



From Ian Nurser, Chief Executive Officer

As 2021 draws to a close, I want to both thank and congratulate the children on the way they keep coming into school with a smile on their face and the way they have adapted to the various COVID-related measures that schools have had to implement over the past twelve months. The lockdowns at the in 2020 and at the start of 2021 demonstrated the importance of school being a place where children can mix and experience learning with their friends. The children's resilience and enthusiasm has lifted the spirits of every adult in school who works so hard to make learning enjoyable and exciting.

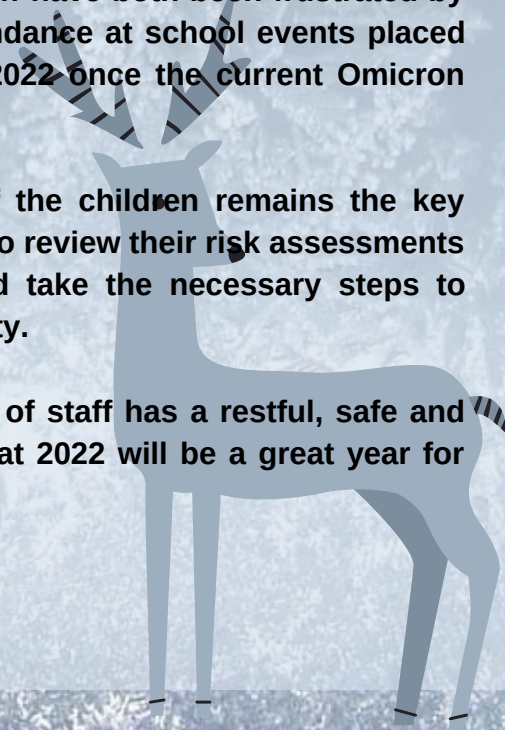
This newsletter is a reflection of the positive work that is going on every day in every classroom across our family of schools. It includes many examples of children's activities and achievements in a range of curriculum areas from across the family of schools within Empower Trust. Please take some time to and read through the examples of children's work—I am sure that you be impressed in the variety, quality and range of experiences.

I would like to say a sincere thank you to every member of staff in our schools for the work they have done this year. School staff have continued to demonstrate flexibility and professionalism in prioritising the safety and welfare of the children whilst keeping the focus on ensuring children's education delivering exciting learning experiences for the children.

I would also like to thank every parent and family for continuing to work in partnership with their school in the best interests of the children. I appreciate that 2021 has been another difficult year for families – including meeting the challenges of home learning for the first three months of the year! I know that parents and school staff have both been frustrated by the limitations and restrictions to communications and attendance at school events placed on schools. I am hopeful that restrictions will be lifted in 2022 once the current Omicron variant is brought under control.

Please be assured that ensuring the safety and welfare of the children remains the key priority for all Empower Trust staff. All schools will continue to review their risk assessments following any future changes to government guidance and take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of children, staff, families and the community.

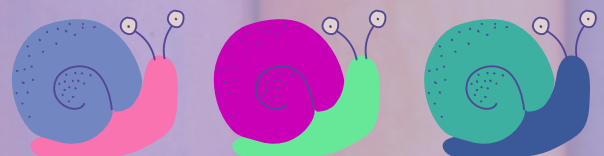
Finally, I hope that every child, family member and member of staff has a restful, safe and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am optimistic that 2022 will be a great year for everyone!



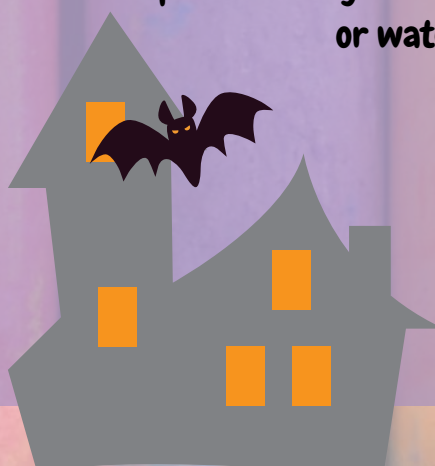


During continuous provision this week, the children have loved our fine motor activities. They have used 'hama beads', sand and have loved making their own playdough. In the playdough they have been able to measure the ingredients using spoons, knowing the quantities that they needed. When the playdough was unsuccessful because it was too wet or too dry, the children used their problem solving skills to suggest whether they needed more water if the mixture was too dry, or more flour if it was too sticky. Once the play dough was made, the children added a desired food colouring and decided to make cupcakes, pancakes and snails!

Play dough is a fabulous material for building the little hand and finger muscles, we call this fine motor development. With the strength gained, it helps children in holding writing equipment for mark making and, as they get older, gives the ability to be able to write for a sustained period of time.



The children have been busy exploring filling, emptying and pouring whilst using language linked to mathematics, such as full, empty and half full. Drawing on their own experiences of Halloween making 'witchy potions'! This is a skill that the children practise daily when pouring their own milk or water.





Wow! What a fantastic half term the Early Years Setting have had! The children have loved exploring the outdoor area during Welly Wednesday. Hammocks in the trees were a particular favourite as was mud painting with hands and observing a spider spinning its web! The children helped fill the eco pond after Mr Simmons had cleared the leaves from it and were independent in using the water butt – some super collaboration going on in order to move the filled bucket over to the pond!

All of this...whilst we had Andrew, the cameraman, visiting! Andrew captured footage of the children busily working away for our new school video, keep your eyes peeled for it's release! The children were not fazed by his presence, and they also loved a visit from Mrs Scott and Roly the dog!



The children have listened to one of our favourite stories 'Elmer.' We have had group discussions about what colours we could see, how did Elmer and his friends feel? The children also spotted some other animals in the jungle. They have been demonstrating a good understanding when sorting and matching colours into groups, well done! In N2 they have been looking at the word 'Colourful,' Elmer is colourful and the children have had a go at saying what else they can see or know what is colourful.

