



February 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

## Around school

### Nursery

Ahoy there, this week nursery class have been enjoying the story *Portside Pirates*! The children have been learning about the different parts of a pirate ship, they have designed their own ships, the children have also been looking at features on maps and have been busy mark making pirate maps and using them in their imaginative play. In the creative area children have been using collage materials to create colourful pet parrots for the pirates.

### Reception

This week Reception have been learning about Chinese New Year. We have enjoyed hearing about the 'Great Race' and even re-enacted it using our small world animals. The adults were impressed by how well the children could remember the order of the Chinese zodiacs. We finished the week by learning a Chinese New Year rhyme, which we really enjoyed performing!

### Year 1

One of the highlights in Year one this week was creating ice sculptures inspired by the artist Walter Mason. We have been trying for a few weeks to freeze our ice outside, but it hasn't been cold enough, so Mrs Slater kindly lent us her freezer! We had a variety of different shaped ice to inspire our creations.

### Year 2

This week in Year 2 the children carried out a traffic survey to gather information on traffic in the local area. They thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and used their maths knowledge of tally charts to count the different modes of transport. Also, we have started our new maths topic of shapes and to help us identify different shapes the children went outside on a shape hunt. They managed to find and name a variety of shapes around the playground.

### Year 3

In Year 3 the children have been continuing their learning about The Stone Age and Bronze Age. This week the children have been applying their understanding by creating fact files about the Bronze Age and how the development of tools changed lives. They enjoyed the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding through facts they have remembered, research and illustrations.

### Year 4

I have enjoyed working with Year 4 again this week. The standard of their written work has impressed me in particular, as they prepare to write their Greek myth. In Maths, they have begun a new unit on fractions and are grasping concepts very quickly. In Geography the children enjoyed comparing Greek schools, homes and industries with ours although they were a little jealous of the Greek children's 3-month Summer holiday!

### Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have become archaeologists, using historical enquiry to observe and analyse the artefacts from the Sutton Hoo burial site. As a class we have discussed what the items could have been, what they are made of, when they were made and suggested who we believe may have owned these items. We then researched each individual artefact and uncovered the mystery of who they belonged to, what the items are and explained their purposes. I have been really impressed with how everyone has applied their knowledge of the Anglo-Saxons to ask thought-provoking questions and hypothesis about the past.

## **Year 6**

Year 6 had a virtual visitor this week, all the way from Peru. She shared stories and photographs from her home country, telling the class about what her life in school was like. We were able to use our knowledge about the country and its biomes to ask fantastic questions about the culture (particularly the food), the buildings and what transport is like. The class were excited to hear her recount of her school trip to Machu Picchu and to learn about Rainbow Mountain! It was a tremendous afternoon which reinforced our learning from both English and Geography.

## **Valentine Discos**

Discos for the different phases of school have been arranged by Miss Richardson and FOMS during school time. FOMS have kindly provided a drink and sweets. The children can come to school in their party clothes on the day of the disco. Please note the change of dates for the Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 discos.

## **Best Adventure Playground in the World!**

Lord Barnard is inviting local school children to design the best playground in the world as part of the plans to develop an area of Raby Castle's grounds. You might want to think about what materials you would use to build the playground? What would be the name of your playground and why? How would you like your playground to look? What special features would it have? It can be as colourful and creative as you like and you can include as many drawings within your entry, as you want to. You might want to create a wide design showing the whole playground and then one or two smaller, more detailed designs of specific elements of your playground, for example. Details of how to enter have been shared via Weduc. Winning entries win a whole class trip to the park before it opens! Good luck!

## **Musical challenge**

In music assembly this week the children learned that 70 years ago on 6<sup>th</sup> February, Princess Elizabeth became Queen, although the coronation was later. We all had a go at learning and singing the first verse of the National Anthem. Dr Greenwell has set each class a challenge to create their own adapted verse, which can be sung together as our own anthem to serve as a tribute to the jubilee year celebrations. We can't wait to hear them!

## **Sensational scientists**

This year the theme of British Science week is 'Growth'. Our whole school science homework for February is a chance to get creative and enter the British Science Association's annual, UK-wide poster competition! All children in school can make a poster about any version of 'Growth' that they like and be in with the chance of winning an array of prizes. Here are some ideas: ask the children to think about their own personal experience of growth – from growing their own cress plants to overcoming a challenge that they thought they could not do! Has it helped them to become stronger, braver, kinder, or more accomplished? How do pupils think the world has grown? They could think about population growth, plant growth, economic growth or even the growth of cities and society. Can they think of people who have helped or inspired them to grow? Perhaps they could create a portrait of them to show this? Bring in any posters to class teachers for entry.

## **Dates for the Diary**

February 7 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Mental Health Week
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Valentines Disco: Nursery & Reception; 1:15pm – 2:45pm
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Valentines Disco: Year 3 & Year 4; 1:15pm – 2:45pm
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Valentines Disco: Year 1 & Year 2; 1:15pm – 2:45pm
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Valentines Disco: Year 5 & Year 6; 1:15pm – 2:45pm
February 21 <sup>st</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Spring half term
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school

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