

Newsletter

21st December 2022

Dear all,

It's been a rather cold end to a very busy half term at Poverest Primary School and we hope that all the children recover from any colds and illnesses in time to enjoy our winter break. The sections below will highlight some of the key moments from each year group and we hope you enjoy finding out a bit more about the fantastic learning experiences the children receive here.

It's been lovely to see the younger year groups perform their Nativity plays on the stage and they have all performed brilliantly, learning their lines and singing their songs with actions. The older children performed a wonderful Carol Service as well.

A big thank you, once again, to the Friends of Poverest for all their hard work and dedication to raising much-needed funds for the school. We all had a fabulous time at the Christmas Fair a couple of weeks ago and the children had a great time seeing 'Father Christmas' last week.

There will be a new club timetable for the Spring term. School staff do give up their own time for free to run clubs for your children to give more options on top of the paid clubs, which we also keep to the lowest possible price. Please do consider joining at least one school club in January.

We are keen to have more helpers in school to help with reading so if you or a grandparent has some time to volunteer we would love to hear from you. Ensure you keep reading with your children over the holidays and it is a great time to play some traditional board games which help so much with basic maths skills.

Finally, every member of the school staff would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing your children back at school on Wednesday 4th January.

Many thanks

Mr P Haylock (Deputy Headteacher)



| Class | Attendance |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Walnut R | 92.94 |
| Willow R | 95.32 |
| Hazel - Yr1 | 92.94 |
| Holly - Yr1 | 89.25 |
| Cedar - Yr2 | 93.67 |
| Chestnut - Yr2 | 92.89 |
| Beech - Yr3 | 90.95 |
| Birch - Yr3 | 93.95 |
| Fig - Yr4 | 91.38 |
| Fir - Yr4 | 92.84 |
| Elder - Yr5 | 92.74 |
| Elm - Yr5 | 90.18 |
| Oak - Yr6 | 91.14 |
| Olive Yr6 | 91.60 |
| Ash | 90.23 |
| Maple | 93.56 |
| Whole School | 92.26 |

Walnut Class

Literacy

During our Literacy learning we have been embracing our topic 'Celebrations & Festivals'! We loved writing out wedding invitations, Diwali cards for our storybook friend Binny and describing Mr Turkey from our Thanksgiving story! We have learned how to sound out short words and are beginning to write short sentences too! We are trying really hard to use our capital letters and finger spaces!



Maths

Maths: During our Maths learning we have learned how to work out one more and one less than numbers to 10 or 20. We loved learning about what repeating patterns are and creating our own repeating patterns on caterpillars! We learned how to use a ten frame and how it can help us count our numbers to ten. We are getting better and better at writing our numbers to 10. practise makes perfect!



Physical Development

We had a great time learning how to play new and exciting games with Mr Duffin. We really love playing the colour game - we could teach you how to play too! We are continuing to work on our fine motor skills with our funky fingers activities in our classroom!



Expressive Arts and Design

Our music lessons with Becky have been great fun this term, Becky has let us use some of her special instruments during the lesson! We loved role playing during our Wedding Week and hosting our very own Walnut & Willow wedding! We particularly enjoyed eating the cake and dancing in our finest clothes! We have been very busy becoming singers, dancers and actors for our Nativity - we 'blew everyone away' with how well we learnt our lines, sang and danced throughout. We are so excited to go to the panto!



Understanding the World

Focussing on our topic of celebrations we have been very lucky this term to have had visitors come in to talk to us all about their special celebrations! Parents came in to discuss Diwali and Thanksgiving (we loved being able to look at a special Hindu shrine and eating cornbread) and we also had a special person from the Bromley synagogue read us stories about Hanukkah and show us how to properly light the chanukiah.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We have been taking part in lots of circle time discussions, continuing to discuss what makes us special and how we can celebrate ourselves and our friends. We learnt about how our differences make us special and that we don't have to be the same to be friends. We have also learned how to take care of ourselves on the road and when it is the safest to cross.



Willow Class

Literacy

In Literacy we have been reading books that link with the topic 'celebrations'. We have been talking about what we celebrate within our family community and learning about what our friends celebrate too.