Next week we will continue our learning through 'Elmer' by recapping the story. They will be saying what colours they can see or how many of the same colour they can see. We will also be creating our very own pattern on an elephant.





Reception

The children have been so busy since starting school in September. It has been wonderful to begin to get to know them all and they have settled into school life brilliantly. Whilst exploring and learning in their classrooms, the creative and outdoor areas, the children have developed skills of collaboration and perseverance.

Over the past couple of weeks the children have really enjoyed outdoor learning. They have learnt the rules of outdoor learning, explored the area and chose a tree that the class are going to watch through the seasons. They have also made a journey stick finding interesting leaves and objects by looking closely at the outdoor environment.



The children enjoyed their first Wellbeing day of the year. They learnt about the importance of wellbeing and our school character CLANG the seagull who helps us remember the 5 ways to wellbeing. They participated in a range of activities linked to these 5 areas.

- C- connecting- the children talked about their families and they discussed the similarities and differences between families. It was lovely to find out more about each other.
- L- learning- the children learnt about the importance of brushing their teeth and visiting the dentist. They particularly enjoyed learning and teeth brushing song.
- A-active learning- the children had fun moving their bodies and being active.
- N- noticing- after all the activity the children took some time to relax and notice their bodies when breathing deeply and slowly.
- G-giving- the children learnt that giving does not always need to be a physical gift. They practised being kind and helpful to each other. This is a skill that is continually promoted inside and outside school.





Last week Year 1 end their week thinking about our Mental Health and Well being. We all had a fantastic time enjoying a range of activities that were focused on Wellbeing. We explored CLANG and linked each area to making new friends.

- Connecting - the children had to find out facts about their friend.
- Learning – The children had to think about what a good friend is and why.
- Active – The children spent time with another Year 1 class completing Yoga in the hall, which was lots of fun.
- Noticing – this was linked to our Science and we went for a walk around the local environment to see the different plants and trees that are growing.
- Giving - we explored making postcards to say thank you for being a good friend. The children explored tints and shades and painted a bright picture.



In history we have been learning about a local person from the past, Robert Clive, also known as Clive of India. We have been on a historical walk around Market Drayton and found the old grammar school he attended and learnt about him climbing up the church tower.

We also saw lots of historical buildings and talked about how they have changed through time.



In Art we have been looking closely at Van Goughs Yellow Houses and comparing them to building in Market Drayton. We have observed shape and colour, as well as looking at Van Gough's use of brush strokes.

We were inspired by the building designs and Van Gough's work. We explored air-drying clay and used it create our own buildings. We also used tools to create texture and our fingers to mould the shapes.





On Friday 1st October Year 2 had their wellbeing day for this half term. We used CLANG (CONNECTING, LEARNING, ACTIVE LEARNING, NOTICING AND GIVING) as our focus for our day to help us think about our wellbeing!

We CONNECTED by having a PSHE lesson on friendship. We thought about what makes a good friend and came up with a recipe for friendship. We then picked out a kind action from a random selection and had to try and complete it throughout the day, GIVING someone our kindness.

We LEARNT about structures and how to build them securely. By looking at pictures we NOTICED some key features of structures which helped inspire our own designs. We then had a go at doing this using a variety of materials including kinex, playdough and lolly sticks.

We were also lucky enough to participate in some ACTIVE LEARNING in the form of Archery! We really enjoyed learning this skill, as well as being outside.

Our wellbeing days are really important to help us focus on our mental health – we look forward to our next one!





HOCKEY



On Thursday 25th November we had two mixed teams playing in an Inter School KS 1 Hockey Tournament at Maurice Chandler. We went in our school minibus for the morning. There were three other school teams and our two teams.

Each team played four matches, we had some extra players so we all played at least two games. It was great fun. We won two games, lost two games and drew two!! We scored four goals in total, some of the games were very fast.

Well done to all our players, we came third overall out of the five teams. We learnt a lot more about fast passing and attacking!





Sycamore Class Visit to Battlefield Church

At the start of term, year 4/5 walked to Battlefield Church where they took part in a workshop about the Battle of Shrewsbury - their history topic. The children learnt all about the weapons and armour used and about what it was like to live in 1403 when the battle happened. We then walked across the battle site to have a picnic and learn how to shoot a longbow. The children enjoyed getting hands on with the equipment and learning about how different life was then. They have been inspired from their visit to do some excellent work in class.



Sycamore class want to share some pictures of them learning to play the glockenspiel and xylophone in their music lessons.

The children have been learning music terminology, including the names and values of notes and rests. They practised and performed a blues song and then were inspired to create their one with a partner which they also performed.

