learning about the Egyptians in addition to completing a tablet tour in the Anglo-Saxon area. We investigated artefacts found at the Sutton Hoo burial site and used these to decide the type of person that might have been buried there.

In our science lessons, we learnt about electricity. We looked at how to make a circuit that would allow a bulb to light up and investigated different conductors and insulators. We were able to use this knowledge in our DT lessons, where we designed and made a torch. When designing our torch we had to consider the needs of the user so that our colour choices and designs matched their requirements.

# Year 5

All three year five classes were very busy in the Spring Term!

In science, we learned about forces. We enjoyed many practical lessons as part of this: we investigated the effect of friction between moving surfaces and the effect of air resistance when dropping a piece of A4 paper with different surface areas. Another highlight was dropping different shapes made from Blu Tack into a large water bottle and recording the time each took to reach the bottom. From this, we concluded that streamlined shapes move the quickest through water.

In English, we've responded to a range of texts linked to crime and punishment such as Nelson Mandela's Long Road to Freedom, Beverley Naidoo's Journey to Jo'Burg and Berlie Doherty's Treason. We demonstrated our maturity when writing an autobiography as Nelson Mandela, working hard to reflect his 'voice' within our writing. Another impressive written piece across the year group was the diary entry, written as either Margery or William from Treason, reflecting on the news that Margery was moving to France to be married against her will.

In design and technology, we worked in small groups to create a truss bridge that would support a load. After exploring the different ways to make a structure stronger by reinforcing it with supporting shapes, we were able to conclude that triangles provide the most strength in construction.

In history, our topic was crime and punishment. As part of this, each class enjoyed a day visiting the Royal Courts of Justice in London. In lessons, we enjoyed learning about how crime and punishment has changed through the course of history and we were able to compare this to crime and punishment in modern day Britain.



# Year 6

It has been another busy term for the children in Year 6!

The term began with book week where we all enjoyed taking part in the activities and wrote our own narratives incorporating speech. Following book week, we began a new text, 'Who Let the Gods Out?' by Maz Evans. Using this text as our stimulus, we wrote character descriptions, diary entries and a newspaper report which required us to write with a formal tone. In the latter part of the Spring Term, we used Macbeth as our text for our English and from this we wrote in character, first as Lady Macbeth, who wanted to persuade her husband to kill King Duncan, and secondly as Macbeth himself, writing a soliloquy reflecting on his actions.

Maths in the Spring term saw us working with lots of different topics such as: algebra, ratio, measurement, area, perimeter and also we did lots of work on fractions, decimals and percentages including finding equivalences between them. Each topic gave us the opportunity to further consolidate our calculation work and prepare us for our upcoming SATS assessments in the Summer term.

In science we studied the topic of Evolution and Inheritance, understanding the concept of adaptation and how living things have changed over time in order to survive in their environment. We looked at the work of Charles Darwin including his studies of the Peppered Moths and the Galapagos Finches. In addition, as part of this topic we also explored inherited characteristics.

Our humanities topic for the spring term was Ancient Greece. Within this history unit, we learnt about the earliest civilisations of the Minoans and the Mycenaeans. We later moved on to looking at the way Greece was divided into city-states and compared two of the main ones, Athens, who had a democracy, and Sparta, who were ruled by an oligarchy. We learnt how these two city-states worked together to protect Greece from attacks from the Persian Empire and how they then joined separate leagues which turned them against each other. We then investigated the significance of King Alexander the Great and finally explored how the Ancient Greeks have influenced modern life and the legacy that they left behind.

In addition to all of this, we even found time to make wooden automata toys in DT, learn about the artists Louise Nevelson and Edward Weston in art and kept ourselves active by taking part in basketball and orienteering as part of our PE curriculum.

Spring has been an enjoyable term for everyone in Year 6 and we are really looking forward to seeing what the Summer Term brings.