Maths

We have been learning to talk about, extend and create repeating patterns. We have been comparing quantities, using the vocabulary of more, fewer and the same.



Physical Development

Willow class have enjoyed playing team games during their PE sessions with Mr Duffin.



Expressive Arts and Design

When learning about Diwali, the children made their own Diwa out of clay. We have enjoyed rehearsing for our EYFS nativity. The children have been brilliant learning their lines and singing the songs.



Understanding the World

We have enjoyed learning about and celebrating a number of key events that our friends and wider community celebrate. We have had visitors in to talk to us about Diwali, Thanksgiving and Hanukkah.



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

This half term we have continued to have some great circle time discussions about our feelings. We have been building on our self confidence when performing in our nativity.



Holly Class

English

This half term we have been reading and looking at different superheroes! We read 'Traction Man' and 'Send for a Superhero'. We recreated scenes in the stories by using everyday objects. We wrote speech bubbles based on what we said during our role play.



Science

In Science we have been continuing with our seasonal change topic. We have been conducting simple tests and experiments that help us notice seasonal patterns. We planted bulbs ready for Spring and learned how to read a thermometer!



Computing

This term Holly Class took their first trip up to the computer suite. We have been learning about mouse and keyboard control by drawing self portraits and writing about ourselves on Paintz.



Maths

In Maths we have been learning how to find 'one more' or 'one less' of any number up to 100! We have recently been writing number sentences and learning how to add and subtract 2, 3, or 4 from any number. Year 1 was also introduced to 'money' and we are now able to add different coins together.



Drama

As well as rehearsing for our Christmas Nativity, this term in our drama lessons we were working in groups working on 'freeze-frames' and physical theatre. We also had a drama superhero workshop that taught us all about how we can stop bullying



Hazel class

English

Year One have read multiple books this half term including 'Orion and the Dark' and 'Billy and the Beast'. We have been learning to make predictions, use adjectives to describe our favourite (or least favourite) characters and ask questions (in writing and through drama) about the story. We discovered Beast footprints in our classroom and we made WANTED posters to inform the rest of the children in Poverest.



Maths

Hazel Class have been busy in Maths this half term. We have been focusing on counting to 100 in 1s and in 10s, addition and finding one more and one less of each number. We also enjoyed learning about ordinal numbers. The children ordered themselves and wrote who was 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th.



Design and Technology

In our Design and Technology lessons we have been designing and making a windmill for a small mouse and his family. We designed the windmill based on the mouse's design criteria, assembled it and tested it against a very strong wind. I am pleased to say that all of the windmill's withstood the test!



Science

We have been enjoying our seasonal changes topic in Science this half term. We have been learning the months of the year and discovering which months fall into what season. We have been carrying out simple tests on the weather in Autumn. We made rain gauges and measured the rainfall everyday for a week. We also made windsocks to determine the strength and direction of the wind.



Religious Studies

This half term we have been focusing on 'Special People' in different religions. We decided who our own special people were and why they were special to us. We then learned about who is important to people of the Christian and Buddhist faith. We re-enacted the story of the Buddha and made our own Buddha using Plasticine!



Cedar Class

On Thursday 8th November, we visited St Paul's Cathedral. We had the most incredible time and learnt so much. We enjoyed The Great Fire of London workshop and learnt some new facts from our brilliant leaders. After the workshop, we walked around St Paul's Cathedral and was amazed at the beautiful artwork and sculptures.



Music

In Music, we have been using different instruments to create a range of animal noises. We used drums, symbols and maracas.



DT

We have really enjoyed DT this term as we undertook an investigation about Baby Bear's chair. Our task was to build a new chair for Baby Bear because the Elves had broken it. We tested the stability of 3D shapes, like cubes, spheres and cylinders, before using a variety of these to create a chair for Baby Bear out of paper and card.

Maths

Our focus on Maths for this term has been mostly based around number and measuring. We used balancing scales and weights to measure the weight of different classroom objects. Also, we loved using measuring jugs and tubes with water to learn about millilitres and litres. This term, we have also focused on number facts with addition and subtraction. We have been using number beads and bridging to help us find the correct answer.



