



STEPHEN FREEMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Everybody; Every Moment; Every Idea Counts"

May 26th 2023

Curriculum in Action

Rainbow Explorers had a very exciting start to the term with the arrival of ten chicken eggs. The eggs were incubated and then they started to hatch. The chickens were soggy and tired when they hatched but after a few days they were fluffy and cute. They stayed in nursery for two weeks and we watched them grow. We were sad to see them go. We celebrated the King's coronation with a great party. We made crowns, decorated cakes, ate yummy food and played party

games. We have loved learning all about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have learned songs and poems about the story and drawn in oats. We have of course tasted porridge.



This is our artwork based on the work of the Russian artist Kandinsky

Reception

What a wonderful term we have had. We loved our visit to Beale Park and the children brought bucket loads of excitement as well as their best behaviour. They really were a credit to the school and their families. The teachers hope that the memories we created will stay with them. In the classroom we have enjoyed learning about lifecycles and the 'Living Eggs' was a magical experience. The children enjoyed the anticipation of waiting for the eggs to crack open and for the chicks to hatch. We were able to use 10's frames to predict how many brown or yellow chicks we would have. The children used their phonics to write about the chicks. In our life cycles lessons we watched the caterpillars (or Patercillars!) evolve. The children have a strong understanding of life cycles that they will build on as they move through the school.

We received a lovely email from a member of the public who was also enjoying a day out with her children at Beale Park. She contacted Mrs Lewis and Mrs Montanheiro to say how well behaved the children were and how respectful they were to each other. She wrote, ' I hope that when my children start school (my eldest will in September), that his class will be as happy, well-behaved and respectful as yours'.

We were very happy to receive this and we are very proud of the children in Reception.

The Enchanted Woodland

This is where **Year 1** have carried out their learning. We began the term by reading 'The Enchanted Sceptre' a story about two enchanted woodland fairies. Our vocabulary has extended as we have learnt the words, ' slate, amber, sap, brook and sceptre'. The children have enjoyed acting out the story as well as writing their own versions. We have had some wonderful Forest School sessions, it has been a great place to learn about the features of a woodland. Here is a photograph of our artwork which has been inspired by the artist 'Andy Goldsworthy'. He makes sculptures in both natural and urban settings using natural materials. As teachers we were impressed at the way the children worked collaboratively.



Above is a work by Andy Goldsworthy

Below you can see how we were inspired by Andy Goldsworthy's work

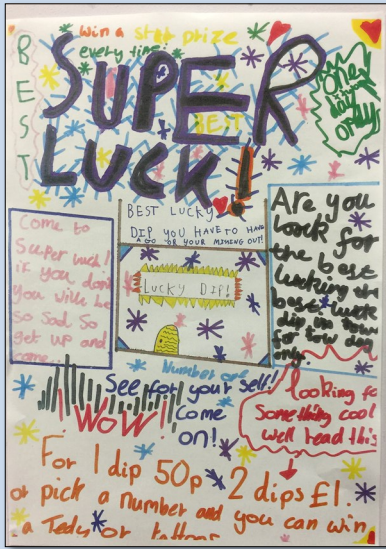


The **Year Two** topic this term was 'Castles and Dragons'. We went on an exciting trip to Warwick Castle and we learnt about the different features of castles and the people that lived in them. This cross-curricular topic informed our history learning and we found out about the Royal Family and the King's Coronation. Our focus text for the term was, ' Once Upon a Dragon's Fire' by Beatrice Blue. The children loved the story and they wrote some impressive innovated versions. In Science we developed our skills of scientific enquiry by setting up experiments to test the conditions that a plant needs to thrive. The children worked really hard in their KS1 SATS (or special quizzes). As teachers we are proud of all their hard work and resilience.

Year 3 have had a wonderful term. Our topic has been all about the Romans and we have learnt about the city of Pompeii. This was once a thriving and sophisticated Roman city until it was buried under meters of ash after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. The children took on the role of roving reporters at the scene of the eruption and used their knowledge of adjectives and verbs to describe what they saw. In Science we have been finding out all about the Earth's core. We were fascinated to discover that the centre of the earth is hotter than the sun. We all enjoyed a wonderful trip to the environmental education centre at Sutton Courtenay. We went pond dipping and discovered that a dragonfly nymph squirts water out of its bottom, we all agreed that nature is amazing. It was fantastic to look at the tracks and clues left by animals and we used these to help us identify different species. In class we made our own models of volcanos and had great fun making them erupt using baking powder, vinegar and food colouring. In our RE lessons we have been learning all about Hinduism and the 'trimurti' or trinity of Hindu gods.

