

Newsletter

10th February 2023

Dear all,

We have had a very busy half term at Poverest Primary School. The staff started 2023 with some drama training on the Inset Day in preparation for the drama focus this half term. Drama opportunities have been happening across the curriculum and the whole school had workshops with the company 'Perform' including 'Roaring like a Ringmaster' and being 'Outlaws'. Our film club explored some of these concepts in more detail and they will be sharing what they have learnt as soon as it is ready.

Themed Weeks

As part of Diversity Week, the school took part in an African dance workshop and unfortunately mask making has had to be delayed as the masks haven't arrived from Africa yet. Each class represented a different country based on the cultures of the children in the class. Lots of parents came in to school to talk to the children and some parents even did some cooking with them, taught them dances and the children in Reception had their own henna design inked on their hand. Throughout the week all of the children went to visit other classes to find out about a range of countries and immerse themselves in a diversity of cultures.

The School Council launched a whole school project to 'connect' everyone as part of Children's Mental Health Week. Every child decorated a paper leaf throughout the week and the school council will be putting one leaf from every child on a display to make a whole school tree after half term. During this Mental Health Week there were lots of activities happening from daily mindful moments to a range of activities to connect the children and build teamwork. The week finished with a 'celebration of learning' where the children's families could come into school to see what the children had been learning and to join in with the 'reading cafes'.

Sport

This half term, every Thursday, Year 5 have had the opportunity to learn to play Lacrosse with a retired professional Lacrosse player who played at an international level for years. Some Year 5 girls have also started their 10 weekly sessions of BMX training at Hobblingwell Bike Track with professional coaches. They have now learnt the skills to go over jumps and are gaining in confidence to do more complicated moves.

Some of our children were invited to take part in the Indoor Cricket Festival at The County Ground in Beckenham. After Easter, some coaches from Kent Cricket will be coming in to school to teach the children and we will hopefully be in the cricket league.

50 children across the school will be taking part in the Mini Marathon in April and hopefully some of our Year 3 & 4 Cross Country Running Club will be some of the fastest children there.

Music

Bromley Youth Music Trust have been in school every day teaching the children a range of instruments including ukulele and violin as well as individual guitar, piano, clarinet and trumpet lessons. We are looking forward to our Booker Music competition on the 23rd February where lots of children will be able to display their musical talents and some of our children have been invited to perform at the Bromley Proms concert at Fairfield Halls.

FoP & Parent Forum

Thank you to our Friends of Poverest for organising 'A night at the Museum' with KS2 and to all of our Parent Forum Class Representatives for coming to the half termly meeting to share ideas and ask questions. We look forward to the KS1 film night, Mother's Day gift sale, Spring Bonnet Parade & Egg Hunt after half term.

I hope that you enjoy looking through this newsletter to see all of the amazing things that the children have been learning and I want to wish you a happy and healthy half term.

Emma Wilson

Deputy Head

Speech and Language

On Friday 28th January Mrs Trylska , English Additional Language (EAL) school leader , held an informal meeting for parents of children who speak other languages. Parents who had children in YR - Y2 were invited. It was the first time Mrs Trylska had been able to meet parents from these year groups because of previous Covid rules and regulations . Twenty parents attended the meeting and Mrs Trylska very much appreciated meeting all the parents . Parents discussed how to help their children at home and the importance of continuing to encourage their children to speak their home/heritage language(s) in their home.

Friends of Poverest

Thank you to Friends of Poverest for organising a very enjoyable film night for our juniors, which was a big success! We raised **£291!**

The Friends of Poverest will be holding a film night for the KS1 children on Friday 24th February.

Class	Attendance
Walnut R	92.79
Willow R	95.89
Hazel - Yr1	93.59
Holly - Yr1	91.05
Cedar - Yr2	93.68
Chestnut - Yr2	93.23
Beech - Yr3	89.92
Birch - Yr3	94.23
Fig - Yr4	91.84
Fir - Yr4	93.17
Elder - Yr5	91.98
Elm - Yr5	92.12
Oak - Yr6	93.09
Olive Yr6	93.04
Ash	89.88
Maple	91.14
Whole School	92.67

Safeguarding

At Poverest Primary School, we encourage children to be open about their experiences so that they know it is always safe to disclose concerns to a trusted adult. We aim to create an environment that teaches children how to behave respectfully towards each other, and how to respect personal and physical boundaries.