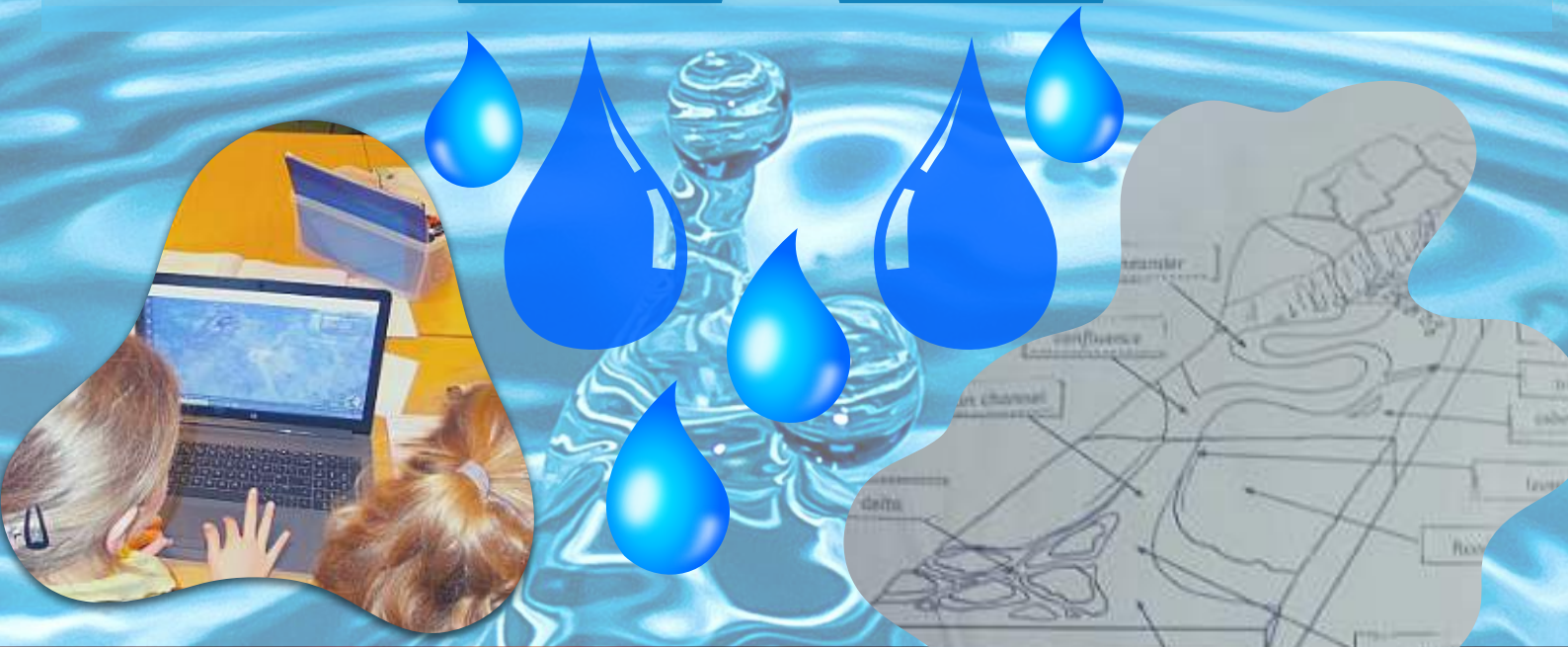




Year 3/4 Rowan Class

In Rowan Class, our topic this half term has been Water, Water Everywhere. We have studied rivers, learning about the journey from a river's source to the seas and how they can change the shape of a landscape over time.

We have looked at the River Severn and learnt that it is the longest river in the United Kingdom. We have used Google earth to follow the course of the river from its source in Wales to the Severn Estuary and looked at the places it passes on the way.

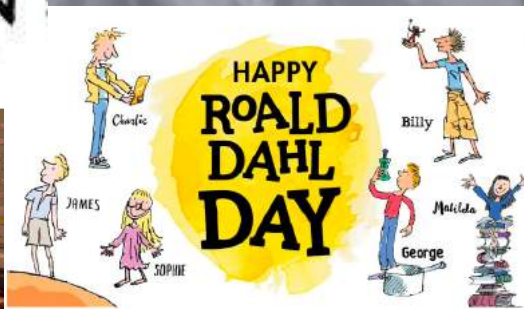


Year 1/2 Willow Class

Willow Class have been very busy so far this term! Our topic is Fire! Fire! We spent last half term learning about the Great Fire of London and recreating Pudding Lane using cardboard boxes, straw and paper.

We then put all the houses together and asked Neil to set it on fire! We watched it spread just like it did in the Great Fire of London!

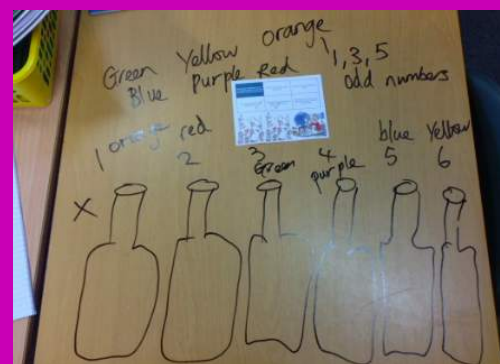




We recently celebrated Roald Dahl story day. In Nursery they looked at the story of the Enormous Crocodile. In the story, the crocodile says that he wants to eat some juicy children! Nursery class decided to colour in their own crocodiles and cut out some sharp teeth.

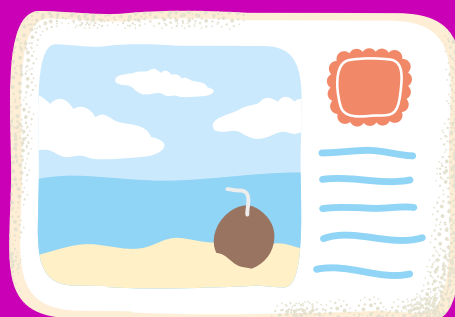


Hawkstone class did some problem solving in Maths. They have been working systematically and reasoning logically! They worked together in kagan groups to solve them.



This term the children in Caradoc have started to read the fabulous 'Cosmic' written by Frank Cottrell -Boyce. It's the story of a boy called Liam, who is incredibly tall for his age and gets involved in many 'cringe-worthy' situations. He eventually ends up stuck in outer space!

The children are absolutely hooked and can't wait to read more of the book in class. Mrs O'Hara tweeted Frank Cottrell-Boyce to let him know how excited they all were to start writing and exploring the book further. He didn't just Tweet back, he sent a personalised response in the form of a postcard! We were all super excited and this has really motivated the children to get writing!



