

Friday 13th March 2020

Message from the Headteacher

Gold Badge

Congratulations to Ismael (Emerald class) who has achieved a gold badge this week.

Parents' Evening

Thank you for attending our parent evenings this week. We hope you enjoyed looking through the children's work and sharing ideas with the teachers.

Dino Snores Sleepover

Unfortunately the sleepover in the Natural History Museum has been postponed due to the coronavirus. The sleepover will now happen on the 19th June. Miss Strange will contact the year 5 parents soon with more details.

Coronavirus

We continue to follow Public Health England, Local and Government advice on this virus. Following the update from the Prime Minister last night, school remains open and we will continue with usual school activities. Risk assessments will continue to be conducted. The advice has changed slightly. If you or your child feels unwell with fever or a new persistent dry cough, you self-isolate for 7 days. Use the NHS 111 health line for further advice. Please inform the school via telephone or via ParentMail. Should the advice change, school will send a ParentMail.

We know this is a worrying time, please be reassured we are following advice in school and we still have hand gel and lots of antibacterial soap. Mr Roche and his cleaning team are disinfecting door handles, floors and surfaces each day. If a school closure is announced in coming weeks or days, the school has plans for distance learning for the children. Again more details of this will be on the website or sent home.

The following website and email is available from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday if you have any concerns. [dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](https://www.dfe.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Telephone 08000 468687

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

To help keep yourself and others free from infection:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or a hand sanitiser if you're out and about, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, eating or handling food, and when arriving at work or getting home.
- Catch your coughs and sneezes in a tissue, or use your arm if needed, throw the tissue away, then wash your hands.

More information about the virus, its symptoms and the current situation is **available at NHS online.**

Doodle



We are introducing a new online home learning scheme to the children next week. This online learning platform will support pupils with their Mathematics and English homework. We are arranging a drop in information session for parents at 2:45pm on Monday on the junior site. We are sorry for the very short notice, we are trying to get as much online learning support in place for the children in case of school closures. We will be sending out passwords for our existing packages alongside these next week.

Doodle Maths and Doodle English are accessed online. Each of them builds an individual learning programme for each pupil that is perfectly tailored to their level, strengths and weaknesses. Doodle English and Maths cover the whole national curriculum. Children work on short, snappy exercises and are rewarded with Doodle stars when they access their profiles online. Doodle Maths has content from Reception up to Year 5. Doodle English has content from Year 1 to Year 6.

Parking

Please can we urge all parents not to block the school gates or use the car park at any time of the day. We have received reports of parents parking on the yellow zig zag lines and blocking driveways. Please think about the safety of the children and be considerate to our neighbours.

Sport Relief

Thank you for sending the children into school with their sports clothing today. They have been enjoying the fitness circuits today and we have raised a fantastic £359 across the two schools for Sports Relief today.



Key Dates

Date	Event
6.4.20 - 17.4.20	School holidays - Return to school 20.4.20

Early Years

Nursery

This week we have continued learning through the story "The Three Billy Goats Gruff".



In phonics we have been learning the sound 'o' for orange, otter and octopus. We have really enjoyed using this builders tuff spot activity. The children have been forming the letter sounds on the pebbles in the oats.



In maths we have been exploring shapes with our new light box. The children have been creating pictures using the transparent shapes. Some of the children even noticed that when two or more shapes are put on top of each other, the colours make a new colour.



In science we have been exploring change. We looked at some of the snacks that we eat and used our eyes and magnifying glasses to look at them more closely. Some of them have been cut up so that we can see the inside. Over the week we have noticed how they are changing. The bananas are turning brown, the clementines are drying out and the carrots are curling! The carrot tops in the water are even growing!



The children also helped Miss Charry to put our new water tray together using real tools!

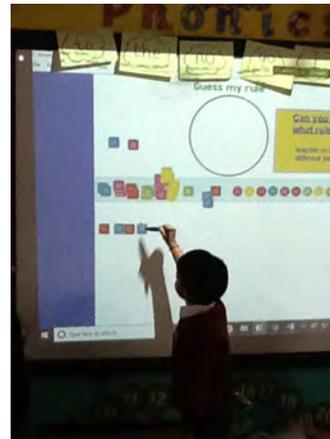
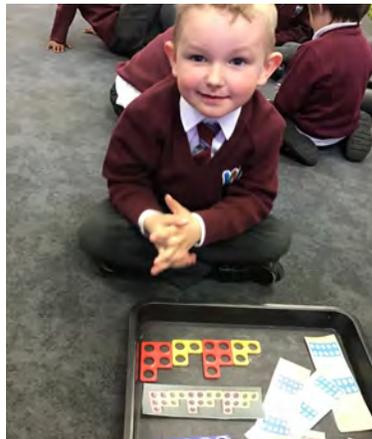


Reception

In Reception this week we carried on reading the Gingerbread man. In literacy we wrote sorry letters to The Gingerbread man from the Fox for eating him. We have been going over the digraphs and tricky words and using these in our writing. Please keep practising at home. We gave out a sheet during parents evening with all the sounds and tricky words that we have covered and the children should know. Please ask your child's class teacher if you didn't get one.