We are so proud of how hard the children have worked in the Nativity. It has been lovely to see children using expression in their voices and faces whilst acting. The children have loved learning the words to our catchy songs and we've learnt some actions along with it too.



English

In English, we've continued to learn all about The Great Fire of London. One of our biggest focuses has been reading and to encourage a passion for reading, Cedar class have enjoyed the Library Bus! We visit every week and the children really enjoy choosing a book for pleasure.



Chestnut Class

Our favourite part of this term was our trip to **St Paul's Cathedral**. On Wednesday 30th

November, we visited St Paul's and had the most

amazing time. The leaders of the tour were so impressed



with all our knowledge about The Great Fire of London. We learnt so much about the Cathedral and even took part in some role play.

PSHE

In PSHE, we have been so lucky as Miss Irwin has been teaching us. She has been trained in a scheme called 'Dots' where we learn all about mindfulness. We learnt how to tummy breath with teddies, how to be mindful on our walks and used 'would you rather?' questions as a focus for discussion.



Computing

We have really enjoyed Computing this term as we have learnt all about photography. We used the iPads to learn how to take a good photo and, using this knowledge, we took some amazing photos in our classrooms and in the playground. We also took part in a quiz to decide whether we should 'keep or delete' a photo based on its lighting and quality.



Maths

Our focus on Maths for this term has been mostly based around number and measuring. We learnt all about weight, the units to measure weight and how to use balance scales. We also learnt about millilitres and litres. Another maths focus has been based on number facts. We've learnt how to bridge, using number facts to help us with addition and subtraction.



English

In English, we've continued to learn all about The Great Fire of London. We have focused more on non-fiction pieces of writing, where we have written diary entries, warning posters and a recount of our recent trip to St Paul's Cathedral.



The Nativity has been a huge part of this half term. We have really enjoyed rehearsing and learning all of our lines. The children have immersed themselves into their roles and we've loved seeing them show expression in their voice and faces. We are so proud of them all.

Beech Class

Beech Class has been working very hard this half-term and enjoying our learning at school. We have read the BFG and now moved on to the Polar Express. We have written some amazing diary entries in a role. To improve our literacy skills we have also looked at rhyming poems and developed an understanding of rhyming patterns. Thereafter, we created some very interesting rhyming poems.



Maths lessons have been really fun, as we have explored various units of measurement by not only measuring the objects in metres, centimetres and millimetres in our class room, but also weighing items on the weighing scales and understanding mass.



In Science our focus has been the properties of Light. We have learned the difference between light and dark. We have also spent a few afternoons doing science investigations to have an understanding of shadow formations and noticing changes in their sizes and patterns.

We have enjoyed learning to play the violin and are very proud of our newly acquired skills. Some of our favourite and memorable lessons were making fruit kebabs, printing Roman inspired mosaics designs, making our very first animations in ICT and coming to school in our pyjamas!



Birch Class

What a fantastic half term this has been!

We have been enjoying our Spanish lessons, our new topic has been 'Los Animales' and we now know how to say 10 different animals in Spanish! We have used our prior knowledge to describe these animals and we have created some wonderful rainbow creatures! Next term we will learn some new vocabulary all about the jungle.

We have continued learning about the Roman Empire in Topic. We have explored the importance of mosaics to archaeologists and we have also discussed what these mosaics can tell us about life in Roman Britain. We have designed and printed our own versions. We have also started to learn about Queen Boudicca and the rebellion against the Roman army. We have discussed the impact this rebellion has had on British history.

Our topic for Science this half term has been Light. We have been investigating how shadows are formed and how they change when the light source is adjusted. We have conducted many experiments to gather evidence for our investigations.



We have had our first DT sessions of year 3 this half term and our topic has been 'Eating Seasonally'. We have explored how the climate affects how things grow and this is the reason different foods are grown around the world.

We have also explored food hygiene and safety when we made our Japanese fruit skewers. We all tried something new!



During the first half of this half term, we have had a focus on Roald Dahl in English. We started with the chapter book 'BFG' which inspired us to create diary entries, dreams and has even led to us creating our own versions of the story. After this, we began to look at some of Roald Dahl's poetry. We created our own poems inspired by the Dirty Beasts series. We even managed to get them to rhyme!