'GROW A POUND' INITIATIVE

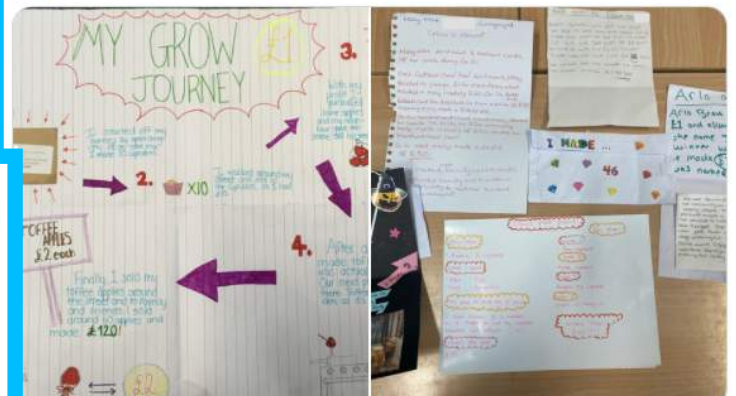
This week we were very excited to celebrate National Savings Day. Together with Just Credit Union, we have challenged the children to undertake an 'apprentice' type challenge, called 'Grow a Pound'. To launch this amazing project, Radio Shropshire visited school on Tuesday and spoke with some of our Maths Ambassadors about how they would approach the challenge. Ellie-May, David, Kaiden and Gracie-Mai all spoke live on the radio and were absolutely amazing!

Steve and Amy from Just Credit Union then took each class for an assembly to talk about savings and to help the children think of ideas of how to grow their pound. The children were all given an envelope containing their £1 coin, all of which were kindly gifted to the school by Just Credit Union. They have already been planning their ideas in Class and now have 4 weeks to turn their £1 into more money!



Wilfred Owen School
@WilfredOwenSch

WOW! We are blown away by the hard work and dedication of our pupils in their 'Grow a £1' challenge. Still waiting on the final total so watch this space
@Lord_Sugar @karren_brady @claudelittner we think we may have your next generation of entrepreneurs 💰💰



Wilfred Owen School @WilfredOwenSch · Nov 12

So @Lord_Sugar @claudelittner @karren_brady @BBCShropshire @bbcmtd @ShropshireStar @TrustEmpower ... the numbers are in. How much do you think, in total, our budding entrepreneurs have managed to turn their £1 coins into through our 'Grow £1 project'? 💰💰🍷 @justcredit



Wilfred Owen School
@WilfredOwenSch

We've kept you waiting long enough. Our amazing pupils have turned their £195 from @justcredit into a staggering £2620.78! 💰🎉👏 Surely worthy of a retweet @Lord_Sugar @karren_brady @claudelittner @ShropshireStar @bbcmtd That's an amazing 1244% growth!

row A Pound Initiative

	Money In	Growth
00	£ 29.65	£ 19.65
00	£ 19.55	£ 9.55
00	£ 343.95	£ 317.95
00	£ 462.30	£ 433.30
00	£ 413.37	£ 385.37
00	£ 545.87	£ 517.87
00	£ 352.47	£ 319.47
00	£ 453.62	£ 422.62
00	£ 2,620.78	£ 2,425.78





Remembrance



ST PETER'S

St Peter's was represented at the Town's Remembrance Parade and Service in November. Two of our pupils read out the names of the fallen soldiers from Wem.





World Mental Health Day #HelloYellow

We held a non-uniform day in aid of World Mental Health Day and #HelloYellow. The children took part in activities including meditation and yoga and talked about the importance of our mental health and well being. Academy Catering very kindly brought in their 'Smoothie Bike' and helped the children and teachers to make healthy and nutritious drinks. Thank you to all those parents and carers who donated cakes to our bake sale - altogether we raised a fantastic £266.63!!



Wilfred Owen School @WilfredOwenSch · Nov 19

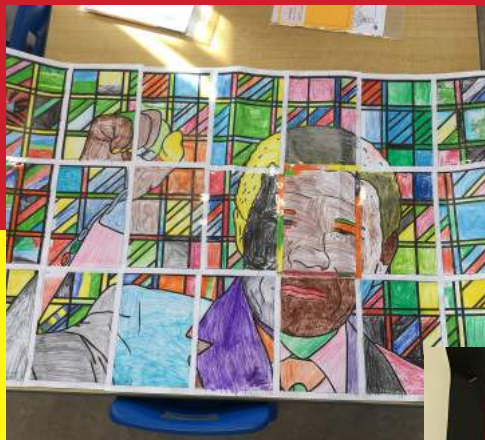
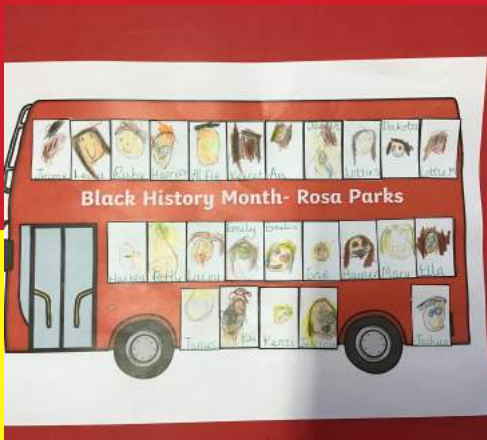
A special themed lunch today for #ChildreninNeed 🙏 thanks to @Academy_Food_UK @ZoeScheepers





Black History Month

St Mary's celebrated the contributions that African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations. Classes introduced their chosen person through stories or through children taking part in research to understand more about the achievements of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. All classes took part in a 'show and tell' assembly to the rest of the school which included singing, dancing and children sharing their knowledge of their chosen person. All artwork from the competition and classes is displayed in the main hall.

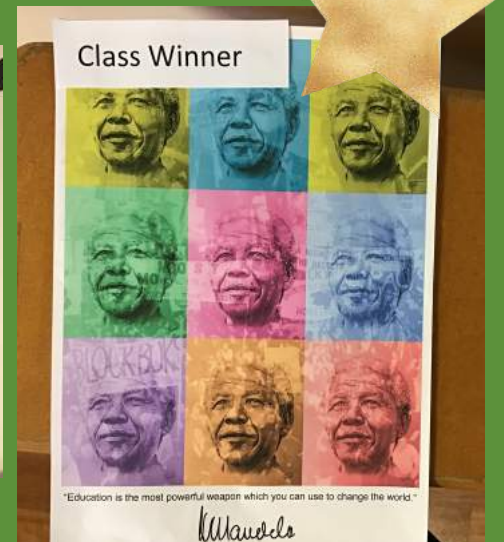


KS1 Winner



KS2 Winner

Overall Winner



Class Winner

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

M. Mandela



class 3



Children with Clay Houses

In History we have been learning about our high street. We recreated our high street from clay.



