

Class Updates - 07.06.2024

Reception Butterflies update



Wow, such a wonderful week back Butterflies!

Butterflies to the ready! The children are already using their imagination for our last topic of this year—**Let's Be Superheroes!**

This week they created their own Supertato hero, taking care to make their Supertato like the one from the wonderful Supertato stories. The children enjoyed describing what a superhero's abilities should be and why they should be heroes. They are working on writing descriptions of superheroes and writing a phrase, sentence (or two) about their own superhero character...watch this space!



The children are also learning a new song and they are practicing their athletic skills for sports day...they are learning to run on grass and between the lines.

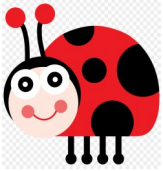
At Forest school the children had a go on the balance line and were learning lots of facts about snails...



Butterflies welcomed a new boy to our class Adrian. Well done Adrian, you have had an amazing week settling into life at St Mary's!

Have a super weekend everyone,

Mrs Jeewan, Miss Hunter, Miss Murnane, Miss Willis and Mrs Tagg



Year 1 Ladybirds Update

The children have come back from half term with a very positive attitude to learning and have taken on some very hard challenges in English and Maths. We have been revising properties of 2D and 3D shapes, playing games and describing them to their partners.



In English we have been concentrating on our phonic knowledge in preparation for next weeks Phonics assessment. We have been doing lots of reading comprehension



and trying out dictation skills, working back to back with a partner and using our knowledge of phonics to read and write.



We have been practising beat and rhythm on the glockenspiels with Mr P. In PE we have begun to practise for sports day, learning all about the different races.

In Science this week we have continued our learning about plants, looking carefully at plants, labelling their different parts and producing some very careful sketches.



We are sending home some real and alien words to practice. Please take the time to read these together!

Ms Nicholson, Mr Powlesland and Mrs Wulfse

Year 2 Caterpillars Update

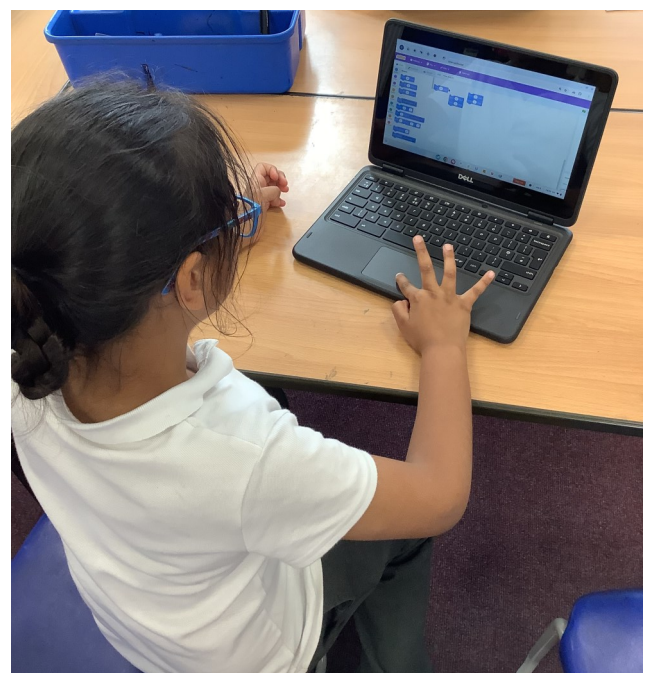


Welcome back Caterpillars! I hope you all enjoyed your break. With sports day fast approaching, we have been practicing several of the activities, ready to impress you all on the day! In science, we have finished our living things and their habitats topic by looking at minibeasts and their microhabitats. In History, we have begun our topic on the Monarchy. This week we looked

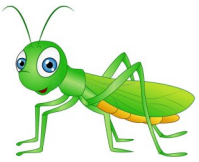


closely at what a monarch is and the important jobs they hold. In English we have started our poetry unit and have started this topic with rhyming. Now that we are phonics experts, we have been able to use our knowledge of alternative graphemes to rhyme with similar phonemes. In maths, we have been showing off our knowledge of time. So far this week we have covered o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to! A polite reminder to continue reading at home as much as possible and to keep up the fantastic spelling practice, thank you.

