

# Class Updates - 20.10.2023

## Reception Butterflies update



Wow! Well done Butterflies, it has been a very busy and tiring first half term and the children have all settled into life at St Mary's.

This week the children had the Teddy Bear run which was lots of fun. Thank you too, Miss Driscoll, for organising.



Well done to our Shining Stars of the Week, Florence and Max, for making super progress in Phonics and having such enthusiasm for learning!

Our **Topic Map for Autumn 2** is **'Come on and Celebrate!'** looking at celebrations around the world, particularly learning about how we celebrate Birthdays, Light Festivals, Fireworks Night, Diwali and Christmas.

Reception Topic Map—Autumn 2 2023	
<p><b>Reading and Writing</b> Reading lots of stories, traditional tales. Learning more Phase 2 GPCs in Phonics, reading tricky words, writing names, and developing letter formation.</p>	<p><b>'Come on and Celebrate!'</b></p> <p>Communication Skills—including: Show &amp; Tell, Storytelling, Role Play, Reading aloud and Early Talk Boost.</p>
<p><b>Past &amp; Present</b> Why we celebrate birthdays Learning about fireworks night</p> <p>RE: Light Day—Light in Christianity. Diwali—Hinduism Hanukkah—Judaism Learning about the Nativity story and Christmas traditions around the world</p>	<p><b>EAD/BI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Light day crafts</li> <li>Diwali—making clay diya lamps</li> <li>Rangoli patterns</li> <li>Firework crafts</li> <li>Christmas crafts &amp; activities</li> <li>Nativity music, songs, actions, movement &amp; dance</li> <li>Family portraits to demonstrate drawing development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fine Motor, Gross Motor &amp; PE</b> Finger gym skills and fine motor development. Hand writing skills—writing name, grapheme letter formation, developing pencil grip. Gross motor development—riding, running, rolling, catching and throwing, jumping, climbing and balancing. Movement to music and learning actions to songs.</p>	<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Natural World—looking at items we find around us</li> <li>Forest School and understanding our local environment and plants</li> <li>Changes in the weather, noticing the difference in the seasons, from Autumn to Winter</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Maths (Number &amp; Numerical Patterns)</b> It's me, 1,2,3 and subitising small amounts Shapes—Circles &amp; Triangles Spatial Awareness Light &amp; Dark Night &amp; Day</p>
	<p><b>People, Cultures &amp; Communities</b> Celebrating Birthdays, Learning about different celebrations around the world including: Diwali, Hanukkah and Light festivals. Learning about various Christmas traditions around the world. Watching the Christmas PANTO!</p>
	<p><b>PSED / Self Regulation &amp; Managing Self:</b> Modelling positive behaviours, Sharing &amp; taking turns, Being kind and a good friend E-Safety Zones of Regulation Feelings—learning to recognise how we feel. Developing own independence Staying safe, clean and healthy</p>

Wishing you all have a well deserved break,

**Mrs Jeewan & the EYFS Team**



## Year 1 Ladybirds Update

We have had a very active, energetic week taking part in lots of sporting challenges. Year 1 enjoyed completing the PE dot challenge, running between two marks as quickly as possible. We then recorded all this hard work, adding up the scores and putting the results in a table in Maths to practise our data collection skills. We had lots of fun designing a dream playground in Topic, using our map making skills. In Art, we used the water colours to mix colours. We hope you all have a restful half term and look forward to seeing you in the new term.

**Ms Nicholson, Mrs McInnes & the Year 1 Team**



## Year 2 Caterpillars Update



Caterpillar class has had a fantastic first half term in Year 2, Mrs Holmes and the whole Year 2 team are very proud of them all.