Bike-ability



Ju-Jitsu with Reece Phillips





Dream, Believe, Achieve & Flourish

We have had such a busy Autumn Term at St Peter's- launched with a wonderful talk to all of our children from Alex Hibbard. Alex is the world record-holding polar traveller who has skied further on an unsupported Arctic journey than anyone in history. He spoke to the children about the determination and resilience it takes to achieve some very challenging goals. This linked with our own school values and how we can aim to achieve anything in life if we work hard enough and don't give up on our dreams!



We continue to drive forward with our computing curriculum, and was asked to become a showcase school for AmazingICT. This recognises that both staff and students are keen to develop the Computing skills needed to be competent users of technology. The school is the first in the whole of Shropshire to receive this award from technology company AmazingICT. Mr Smith from the company said he was particularly impressed with the coding and web design skills that students were developing.



We were delighted to welcome the Shropshire Music Service Soul Band in November. They were absolutely amazing and we enjoyed learning about the history of soul music. There was a lot of feet tapping, smiling and clapping during the session. We love music at St Peter's and were really pleased to be nominated by the Music Service for a Music Mark Award this year. This recognises all the hard work we do as a school to ensure that pupils are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education.



Nursery

This term, children in Nursery made models of the three little pigs houses and used a green screen to place themselves in the woods next to their houses- it was a lot of fun!

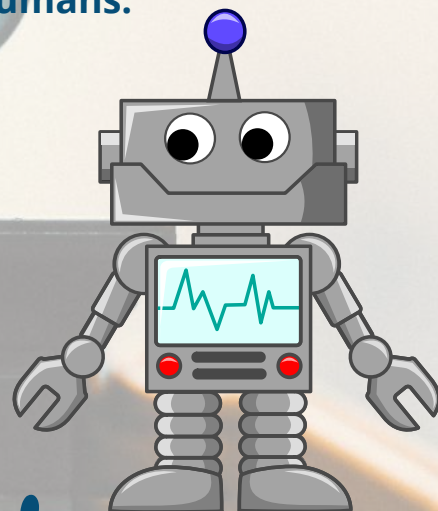
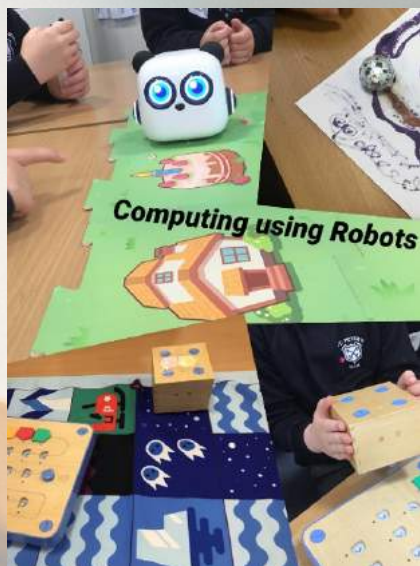




Year 1 and 3



Year 1 have programmed Robots and year 3 had a brilliant computing session learning how to create branching data bases linked to their Science unit about Animals including Humans.



Personal Development

On the 8th October we took part in a 'HelloYellow' day which is an awareness of mental health taking place on World Mental Health Day.

We all wore something Yellow and took part in lots of different activities during the day, including mindfulness and planting daffodils to remember the day in the future.





Theatre Workshop



As part of Year 6's character education (PSHE & Citizenship) programme they had a wonderful time participating in a 'Loudmouth' theatre workshop based on staying safe.



loudmouth
education & training through theatre



Outdoor Learning



Our Year 4 children visited Whixall Moss to undertake field work as part of their John Muir Award, supported by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The John Muir Award encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

The Award is inclusive, accessible and non-competitive, though should challenge each participant. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. Year 4 certainly looked like they had a lot of fun and the Autumnal weather was lovely.





In other news ...

Electric Emma from Fizz Pop Science joined us for an assembly. It was great fun! Fizz Pop Science will be running a KS2 club at St Peter's in the new year.



Our Nursery children were so excited to receive a visit from Shropshire Falconry Centre and got to experience an owl close up. Wow! What a fantastic and memorable thing to do.



Our school council had a lot of help from the fabulous team from RAF Shawbury in December- they planted hedgerow shrubs and even helped to put up our Christmas tree!



We went ahead with two very successful residential trips this term. Year 4 attended a residential at Year 4 at Preston Montford to help them to achieve their John Muir Award. Year 6 went to Robinwood Activity Centre and had a great time tackling their fears and pushing themselves to their limits.