In Maths this week, we have enjoyed looking for patterns in our environment and on our clothes! We realised that our school ties have a repeating pattern of colours and many of our socks do too! We enjoyed making our own repeating patterns with the flower petals, twigs and leaves. We found lots of other objects in the classroom that we made patterns with too.



For Science week we have been making boats to help the Gingerbread man cross the river. We talked about how we could make it waterproof so that the Gingerbread man didn't sink. We also planted some cress seeds and have been observing how they grow. We have been looking at the bulbs we planted in the Autumn term and talking about how they have changed and what we have done to help them grow.



Please continue to use Bug club. There are lots of lovely stories and activities on there to support your child's reading. If you are unsure of your log in, please see your child's class teacher.

All Reception mums are invited to attend a special Mother's Day celebration on Thursday the 19th of March 2020. This will take place in your child's classroom at 2:45pm. We look forward to you joining us.

The Reception gates will be open at 2.40pm.

Key Stage 1

Thank you to all those children who took part in the science project competition!



Year 1

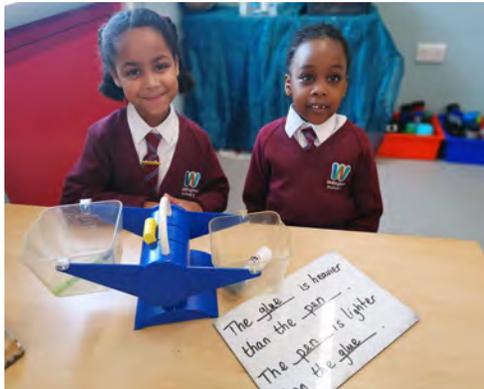
This week year 1 created moving images in DT. They designed and created moving images based on the fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk.



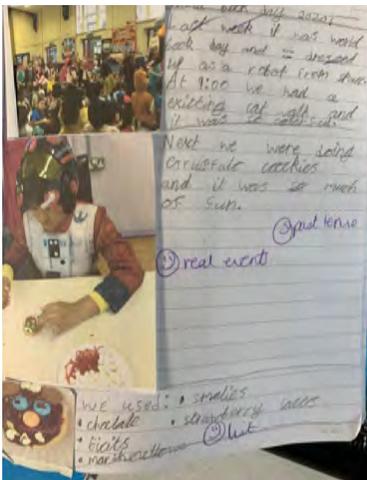
They have also been enjoying reading the fairy tale Cinderella this week. Children in Year 1 acted out their favourite scene from Cinderella!



Year 1 has been investigating the weight of objects found in the classroom. They have been using keywords 'heavier' and 'lighter' to compare the weight of objects.



Year 2



Year 2 have been writing about real events this week. They wrote all about World Book day and focused on using past tense, time connectives and writing a list. They also really enjoyed decorating their Gruffalo biscuits!



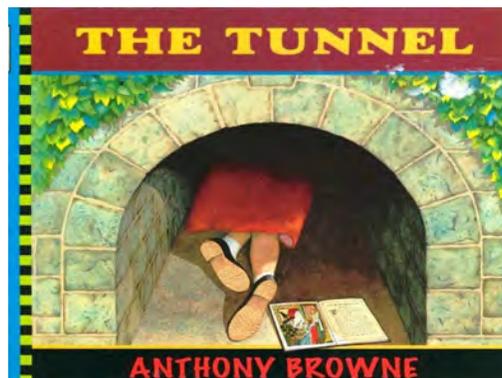


Thank you for sending your child in with green and brown buttons this week, in art the children created some lovely trees using the buttons.



Thank you to Sycamore Class parents for attending the Multilingual book fayre last week.

Next week we will be reading *The Tunnel* by Anthony Browne. We will be making predictions and comparing the characters.



Key Stage 2

Year 3



We have had a big focus on Science this week as it was National Science Week. Firstly, we ran a special experiment to find out the best biscuit to dunk into milk. We made sure our experiments were very fair by only changing one variable. We tested Rich tea, Ginger nut, Bourbon, Shortbread, Jammie dodgers and Custard creams. We all agreed that shortbread was the best biscuit for dunking as we could keep it in the milk for longer before it broke.

We also had a science workshop which was great fun. We learned all about forces and how an explosion involves a chemical reaction. Lots of children got to take part in the experiment such as adding effervescent tablets to water causing small pots to jump in the air.



As part of science week there was a competition across KS2 and there was an amazing response with many amazing reports and models created. We had joint second place winners in year 3 - congratulations to Meera and Tanisha and well done to all who took part.