Operation Encompass

Our school participates in a national scheme called 'Operation Encompass', which is a joint partnership between Thames Valley Police and schools. One of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified. This system has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning and behaviour. Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school receives an email from TVP the morning after a child has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident. We are then able to use this information to provide the right support to any child and their family as and when it is needed.

Our Safeguarding Team:

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Safeguarding Team straight away:

Mrs Weeks – Head Teacher

Designated Officer - Child Protection & Safeguarding in Schools

Mrs Boorman – Head of Pastoral Care

Designated Officer - Child Protection & Safeguarding in School

Designated Officer - Child Protection & Safeguarding of Disabled Children in School
Designated Officer - Child Protection & Safeguarding of Pre-School

Senior Children & Staff Mental Health Lead

Senior Medical Lead

Mr Haylock – Deputy Head Teacher

Assistant Officer - Child Protection & Safeguarding in School

Designated Officer for CLA in School

Mrs Wilson – Deputy Head Teacher

Assistant Officer - Child Protection & Safeguarding in School

Mrs Mills – Assistant Head Teacher

Assistant Officer - Child Protection & Safeguarding in School

Be Bright – Be Seen

We are always mindful for the safety of our children near to roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be. Therefore, we are sending out an important reminder to these dangers as spring comes closer. At this time of year, there is still reduced visibility for drivers and pedestrians and as a result, your child can become more vulnerable near to roads. To help raise your child's awareness of this issue, you can discuss with your child how important it is to be visible when near roads. Wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in highlighting pedestrians through car headlights or street lamps.

Walnut Class

Literacy: This half term our learning has been all about 'Transport'! We have loved reading stories about all different types of transport like 'The Naughty Bus' and 'Mr Gumpy's motor Car'. We have also read stories about great people connected to transport like Amelia Earhart. During our writing sessions we have been working hard to write our sentences, remembering our full stops and capital letters and our finger spaces throughout!



Maths: Throughout this half term Walnut class have been looking at different ways to add! We learnt our number bonds to 5 matching different pairs of numicon and loved singing the number bond song! We became frogs and jumped on a number line and learnt how to use the part, part whole model when looking at our number bonds to ten! We've also been working hard to count all the way to 100.



Physical Development: Mr Duffin has taught us lots of new exercises this term, we have learnt how exercise makes us healthy and how it can affect our heart rate. We can't wait to learn more next half term!



Expressive Arts and Design: We have loved learning to play musical instruments with Becky! Becky has taught us how to play musical instruments along to the song 'A Sailor went to Sea' and we have gone on a musical journey with the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

This half term we have been focussing on DT, we have looked at how to design and make our own boats!

Understanding the World: Focussing on our topic of Transport we have focussed on how transport has changed over time. We've compared photos of transport from the past and present and looked at different types of transport from different countries. We were very lucky to have had a visit from a real life pilot!

This half term we have been incredibly lucky to be able to go to Forest School with Mr Duffin. We have explored our forest school area and looked for the signs of seasonal change.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development: Walnut Class have focussed on the word 'perseverance' for our PSED lessons. To work on our perseverance we tried a few tricky challenges such as tying our shoes, skipping 10 times in a row with a skipping rope, doing up our own zips and more. Even though we found the tasks hard we kept trying!



Willow Class

Literacy: Our topic this half term was 'transport'. Each week we have looked at a picture book, focused on a different form of transport. The children have enjoyed transport themed role play, building on their communications and language skills.



Maths: This half term we have been focussing on addition. We have explored numerous methods and manipulatives to support our problem solving such as numicon, number lines, part part whole and first, then and now boards.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development: We have focused on the children's resilience by setting challenges such as tying shoelaces, constructing cubes as a team and skipping with a rope.



Physical Development: This half term in PE the children have been participating in short bursts of exercise and monitoring their heart rates.



Understanding the World: This half term the children have started going to forest school. We have explored signs of seasons and processes and changes with the changing weather. We also had great fun during diversity week, learning all about the Lunar New Year as well 'travelling' to India and Nigeria.



Expressive Arts and Design: This half term the children have designed and built their own boats. They investigated materials that float and sink and materials that are waterproof before designing and building.



Hazel Class

Science

In Science we started our materials topic. We grouped different objects based on their materials and properties. We tested materials by making a waterproof pirate ship and took a trip to the Science



English

This half term we read 'The Night Pirates', we had a Pirate Day where we learned how to be pirates! We made treasure maps and also found some treasure! We also read 'Beegu', we made our own alien puppets and wrote stories about them.