Empower Trust

Inspire to Achieve

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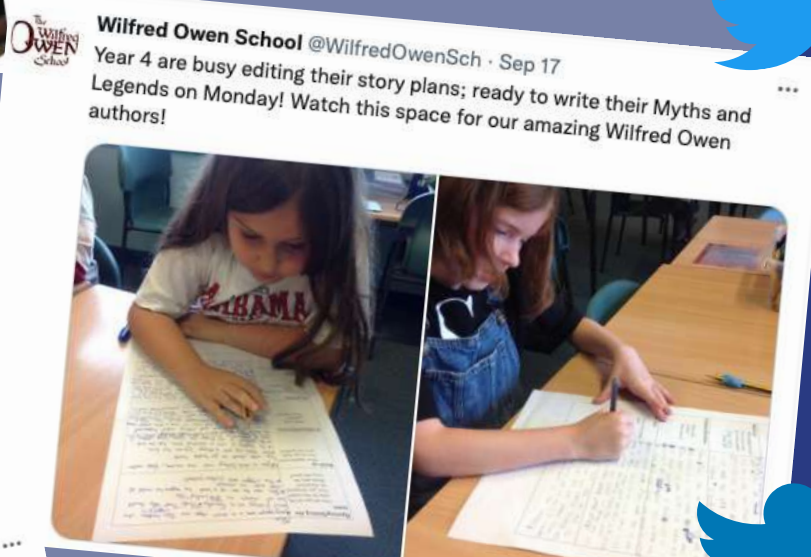
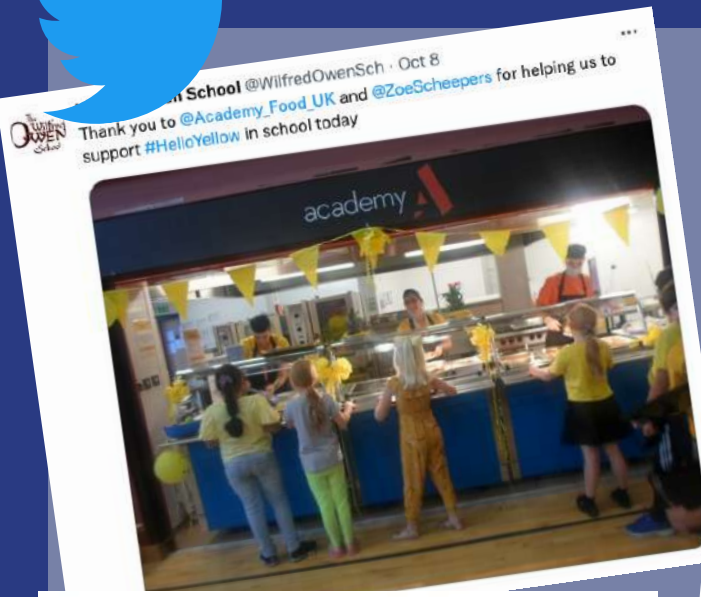
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Empower Trust

Inspire to Achieve



getting social

St Peters CE Primary, Wem
11 November at 17:57 · 🌐

Year 1 have created their own poppy biscuits today, as an act of remembrance, with the very important message 'I have a little poppy as red as red can be to show that I remember those who fought to set me free.' included on the bags.



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
5 November at 13:17 · 🌐

Nursery children learnt about the Hindu Festival of Light-Diwali and enjoyed painting their own fireworks, dancing and dressing up.



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
3 December at 16:07 · 🌐

Our school council had a lot of help from the fabulous team from RAF Shawbury today- they planted hedgerow shrubs and even helped to put up our Christmas tree!! A very big thank you from us all at St Peters! 🙌🙌🙌

St Peters CE Primary, Wem
8 December at 19:10 · 🌐

Nursery children created decorations for the Christmas tree at the doctors' surgery and went along to the surgery to decorate it. They were proud to help out! 🙌🙌🙌

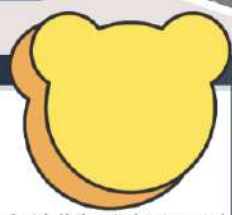
St Peters CE Primary, Wem
3 December at 14:30 · 🌐

Electric Emma from Fizz Pop Science joined us for an assembly yesterday. It was great fun! Fizz Pop Science will be offering a KS2 club in the new year. We will be looking to extend this to KS1 later in the year. All details are on the leaflet children brought home.



St Peters CE Primary, Wem
19 November at 13:54 · 🌐

Thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need today! From the School Council & Mrs Brown 🙌





ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL
HREWSBURY



Year 3

It has been a fantastic start to the year for newest students at St Georges. The children have settled in well and have been working very hard.

In maths this half term, we have been looking in depth at the place value of numbers and using lots of different resources and images to help us with our investigations. One of our favourite pieces of new equipment was the Cuisenaire rods. The beauty of these is that each rod doesn't necessarily have a defined value, so the children can compare many different sets of numbers. We completed 3 investigations using the Cuisenaire. First the children worked out the value of the bars from 1-10 and then solved problems such as: if the orange bar was valued at 100, what would the other bars be worth? Finally, we thought about how many ways we could create 10 using the smaller bars.



We have also really enjoyed using the iPads and laptops to try out TTRockstars and Sumdog.



For National Poetry Day, we watched a video, by poet Simon Mole, to get some tips on how to write a poem about our dream day. We came up with some very creative ideas about what we wanted for our breakfast, what the weather would be like and what we would do on our dream day. We also recorded ourselves reading aloud some of our poems.

For breakfast I
will have a chocolate
ruler. The weather
will be misty, mysterious, magic
whether. I will share
my day with Colin
We take a 157 and
it will go at 1000 m
I will put 16 pistons
in the engine. It has
exhaust pipes. The
runs on petrol and
fire can come out
exhaust.



Step back to the Stone Age...

We have really enjoyed learning about early civilization and how people used to live, hunt and survive 2.6 million years ago! We even went on a Stone Age safari to discover all the different pre-historic animals and compare them to animals we have today.





**ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
SHREWSBURY

Year 3

To introduce our Stone Age topic, the children gathered outdoor objects like pinecones, sticks and freshly cut grass to create images- just like the first man! We have also been learning about all about the different pastel skills in a build up to creating our very own cave painting. We created stories of hunting and animals racing in our pictures, bringing them to modern day life.



For European Languages Day a special visitor came in and did a French workshop with us. We played games where we hid a teddy bear and had to say 'chaud' (hot) and 'froid' (cold)! We especially enjoyed learning heads, shoulders, knees and toes in French too! We are excited to continue learning French with our teachers in school.

Ciao from year 4

Well what a busy term we have had in year 4! The pupils have settled into the new school year well. We have started our Ancient Greeks topic and have achieved plenty more. A highlight of the term so far was European Languages Day where Senior Thomas gave us an energetic introduction to Italian.





**ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
SHREWSBURY



Mathematical moments

We started this year by revisiting that tricky maths topic – time! We have also spent time looking at place value in 4 digit numbers and looking at methods to add them efficiently. In arithmetic, we have been working on our times tables, especially the 4s and 8s – helping our frogs leap from lily pad to lily pad.



Grand Greek Designs

We have recapped the continents of the world and the countries in Europe. We've looked at where the Ancient Greeks fit into world history and the events that occurred during the Ancient Greek period. Our walk into Shrewsbury made us realise how much of our local architecture is inspired by the Ancient Greek.



Understanding Judaism

This half term, we have been focussing on Judaism. We have explored the story of Abraham and looked at understanding the importance of Jewish people's relationship with God. The children have compared what they have learnt about the Jewish religion with Christianity.

Get into a good book ..



This half term Year 4 have been reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman, we will be using what we have read as a starting point for writing our own firework stories and poems after half term. The children have loved this book and have really enjoyed spending time reading it as well as using it when completing their English hot write.





ST GEORGE'S JUNIOR SCHOOL SHREWSBURY



This half term Year 4 have been looking into why people make different choices about the food that they eat. We have looked into fair trade, organic and free range food options and why these are important. The children were particularly interested in the chicken farms and were happy to see the chickens being cared for well, this brought around a lot of great discussion surrounding animal and human welfare.

No more exclusion
We all are kind in different ways
a special group throughout the days.
We're not different we're the human race,
sometimes we just need a little space.
Always belong never forget it,
we share kind words and don't regret it,
Everything is possible when you are kind,
we are all unique and we don't mind.
Don't be jealous don't be rude,
just please watch your attitude.
We won't be a victim,
maybe we just need a new system.
I hope there is a solution, to this crazy
exclusion.
Always together and together forever,
Recall class include, whatever the
weather.

We have also been learning about metacognition and different learning powers such as resilience, concentration and co-operation, which the children then use when completing other tasks. We managed to make strong links to PSHE on national poetry day this year. We chose a poem by John Mole about exclusion, the children spent time discussing what it means to be excluded and the final message they came up with was 'everyone needs to be included and not excluded'. From this we were able to create some amazing class poems based on inclusion within school and in the everyday world.



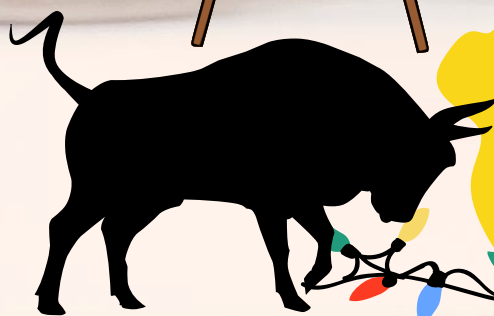
As a final PSHE task for this half term the children created their own 'acts of kindness' and delivered them to their class mates, they were ecstatic to see the reactions that their acts generated.



Hola!



This term, Year 5 have enjoyed several language themed days. We started off with International Languages Day, where Year 5 were lucky enough to have a Spanish workshop. The children learned how to say their names, discuss classroom language and had a go at singing, 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.' Even Mr Flack joined in on the action!





**ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
SHREWSBURY

Space



Our topic this term is 'Space.' We have studied the history of space travel and debated the impact of both the American and Russian contributions to the space race. Using our geographical knowledge to investigate human and physical features of the area, we have discussed why Florida was chosen as the location for NASA and have begun to develop our understanding of the role of the International Space Station.

We have deepened our understanding of the planets in our solar system and are going to end this half term with a video call from a STEM ambassador, who will be running a workshop with the children based around 'The Wonders of Space.'

National Poetry Day

Continuing the languages theme, last week, the children participated in National Poetry Day. We had a wonderful day, focusing on the theme of, 'Choice.' We linked it with our PSHE and considered how the words that we use can impact others. We focused our poetry on 'choosing kindness.' The children thought about how people treating us with kindness makes us feel and from there, chose words to base their poetry on. We used, 'The Book of Lost Words,' to inspire us in both writing our acrostic poems and creating illustrations.

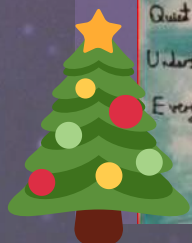
Unique
Unique means you're a one and only that you are a ray of sunshine
Never forget how special you are to everyone you know
In the whole wide world I'd choose you, and in the storm I'd cuddle up to you
Quiet but still so loud
Understanding but ever so caring
Everybody is very different and that is the definition of unique.



Friends
Friends never let you down no matter what.
Right or wrong they will always be there for you.
Ice cold heart they will make it warm again.
Every rainy day they will make a smile appear on my face.
Nothing will stop us loving forever.
Danger might come our way but brake ups won't come over.
So even when we fall down our friends are always here to pull us back up.

Adventure Stories

In English this half term, Year 5 have been exploring adventure stories. We started by identifying features and seeing how we could apply them to our own work. Year 5 have spent this term exploring setting descriptions and looking at how the vocabulary that we choose to use can impact on the reader. We have developed our understanding of using senses to help create a description as well as practicing our use of fronted adverbials, subordinating conjunctions and relative clauses.





**ST GEORGE'S
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
SHREWSBURY

Geography, Science, History & more..



As part of Year 6's geography learning, we were lucky enough to go on a trip along the River Severn on the Sabrina Boat. We learnt about the history of the river, the bridges and the interesting buildings which sit beside the river. Despite being a very rainy day, children also managed to enjoy some time investigating forces on the playground linked to our science topic and observing the shape of the features of the river. Back at school, we applied our observations to learning about the source and mouth of the River Severn.