At the end of this half term, we have really enjoyed reading The Polar Express, we have immersed ourselves in the story through our pyjama day, hot chocolate and missing ticket drama! We have used these experiences to write a diary entry.

In Maths this half term, we have been building our confidence in our times table knowledge (we have thoroughly enjoyed competing against other classes in TTRockstars battles).

We have also learnt how to measure lengths of things (using millimetres, centimetres and metres) and also how to measure the weight of objects (using grams and kilograms). We have enjoyed getting equipment out to measure and weigh items around the classroom.



Fig Class

Fig have had a busy term with plenty of creativity and fun. In Art and Design, we made soap sculptures inspired by the sculptor Barbara Hepworth.

In English, we have designed our own dragons and wrote a story. Also, we have visited the Library Bus twice this half term, enjoying the fiction and non-fiction books that we can take home if we choose to.

We had the opportunity to take part in an anti-bullying drama workshop, organised by 'Perform for Schools'. Through different activities, we explored the theme 'Reach Out'. Our favourite drama activity was freeze-frame.

In History, we have been learning about the Vikings-in one of our lessons we used our chrome books to research. In RE, Hinduism has been our topic and for one lesson we looked at artefacts to support our learning.

In Maths, we had some learning on 2D shapes, using manipulatives to help us with the properties of polygons. DT has been so much fun with designing, making and testing slingshot cars.



Fir Class

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, we have been designing, making and testing slingshot cars. The children had to think of scale, symmetry and movement. The aim of the lesson was to create a car that had the least amount of air resistance. This led to a discussion about Physics and how that would impact the design. This point was reinforced when it came to testing the cars as the ones that went the furthest had the least resistance.



Spanish

The children have been learning to say their numbers and colours in Spanish. We use the numbers in maths and the colours when answering the register. We also use technology such as interactive games and videos which make fun learning.



Library Bus choosing a book

The children have been busy reading a wide selection of books chosen from the library bus. They have chosen books to borrow and take home.



Science

It is important that the children are aware of the issues surrounding Climate change, including understanding the facts and actions that affect it.

Climate Change experiment - One tray with ice melted quickly. The other covered with cling film (the Ozone layer) took a long time for the ice to melt.



Elm and Elder Classes

Elm and Elder classes had a very busy second half of the Autumn term.

In Maths, they have continued with their learning of how to add and subtract fractions, Prime numbers, Common Multiples and Factors. Also, we have taken part in two TTrackstar battles and won both!

Straight after half term, we started our topic - Space.

In English, we wrote newspaper reports about the Apollo 11 mission and were able to include an eyewitness account from Mrs Carter. We wrote Remembrance Day poetry and learnt how to write a setting description using a photograph.

In Science, we learnt about the planets in the Milky Way, phases of the Moon and how the sun creates day and night for the Earth.

In History, we have been learning about the Stone Age. First, we learnt what they would have eaten and made our own Stone Age bread. Then we then went on to look at where they would have lived and worked and the building and use of Stonehenge. We recreated Stonehenge out of biscuits which was tricky but yummy!

In Music, we have continued learning the recorder with Mrs Pointer. We are sounding amazing!

In P.E we started to learn new skills in Football and have been learning how to play Pop Lacrosse with Mike, who was a Lacrosse player for England. We started by learning the basics i.e. how to pick up and move with the ball in the net and now we are able to play mini-games. There are definitely some Lacrosse stars of the future in Elder and Elm.



Oak Class



This half term, the children in Oak Class started with a week-long trip to PGL. The children who went on the trip and those who stayed had an amazing time taking part in a variety of activities.

Once back at school, we started to reminisce about our time away, so we decided to dedicate a week in English to explore the memories that we had gained. We wrote a thank you letter to PGL for the amazing activities, delicious food and for keeping us safe when we were away from our families.



In Geography, we continued the topic 'Earth Matters' by taking a trip to the Natural History Museum to discover the amazing section dedicated to Natural Disasters. The children were able to explore and gain a wealth of knowledge. We used the knowledge gained from our trip and built earthquake proof buildings out of K'nex, to see if the buildings could withstand an earthquake. We shook the table to see what sort of damage would be made.