Maths

This half term in maths we have focused on place value and money. We really enjoyed learning about money and experienced buying items with the coins that we have.



PSHE

We were looking at what our favourite stories were and the children all brought in a book from home to share. It was so lovely to see their excitement at looking at each other's books.



Holly Class

English

This half term we read 'The Night Pirates', we found treasure in the playground and had a Pirate Day where we learned how to be pirates! We also read 'Beegu', we made our own alien puppets and wrote stories about them.



Maths

This half term in maths we have focused on place value and money. We are now able to split a number into 'tens' and 'ones' and use that to help us add and subtract 10 to any number. Holly Class have been playing 'shops' and using their recently learned maths skills to add prices of items together and find change.



Science

In Science we started our materials topic. We grouped different objects based on their materials and properties. We tested materials by making a waterproof pirate ship and took a trip to the Science Museum!



Design and Technology

We wanted to make 'Beegu' feel at home so Holly Class decided to make alien puppets that could be her friends! We designed what our aliens would look like and practised different joining techniques. We assembled the pieces of material and decorated them. They looked great!



History

This term in history we were focusing on the history within Poverest Primary School. We asked Mrs Wheller questions about the changes to the school and looked at old photos and registers!



Cedar Class

As part of our Diversity Week celebrations, we learned about the Philippines and made masks. We learned that people wear these masks during the annual Masskara Festival, held in the city of Bacolod.

The children also took part in an African Dance workshop. They also discovered that the dance they'd learned was a Zulu dance from South Africa.



In Maths the children learned about position and direction by giving each other directions. In pairs, they had to explain to each other which direction to turn in and how many spaces to move forward in order to reach an object of their choice.

In PSHE we learned about what a goal is, and what we need to do in order to achieve our goals. The children chose a new skill that they wanted to learn, e.g. how to count to 10 in Mandarin or to make a card. They practised this over a few sessions and then performed their skill to the rest of the class.



In Art we used plasticine to create tiles, and experimented with scratching different designs onto them. The children used a variety of objects such as pencils, scissors, cubes and Lego to create different textures on the plasticine.

In RE the children learned about Hinduism and the Hindu god Ganesh. They made sculptures of Ganesh and pretended to place him in "water", which is an important part of the special celebration Ganesh Chaturthi. This symbolises Ganesh returning to nature.



In Geography the children have learned where the continents of the world and the equator are and labelled them on a map. They also had lots of fun singing a song all about the Continents.



In Science the children learned about Microhabitats. They went on a mini-beast hunt around the school and looked for pictures of a variety of mini-beasts. They then recorded how many minibeasts they could find using a pictogram.

Chestnut Class

Diversity Week

We learned about Albania as part of our Diversity Week celebrations and made masks.



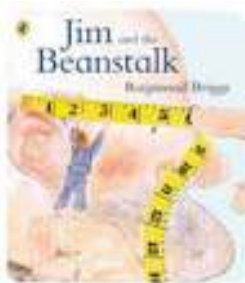
Religious Education

In RE the children discussed what they would like to be one day when they grow up, and wrote about how they would have to change over time to achieve this.



English

In English we read the story of Jim and the Beanstalk. We worked in pairs to act out the main parts of the story and talked about how the characters were feeling in those moments.



Art

In Art we wove strips of paper in different colours together to create beautiful designs.



Maths

In maths the children learned about ordinal numbers by putting themselves into the correct order .



Geography

In Geography the children have enjoyed learning more about the Rainforest.



Birch Class

What a busy half term this has been!

We have continued to enjoy our Spanish lessons, our new topic has been 'Los estaciones' and we now know how to say and describe the 4 seasons in Spanish!

We have started our new Geography topic 'Mountains, Rivers and Coasts'. We have learnt the key features of rivers and have explored many well known rivers around the world. We are looking forward to our trip to the River Cray after half term.

Our topic for Science this half term has been Rocks. We have been investigating the permeability of different types of rocks. To do this, we set up our own fair test and recorded our results. We have also explored how fossils are formed and we were able to look at some examples of real fossils!



Our new art topic for this term has been 'Prehistoric art'. This has linked very nicely to our class story in English 'The First Drawing'. We have discussed what tools and materials they would have used over 30,000 years ago in order to



create pictures and paintings. We then looked for natural materials to use to make our own paints.

