

Redwood Class Term 1 Newsletter

Class Teacher: Miss Dyer

Class TA: Mrs Allen

PPA Cover: Mrs Chapman

What have we been doing in class this term?

English

We have been learning about the Empire Windrush this term; a huge cruise ship which brought one of the first large groups of post-war West Indian immigrants to the United Kingdom in 1948. We have now composed our diary entry, written from the perspective of a child told they were to board the ship to go to England. The children worked hard on these pieces of writing and produced some outstanding work.

Our focus now, turns to letter writing, from the same child to a friend in Jamaica.

Maths

In Maths this term, we have consolidated our knowledge of place value; focusing on numbers to ten million, negative numbers, comparing and ordering numbers and rounding numbers. We have turned our attention to the four operations. Children are all confident with adding and subtracting integers, multiplying up to a 4-digit number with a 2 digit number and short division. We have lots more content to cover this term and next, but with the children's perseverance and ambition we will get there!

History

This term, we have focused on Ancient Greece. We have looked at key vocabulary, key events that took place during the Ancient Greek civilisation, why the Ancient Greek Empire grew, how the political system operated, the Olympics, the Battle of Marathon and Ancient Greek gods and goddesses.

We were particularly interested in the ways that the Ancient Greek Empire has influenced the modern world. We all wrote beautiful essays on this which really showed off the knowledge Redwood has gained over the course of this topic.

Art

In Art, we have looked at a variety of artists styles and created our own pieces. We have created stunning black and white collages with inspiration from Ansel Adams. We have painted abstract pictures using our bodies as a framework and have used water colours to paint four symbols, all of which mean something very important to us.

Other Subjects

In PE, children have been focusing on team games and have been having great fun improving cricket skills with coaches from Wiltshire Cricket. In RE, pupils have been learning about the religion Islam and how Muslims show a great commitment to their faith. Finally, in PSHE we have been exploring relationships, particularly thinking about important people in our lives.

Science

We have been studying forces in our science lessons. The children have conducted a variety of investigations and experiments to find out how different forces act on certain objects. We have also been focusing on fair testing and variables in an experiment.

We have explored the theory of gravity and the effects gravity has on items. The children carried out an investigation looking at water resistance. They were asked to shape their blue tack in a way that they thought would sink the slowest in a container of water. Looking at air resistance; we made our own parachutes, changing only the diameter, and timed how quickly they fell. In our friction investigation, we took different materials to figure out which would be best suited for a bicycle brake pad. The children have really enjoyed our engaging and practical science lessons.

School Council Elections

School council elections will take place before the end of this term. All pupils from years 1 – 6 are welcome to stand. If your child would like to stand for election, then they will need to prepare a short speech to their class next week about why they would make a great school councillor. Pupils have already been informed of this in assembly on Monday.

Homework

Homework is looking good, with lots of children embracing EdShed. Redwoods Class' participation and results are looking wonderful. Homework consists of EdShed assignments (*at least 2* spelling games and 1 of each maths game - look for the red notifications); 3 adult signed reads recorded in the reading record; and practising times tables. There's a week to complete homework activities so that pupils can talk to their teacher if they are struggling. I have also started sending home sheets for extra maths homework, particularly focusing on skills looked at in class.

If pupils are struggling to access online homework for any reason, please let us know. We can arrange alternative provision if necessary.