Lastly, in Year 6 we have been working incredibly hard raising money for our end of term activities. We were able to raise over £200 from selling 'Jolly Jars' at the Christmas fair with the help from all the children at Poverest! Before the jars were sold, Miss Irwin judged them and some of the children won a prize.



Olive Class



Olive class had a fantastic term, a highlight being our trip to PGL trip to Marchants Hill.

The trip to PGL was an amazing experience for the children, where they were challenged to try new activities and really push themselves outside of their comfort zones.

On our return to school the children used the trip as a stimulus for their writing and produced excellent formal letters, diary entries and persuasive leaflets.

Whilst away at PGL we also ensured that the children respected the 2 minutes silence on 11th November and we discussed the importance of this, just as we would have if we'd been in school.

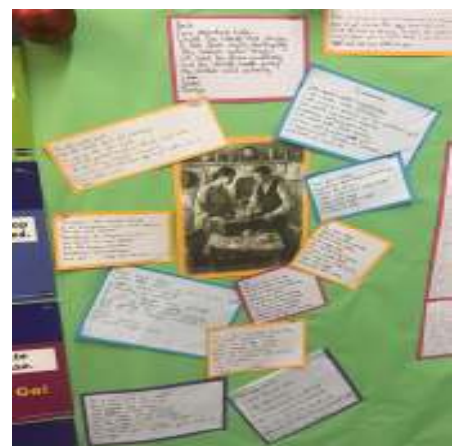


Geography this term we have been learning about earthquakes- their causes as well as the effect they have on people who live in an earthquake zone. Learning about the world's biomes has also been a key part of the topic. The children researched and created a knowledge organisers for a particular biome and then presented their findings in order to teach the rest of the class.

The children also learnt about earthquakes and designed and created their own earthquake proof building. We then tested each of the buildings to find out if it would withstand an earthquake.

In English we have been reading 'The Arrival' which the children have loved. The text itself only contains images and this has allowed the children to really develop their inference skills. Whilst exploring the text they have created: poetry, diary entries and flashback narratives.

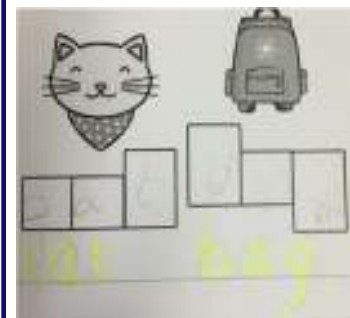
The flashback narratives were particularly powerful and the children throughout carefully about how to convey the emotions and events depicted in the images.



Ash and Maple Classes

Maple and Ash have had a great Autumn term this year and have been working hard on their social interaction skills, playing together and working as part of a team to create a number of tasks.

We have had a huge push on writing this term and the children have thoroughly enjoyed writing their 5 Word, 5 Sentence and 100 Word Write each week. We've had some amazing poems, stories, letters and cards. The children have even been posting some Christmas cards and a letter to Santa as part of their life skills programme.



CYBER HORSE

In a world where cybernetic horses rule the world A lot has changed. Of course horses are cybernetic and they rule the world, they are led by their leader Joey The Cybernetic horse man who is not a plougher at all. This story starts with a man named Bile. He was short, fat and smelled like barf. He was very, very, very mean. For instance he kicked his dog for being too alive and he hated everything but the one thing he hated the most was horses and robots so when he saw a cyber horse he was fuming!!

Hush, I see the debris and destruction from the war, the ash from bombs, dead comrades and Enemies from the bombs from the war and I see harsh ash filled mist making the sun barely visible

Hush, I feel my sniper rifle that killed 70/100% of my team, blood puddle under my feet and I feel the flowers for my comrades

Hush, I hear gunshots from both sides coming, screams from my team warning me, goodbyes to their families, animals slaughtered by protecting people and I hear the harsh ash filled wind

Hush,

I remember my families cries of don't go and don't leave us but I went to war I wonder if these are my last minutes.