We have read many fantastic class stories in our English lessons this half term. We started with a book called 'Escape from Pompeii'. This linked beautifully to the end of our Ancient Rome topic. We learned about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79 which resulted in some amazing newspaper articles (I hope you managed to see some of these during your Celebration of Learning visit).

We finished off this half term with 'The First Drawing' which is a beautifully illustrated book about the invention of drawing. The children have enjoyed retelling the story using story maps and prompts and have written some wonderful first-person narratives.

In Maths this half term, we have been building our confidence in our times table knowledge and have really been improving our TTRockstars speeds!

We have been introduced to fractions of shapes and amounts, focusing on halves, quarters, thirds and eighths. Although this has been a challenging topic, we have worked incredibly hard and are proud of the progress we have made.



Beech Class

Beech Class has been enjoying learning at school. They have read "Escape from Pompeii" and "My First Drawing" in English class, where they have learned to make inferences about the past and characters, and improved their writing skills through descriptions of setting and character feelings. They have also developed an understanding of using verbs, adverbs, exclamations, and interrogative sentences, as well as how to use speech bubbles and speech marks. In maths, they have had fun learning about place value, ordering and comparing three-digit numbers, multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numbers, and understanding fractions.



In science our focus has been Rocks. We have learnt to compare and group different types of rocks based on their appearance and simple physical properties. We also conducted an experiment to see the permeability of some rocks. It has been interesting to learn about fossil formation.



We have had some amazing learning experiences in Diversity Week where we learnt many aspects of Chinese culture including the dragon dance. We are really proud of acquiring some programming skills in Scratch during the ICT lessons.



Fig Class

At the beginning of the Spring term we visited The Science Museum. We had the opportunity of watching A Flash Bang Wallop Show and explored the Wonder Lab.



In maths, we have studied many aspects of shape including polygons, identifying and exploring 3-D shapes, coordinates, symmetry and angles. We have added money and counted up to find change and difference. We have also used column addition.

In RE, we have explored the concepts of creation, sin, temptation, free will and dualism through Stories and in English, we have been learning about a variety of texts. We have studied the non-fiction text-Until I Met Dudley and then designed and wrote about our own inventions. Linked to Vikings. We enjoyed the text Odd and the Frost Giants where we wrote instructions and a descriptive passage. We have also read the Jabberwocky poem by Lewis Carroll, then we wrote our own nonsense poem.



Fig have been so lucky to have been chosen to have Forest School lessons with Mr Duffin. We have been observing and exploring Mother Nature. Playing different games and just having a wonderful time.



In Science, we have been learning about the topic States of Matter. For this lesson we were learning about gases and how they behave differently to liquids and solids.

Fir Class

The class visited the Science Museum in London. We attended a workshop called 'Flash, Bang, Wallop', which had fire, ignitions and lots of exciting demonstrations. We then went to the interactive gallery where the children accessed lots of 'physics' activities such as friction mats and pulley systems.



Diversity Week

Fir Class were exploring the geography, climate, culture and traditions of India. We found out some very interesting facts about the animals, population and climate and many more. We tried tasting some poppods and we tried on some sarees.



Art

In art, we have been studying an artist's work. We are replicating some of the different techniques that he used. One of the techniques used wax resist. Our next stage will be to use various tools to remove the paint to create our own piece of art.



Maths, English and Religious Studies

In maths, we have studied many aspects of shape including polygons, identifying and exploring 3-D shapes, coordinates, symmetry and angles. We have added money and counted up to find change and difference. We have also used column addition.

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Elm and Elder Classes

Have had an amazing first half of the Spring term.

In Maths, we began the term by learning how to do short division and converting between kilograms and grams, kilometres and metres, litres and millilitres. Also, we have been finding the perimeter and areas of different shapes, calculating rise and fall of temperatures and revising time. Currently, we are looking at how to round whole and decimal numbers.

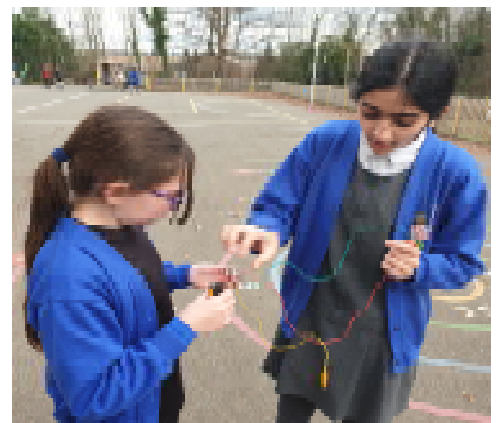
Our first task in English this term was to write a portal story for year 1. In the following weeks, we used information relating to the finding of Tutankhamun to write an information leaflet about the Tomb and to write Howard Carter's diary from the day of the discovery. Also, we wrote an information text about the Mummification process. Last week, we started our new book, High Rise Mystery. We initially made predictions on what the story was about from looking at the front cover and the beginning chapters. This week we are working on our newspaper articles relating to the book.