Friday was sports relief day and we all came in our sporty gear and gave a pound for the charity. We started the day with a range of year 6 pupils helping us to try out a variety of sporty activities.

We have been working hard in maths learning all about calculating perimeters and in english we started a new class book - 'The Fantastic Mr. Fox' by Roald Dahl.



Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week this week. They have been busy testing out which biscuit is the best for dunking and also they went out in the local area to learn how to be a wise and a responsible pedestrian. For their homework, they will create a leaflet to pass on to a year 3 child explaining how to be wise when crossing the road.



In mathematics, they have been learning about fractions which are more than one, counting in fractions and much more. They have gone over to consolidate their knowledge of equivalent fractions and have applied their knowledge when reasoning and problem solving. In English we have continued to learn about and demonstrate our understanding of poems. We learnt about a poem called The River and developed our understanding of how to read and interpret poems. We read a poem called The Neighbours Nextdoor and used a drama technique called 'Conscious Alley' to help decide if we should go to visit them or not.



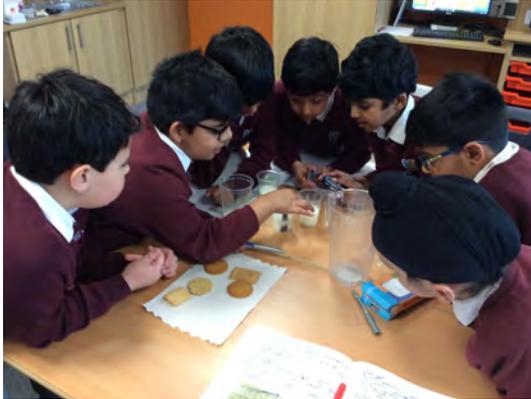
We have also started to draft a persuasive letter as our response for why we should go over to the neighbours in the poem 'The Neighbours Next Door'.

We began thinking about the various reasons as to why we should accept the dinner invitation and then how we were going to persuade our neighbours to come!

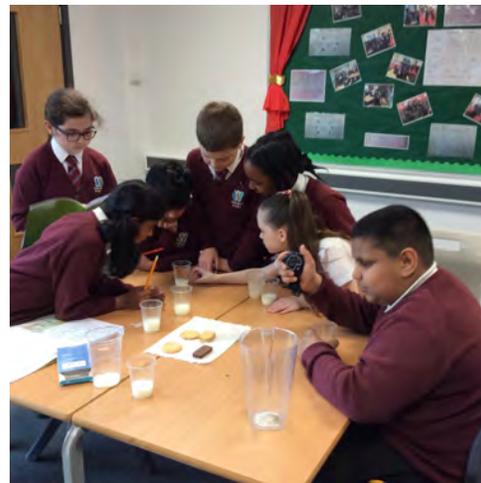
We had to use persuasive vocabulary and phrases and give reasons too! This really made us think!

SILLY SCIENCE

This week was Silly Science week and we investigated which biscuit was the best for dunking!



We tested lots of different biscuits and made this a fair test by putting in the same amount of milk and keeping the biscuit in the warm milk until it broke!! We had to think and behave like a scientist and most importantly we had to work safely and as a team. We found it challenging to accurately time the moment the biscuit broke and record the timings on our books. We enjoyed dunking the biscuits and found that Ginger Biscuits were the best for dunking.



We also had a Science workshop where we took part in various activities. We learnt about fire, aerodynamics and how to make rockets. We have had so much fun this week.



Year 5



Year 5 took part in a Science Workshop and they worked really hard as a team. During this workshop they explained the effects of air and pressure. Through experiments and play, all children were able to engage in a thoroughly enjoyable and educational workshop. After this workshop, all children left with a better scientific understanding of atmospheric pressure.



In our Science lesson we carried out an investigation and the question for investigation was:
Does the thickness of a biscuit affect its 'dunking' time?



We tested lots of different biscuits and made this a fair test by putting in the same amount of hot liquid and keeping the biscuit in the warm liquid until it became soggy and broke! We found it challenging to accurately time the moment the biscuit broke and record the timings on our books. We enjoyed dunking the biscuits and found that Shortbread biscuits were the best for dunking as they became soggy last.



Year 6

This week has been Science Week. We have enjoyed an experiment with biscuits and a science workshop. During our experiment we looked at whether the sugar content of a biscuit affects the time it takes to go soggy when dunking it. We had some surprising results, but discovered that Custard Creams and Party Rings lasted the longest when being dunked. Our science workshop was lots of fun, we saw balloons flying into the air, toilet roll being blown across the hall and inflatable balls flying into the air.



Our maths focus has been converting measures, and we will soon be beginning area and volume. In literacy we have written a thought bubble from a character's perspective and read more of our text Kensuke's Kingdom.