Mrs Holmes, Mrs Tickle, Mrs Segar and Mrs Slade



Year 3 Grasshoppers Update



Fireflies,

Well done on a busy first week back!

In Maths this week, we have been learning about the area of shapes. We have focused on why finding the area is important and completing tricky questions involving both finding the area and perimeter.

In Music, we have continued our recorder unit and focused on playing part of Mamma Mia! The children were fantastic at learning the introduction to the song—I look forward to hearing more of it next week! Finally, in our art lesson this week, we have been experimenting with different colours. This was to evaluate which colours would be most appropriate to use next week when we create our cave paintings.

Have a fantastic weekend,

Mr Brown, Mrs Norman and Miss Humphreys





Year 4 Fireflies Update

This week in Maths, we started revising units from the start of the year. We have focused on Place Value including looking at Roman Numerals. In English, we revisited Instruction texts and wrote about baking cakes, looking after pets etc... It was great to see how much progress they have made.

In Music, we created a conversation using percussion instruments to show a particular mood, for example: anger, happiness and confusion.

In History, we imagined life as a Roman soldier and used our shields and facts to share what our day would have been like. We also used our shields to create a testudo (a tortoise shaped defense) used by the Roman army.

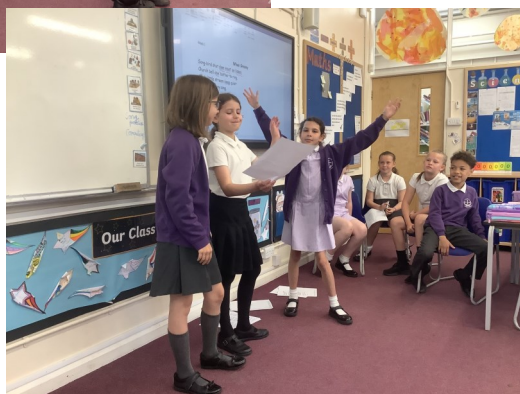
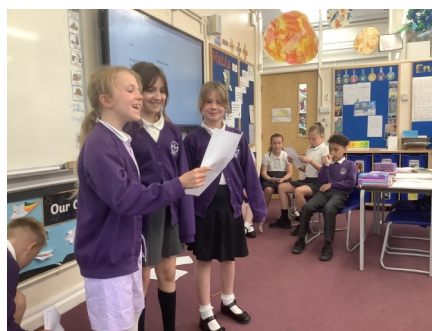
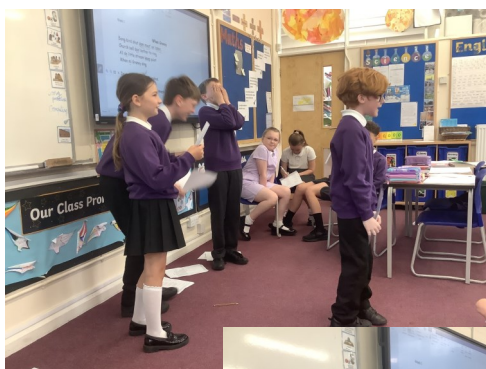
Mr Pike, Mrs Chedzoy, Mrs Smith & Miss Dye



Year 5 Busybees Update



What a fabulous week back to start our last half term in Year 5 (where has this year gone?!). The children are refreshed, ready to learn and incredibly excited about our upcoming residential! Despite all the excitement, we have crammed in a lot of work this week. In maths we have been looking at negative numbers, in English we have been exploring and writing different styles of poetry. A favourite lesson being where we performed poems by Valerie Bloom who is a Jamaican poet. The children loved performing the poems in a Jamaican accent! We have been practising for the athletics competition in PE as well as starting a unit in basketball and, in RE, we have started a new unit on Hinduism. We talked a lot about the Hindu belief of karma and their belief about the circle of life. The children have also been very helpful and made Mrs Wilkinson feel very welcome! A great week Year 5! Remember to get plenty of rest ahead of the residential and we look forward to seeing you on Monday!



Mrs Potter, Mrs Wilkinson and Miss Driscoll

Y6 Dragonflies—Residential Update

The first day began with the Year 6s taking to the water in kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding! It was great fun and it was lovely to see everyone giving it a go even if they were nervous. We all played a bunch of games, most of us ended up in the water more often than not, and a few of us managed to leave the lake a few memories of us in the form of some lost shoes!