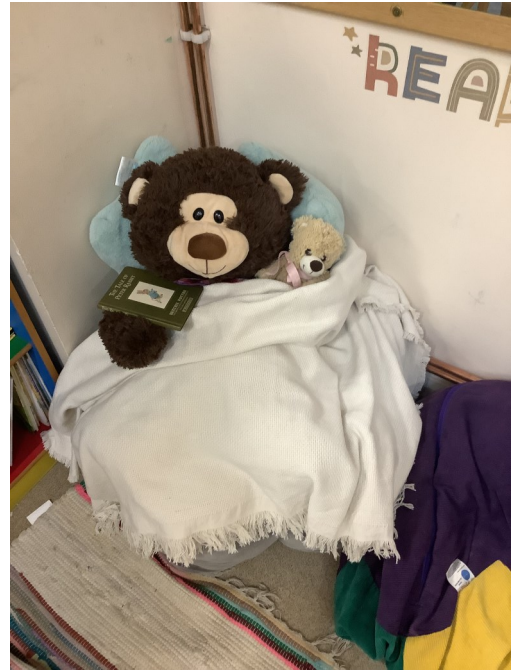
This week we enjoyed our teddy bear run in the rain, with music and of course our teddies to help us get around. We put our teddies to bed after, as they were so tired from all the running!

We have written some amazing instructions in English this week, using time conjunctions and imperative verbs. They have been a joy to read. Our certificates this week went to Darcey for her beautiful presentation in English and to Cody for his impressive maths work.

In Geography, we discussed where we would prefer to live and the climates in those places. The children enjoyed writing about why they want to live there and drawing a picture of what they imagine it to be like.

Have a wonderful half term, we look forward to seeing you all after a relaxing break! Well done Caterpillars on your first half term in Year 2.

*Mrs Holmes & the Year 2 team*





## Year 3 Grasshoppers Update

We have had a busy last week before half term in Grasshoppers! We were lucky to have Mrs Shackleton do a well-being and positive thinking session to start the week.

We were able to think about how we can change our negative thoughts into positive ones and how to be kind to ourselves.

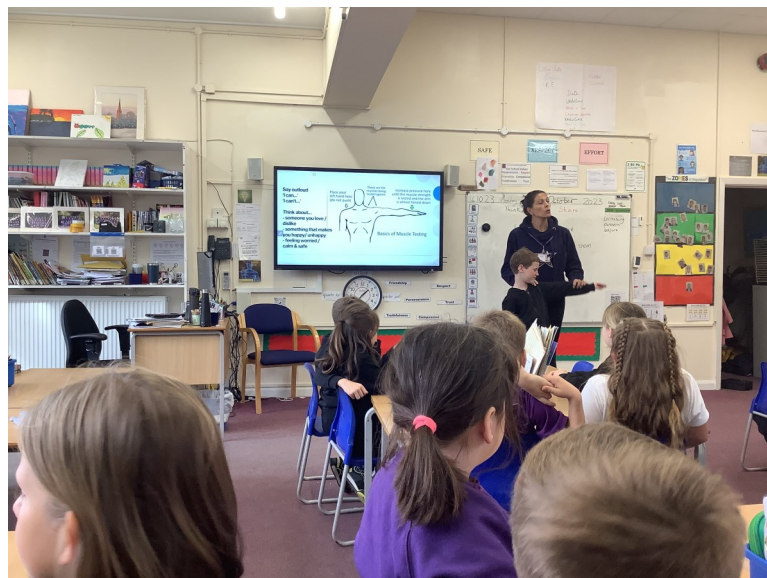
The children have been learning how to do column method addition in maths. We initially found this tricky, but we persevered and even added 3-digit numbers.

In our art lessons, we used watercolour skills to create a background for our pyramid paintings. The children also worked on perspective, used different triangle-based shapes, and moved them around the picture to decide where they wanted the pyramids to be placed.

Finally, in music, we focussed on playing a 'spooky song' (called Ghost in the House) with our recorders. The children focused on softly playing the different notes and then increased throughout the song.