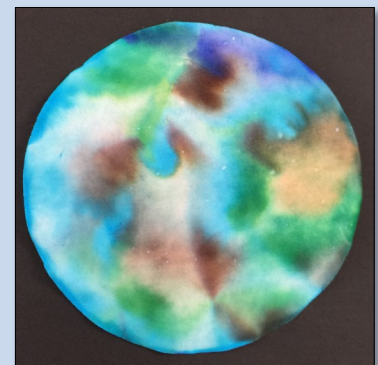
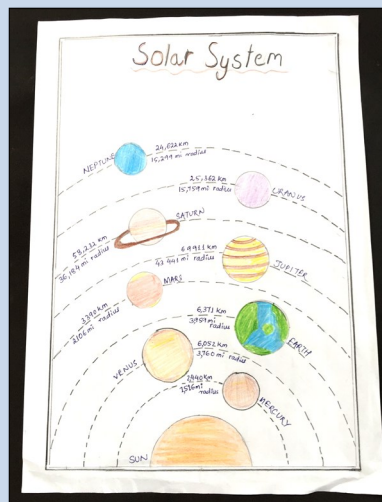


We have had an amazing term in **Year 4** and have been given so many unique opportunities which highlight just how broad and balanced our curriculum is. We had a great talk from Miss Woodcock about mountain climbing. She is an experienced climber herself and she showed the children some of her climbing equipment. All Year 4 children have been swimming at Milton Park Club and we are so proud of how much they have improved in such a short space of time. The children displayed braveness, resilience and a tremendous amount of enjoyment during each and every lesson. One of the most exciting experiences this term has been Enterprise Week. The children learnt about different advertising techniques and how to market products. They learnt about the powers of persuasion and market research, budgeting, how to work with money and also how to present to a wider audience. Thank you to all the Parents who helped to make Enterprise Week so successful. In Science we have learnt all about the classification of species and habitats and in Maths we have gained a deeper understanding of decimals. In English, we wrote our innovated versions of 'Bobby the Mountain Climber' and we practised our persuasive writing with a focus on advertisements. We are looking forward to our final term in Year 4.



This term **Year 5** have been exploring the Solar system. We have been learning about the movement of the planets, understanding the cycle of day and night and how time zones and seasons vary across our planet. We visited the Harwell Science and Innovation Centre and the children learned to programme a reaction game used by astronauts during their training. The children also watched a stage demonstration showing how large the Solar system is and the planets in relative size. It was fascinating to learn about asteroids and meteorites. In English the children have written a biography on Katherine Johnson who was an inspirational mathemati-

cian who worked for NASA during the Apollo missions. Katherine's story was one of rejection, determination and resilience and it was wonderful to read the children's biographies with those messages in mind. In art the children have studied the work of Peter Thorpe, an artist who specialises in abstract space art. Once again the Year 5 classes have produced some incredible home learning, from poems, models of the Solar system and comic book writing. Thank you for supporting the children with additional opportunities to learn and express their creativity.



After months of hard work, commitment and dedication from our **Year 6** pupils, we have made it through SATs week. We are incredibly proud of our children and how they rose to the challenge. Who knew 60 children could eat so many bagels and slices of toast! We celebrated the end of SATs with films, games and Subway sandwiches and doughnuts. Thank you Subway of Didcot and Mr Bews for collecting them. As we finish the penultimate term at Stephen Freeman school we have been busy recreating Salvador Dali's artwork on canvas and creating clay dragon eyes using our guided reading text 'Beowulf' as inspiration. We look forward to the term ahead where we focus on our leaver's production.



The **Year 4** Enterprise Day raised just over £2,000. This is a fantastic result and our trip to Bristol Aquarium is now fully paid for. Thank you to all the parents who helped us to achieve this fantastic result.

A great day at Warwick Castle



Beale Park was great fun



Being nature detectives

We love singing at Stephen Freeman School



Painting our shields



Enterprise Day



Recorder lessons are going well