Our accommodation is very much tent city, but the children have been having a great time setting them up and they are actually a lot warmer than the cabins! We've just had dinner, which was demolished by the children after all the water activities. Now for some hot chocolate, and in bed for 9, with lots of sleep ready for tomorrow!



Day 2—So the sleep plan didn't go quite as planned; the last time Mr Clarke had to ask a tent to keep the noise down was at 2am! And with the children awake by 6 at the latest, we saw some tired faces in the morning.

But the children were able to find energy from somewhere - we hit the peddle carts, where some of the reckless driving has made staff worried for the future state of British roads...Mrs Norman has vowed to start using public transport in seven years' time!

We also got out into nature to get our hands dirty. The children cut up wood with saws, made fire and cooked smores and bread! A big shoutout to Fraser and Theo, who made the best shelter Mr Clarke had ever seen made on a residential! As well as time in the woods, we also got to get down to the beach, where we found a dead starfish that turned out to not be so dead after all - it gave Ms Driscoll quite the fright when it moved!

While people were tearing up the track, frolicking by the beach or sitting by the fire, others were taking to the skies in climbing. It was great to see the children push themselves and many of them said that they managed to get higher than last year, which they should be very proud about!

We've just had our dinner and played some games of football, tennis and Ms Driscoll even got some running races going! Hopefully this and the previous late night means they'll go to sleep earlier tonight...maybe one o'clock this time?

Everyone's been having a great time and we're heading to the hot chocolate station.



Day 3— After a cold night, where apparently the children had to act a bit like penguins to keep warm, the children emerged actually quite rested as the rain prevented them staying up late or wanting to venture out - every cloud I guess (for the staff members at least)!

We said hello to the new Year 6 class teaching assistant, Mrs Flack, who came in straight away and had a go at the high ropes! The children had a great time trying to traverse a long rope after climbing a ladder, and again, everyone pushed themselves to go higher and further than they had before.

More fun was also had at the beach, where the other groups found a jellyfish, a buried Lily and a deceased clarkius crustaceus! The children had some time learning to skim some rocks and doing some shell hunting too before the tide forced our retreat.



The class really enjoyed archery, where Mss Driscoll's lessons and clubs showed dividends - the instructors said we got some of the highest scores they'd seen!

Our teamwork skills were also put to the test in an obstacle course! The children were thankful for all those HIIT sessions in the end, as lots of the challenges needed strong legs and upper body strength. It was great to see their communication skills improve over the course and how well the children helped each other.

Day 4—It was indeed an early night last night- the children were asleep by eleven, an unheard of time so far! And even more evidence that the full-on nature of the residential has definitely had its effect of their energy levels, we had to call round their tents to get them up for the eight o'clock breakfast!



Tired faces perked up after some food and finding out we were doing bush craft, kit-karts and team challenges!

The kit-karts saw the children making their own cars and then having to learnt to steer the contraptions down increasingly steep hills...with no brakes (we only had a few injuries - don't worry parents!).

Bushcraft gave the group who hadn't handled the saws a chance to do some crazy crafting, and they made some of their own bread before making smores and toasting marshmallows. Mrs Norman was not impressed to find that her group had worked so quickly that there were none left for her! She has vowed her revenge at some point.

After lunch, we were back on the open seas, or onto the open lake at least, with our kayaks and paddle boards. It was great to see the improved confidence of the people who were a bit reticent at the beginning of the week!

To end the day we played some games near our tent village and talked about our favourite things about the residential (obviously, staying in tents was 100%, totally the best part of it all, and they didn't complain constantly about it...). There were lots of different thoughts and everyone will be taking some core memories back to Saffron Walden with them.

I would like to say that they've been amazing; the children have coped so well being away from home and having to navigate the issues that come with living in tents in close proximity to a bunch of other people. The kids have also been great fun in their activities and the staff have enjoyed chatting with them over the week. They've all done so well and, parents, you should be proud!

Now we're going to see if tonight sees a repeat of the previous one or if the last night gives them a last injection of energy before bedtime!

The year 6 residential team