Have a fantastic half-term,

**Mr Brown and the Y3 team**





## Year 4 Fireflies Update

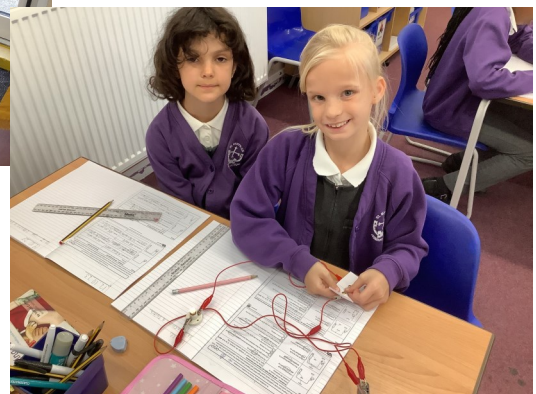
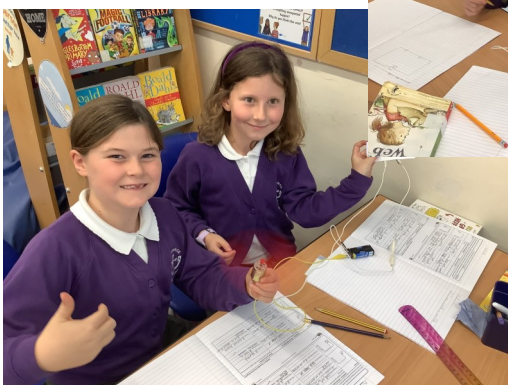
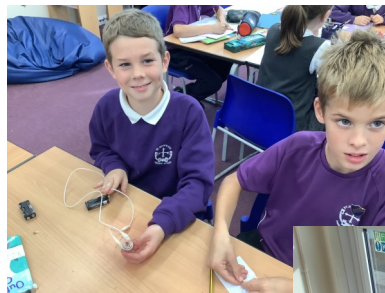
Well done Fireflies, you have completed your first half term. I have been really pleased with your positive attitudes, hard work and I have really enjoyed teaching you again. It is amazing to see how much you have grown academically but also in your personalities.

This week in science, the class made their own switches to control an open and closed circuit. We used split pins and paper clips and then a bulldog clip to make various switches.

In English, we focused on creative writing using different settings to improve descriptive writing. Thursday's lesson, in particular, really showed how far they have developed in their use of adjectives and extending sentences to a year 4 level. Well done!

In topic, the children chose a Greek god or goddess to research and created posters showing the key facts about their chosen god/dess.

### *Mr Pike & the Yr4 team*



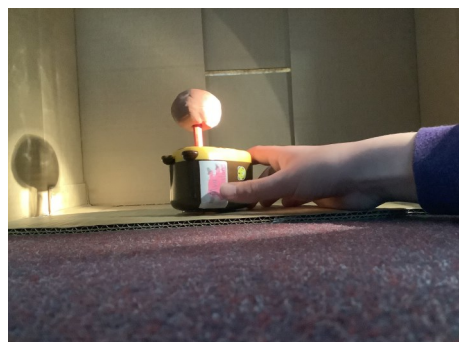
## Year 5 Busybees Update



***Our last week this half term has been another busy one! We have been focusing on addition and subtraction in maths and writing a set of instructions in English. We also had a maths/PE theme afternoon whereby we took part in a PE competition, recorded our data and then presented it in a bar chart. We also came up with some questions about our data. Our last cricket lesson saw us competing against each other which was lots of fun—we have some brilliant bowlers and batsmen/women in Year 5! We finished our unit in Science by exploring night and day and we also enjoyed a mindfulness session with Mrs Shackleton.***

***Thank you Bees for a wonderful first half term. You are a pleasure to teach and have made us laugh daily! Have a wonderful break and we will see you soon.***

***Mrs Robinson, Mrs Potter and Miss Driscoll***





## Y6 Dragonflies Update

And so we finished off our first half term in Dragonflies class by completing some of our running units – most notably our Mayan Masks!

This has been a long time in the making; the children had researched, designed reviewed and then constructed the Mayan masks over a number of weeks, finally adding the last paint layer to them on Tuesday. Many of them have come out really well and they all worked very hard on their creations! Have a look at a few below.

We also decided to create our own graphs derived from the data collected from our Uttlesford District Sports Challenge. The children grouped the class scores, considered intervals, and then drew bar graphs to compare the data. Ask your child how they decided to group their categories and if there were any challenges for them!

The class also looked at each other's presentations on the computers. We worked in teams to create our own presentations on a range of countries, and then left notes with compliments and constructive criticism on their slides!

***Have a great half term,***

***Mr Clarke and Miss Naunton***