In Science, we learnt about properties of Materials and States of Matter. We have taken part in experiments to test materials properties, which material would be the best to make a lunchbox, using ice cubes and which materials are good electrical conductors.

In History, we have been learning about Ancient Egypt. We went on a trip to the British Museum. Whilst we were there we saw artefacts from Ancient Egyptian life and got to see real Mummies!!!



In P.E we started to learn how to make a fitness routine and how to adapt it for different needs. On Thursdays, we have continued learning how to play Pop Lacrosse with Mike. We have started playing Field Lacrosse using Pop Lacrosse rules. On 9th February, pupils from Elm and Elder will take part in their first match in the Scout Hut Grounds on Midfield Way. Go Poverest!



Oak Class

This half term, the children in Oak Class have continued to show off their skills and produce some fantastic work.



We started the Spring term off by having a Greek immersion day. For one day only, the children were fully immersed into Ancient Greek culture and were allowed to wear their Chitons that they spent a lot of time creating over the Christmas holidays. We spent the day taking part in a variety of activities such as: history of school life, traditional Greek dancing, a Masterchef style cook off and a Now Press play session where the children were transported back to 700BC. All the children loved taking part and it will be an everlasting memory at Poverest.



Also this term, the children were able to participate in Diversity Week. Oak Class decided to research and again immerse themselves into a day learning all about Vietnamese culture. To finish the day off, the class came together to create a Vietnamese dragon (out of painted hand prints) which they paraded around the school showing off to all the children at Poverest.



Olive Class

Olive class had a fantastic term, a highlight being our Ancient Greek day.

The day enabled pupils to experience life as an Ancient Greek. The children made their own greek chiton and wore these throughout the day. They were then able to take part in an immersive Now Press play experience where they were transported back to Ancient Greece.

'Ancient Greek Master Chef' was a highlight where the children worked in teams to make their own tzatziki before it was judged by the professionals. They then had the opportunity to try each other, along with other traditional Greek foods such as: Olives, feta and new year cake.



Our art topic this term has been 'Make my Voice Heard' The children created their name in graffiti art- graffiti tags. The children expressed their personality, transforming their names into graffiti tags, using block lettering, serifs contrasting colours and shadow. They used blending techniques in order to create a change in colour from light to dark.



In English we have been learning all about Ancient Greek Myths and learning to retell them from memory. In order to help the children with this, they dramatised them, created freeze frames and then developed their own playscripts for the myth. The children have then used all the knowledge they have learned across the term to write their own Greek Myth, designing their own mythical creatures, heroes and quests.



Olive class have thoroughly enjoyed their spanish topic this term 'Mi Clasa'. Throughout this topic they have learnt words for individual classroom objects and well as asking and answering questions about objects they have. They have been able to connect this to their previous learning and translate whole conversations about a Spanish pupil.

Ash and Maple Classes

Maple and Ash certainly have a spring in their step this term and have been jetting round the world in search of beautiful places, learning all about the countries, rivers and mountains of Europe and taking a much closer look at one amazing country, Romania, for diversity week. They really enjoyed learning a Romanian dance together, understanding some of the Romanian traditions celebrated today and of course sampling Romanian delight.



Ash class have been exploring different kinds of transport and how they work and have absolutely loved taking a ride on all of them ... in an imaginary world of course! Some of the children have definitely made up their mind which is their favourite and what they want to be when they are older! But the topic is coming to an end and the children will have to put their floating and sinking knowledge to the test after half term to save the boat from sinking!



Some of the Maple and Ash children have a much better understanding of just how important water is and the huge impact pollution, oil spills in particular, is having on our planet and are discovering ways to help protect it. They are not doing it quietly though and have been taking part in their very own protests.

Maple have also been putting their lab coats on to test a variety of material and their properties. From the best they can even show you which material would make the best one to heat food, to keep ice from melting and to keep a bright light going. And to cap it all off, the children have had such a blast working together on fun Taskmaster tasks for Children's Mental Health Week.