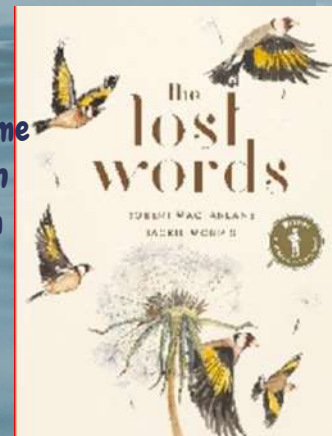


Investigating Forces



International Poetry Day

International Poetry Day was another chance for Year 6 to celebrate language, this time through poetry. This year's theme was 'choice' and we focused on choosing words of kindness with poems which encouraged our choice of words to be those of support and positivity.



Year 6 focused on a beautiful poetry book 'The Lost Words' by Robert MacFarlane. Children created their own poems (focused on our anti-bullying week learning) which explored words of kindness through water colour illustrations and acrostic poems in the style of our focus book. Each class put these beautiful poems together to create an anthology which would 'conjure' kindness, much like our beautiful book. Sunday 10th of October was also World Mental Health Day: children spent some time the following day using their poetry anthology and reflecting on our learning about mental health in order to consider how we would look after our own and others mental health.





Remembrance

Woodfield Infants and St George's Junior Schools Remember



At 11:00am this morning, both schools came together on the large playground to participate in a joint assembly in honour of Remembrance Day. The pupils were a credit to the schools as they listened attentively to Mrs Richardson perform 'The Last Post' and Reveille' on the flugel horn. All children and staff participated respectfully during the moment of silence and following this, several pupils from both schools read the poems they had created inspired by 'In Flanders Fields'. Pupils reflected on the importance of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance of those who have suffered or lost their lives to war, and as the representation of hope for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our school communities who have purchased merchandise and contributed to the donations for The Royal British Legion. A special thank-you to Mrs Richardson for the musical contributions during our Remembrance Assembly, the school office staff for the sale of the merchandise and the pupils for their creative and aesthetic contributions.

We hope you enjoy seeing some photographs of the morning.

Mrs Munro



At 11 am, Mrs Richardson played The Last Post. At 11.02 Mrs Richardson played the Reveille



Jan drew a beautiful Remembrance Butterfly



Everyone enjoyed an Assembly on the large playground



Children from Woodfield and St George's reciting their poems to everyone





On Friday, 19th November, everyone enjoyed coming to school to support Children in Need. There was lots of spotty clothes, yellow clothes, spotty faces and Pudsey and Blush Ears being worn!



The grand total raised by Woodfield Infant School is an amazing £272.22 which has been donated to the Children in Need appeal. A very big thank you for your support!





Woodfield Infant School

'Working in partnership to educate, nurture and empower'

On the 4th November, we celebrated Diwali and enjoyed learning all about how Diwali is celebrated.

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.

Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. The festival is usually some time between October and November, with the date changing each year.



This year Diwali took place from 2 November to 6 November with the main day of celebration on Thursday 4 November. We hope you enjoy seeing some of our work and how we celebrated.



Mrs Sivasankaran visited all of the classes to talk about the special festival and explained how she and her family celebrate Diwali.



Everyone enjoyed making beautiful Rangoli patterns using lots of different materials such as different coloured paper, chalk and leaves.



We would like to thank Mrs Sivasankaran in helping us celebrate Diwali. Everyone really enjoyed celebrating this festival and learning more about other cultures and religions.



Central Team News

Staffing Update

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to Lucy Copson who has joined us in the Central Team!



Lucy joined the Trust in October 2021 as the Trust Administrator

Prior to joining the Trust, from 2013-2021 Lucy worked as an administrator for a care company for Adults with learning disabilities. Prior to this, Lucy spent 11 years working for the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Lucy provides support to the Senior Trust staff and the Finance team.

Contact Us!

If you have stories, pictures, fund raisers or social media posts that you would like included in our Newsletter, please email
Michelle.harrington@empowertrust.co.uk





Central Team News

Admin Training Day at Shrewsbury Town FC



On Wednesday 13th October, the Trust facilitated the first ever training day for all administrative staff across the Trust.



The CEO and Central Team staff delivered sessions on Trust vision & values, finance updates, fraud awareness, health & safety and staff wellbeing.



The CEO also taught the team how to count from 1 to 10 in Japanese!

Huge thanks to Darren Edwards, Motivational Speaker, who spoke about his life changing accident and talked about overcoming adversity, resilience and the power of team work. The whole room was captivated whilst Darren delivered an open and honest account of his moving story.

Thanks also to Danielle Duncan who delivered a thought provoking session on effective customer service in schools and protecting data.

A great day was had by all and we hope to make this an annual event for our valued support staff.



**MARKET DRAYTON
JUNIOR SCHOOL**

European Day of Languages

On Friday 24th September we held a celebration day to mark the European Day of Languages. Each class in every year group represented a European country and came to school in its national flag colours.

They participated in a range of activities including learning some words and phrases from that country's language, making bunting, listening to traditional music and a number of classes even took part in taste testing some traditional national foods.

Some of the countries included Italy, Poland, Greece, Scotland and Belgium. The children learnt about the importance of language for communication as well as for understanding cultural diversity. All of the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Harvest Food Collection

Despite not being able to hold our annual Harvest Festival in the normal way this year, in order to keep our school community safe, we were thankfully still able to support two local charities with our Harvest Food Collection.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Market Drayton Foodbank and the Elizabeth Trust. This is only a portion of the goods we gave to the two organisations across the last few weeks. They have asked us to pass on their gratitude for such kind donations during these difficult times.



Kelsey in 6JL currently has 3 ponies which she competes in British Show-jumping competitions. She works very hard looking after them and trains most nights, no matter the weather, to get them fit and ready for shows.

She has competed in finals including The National championships, Winter Pony Finals, Scope, The Scottish & English Home Pony International, winning lots of rosettes along the way and is looking forward to producing her two novice ponies and having lots of fun with them. Keep up the fantastic



Year 3

Year 3 have had a great start to the school year and we are so proud of how everyone has settled to the routines and expectations of Junior School.

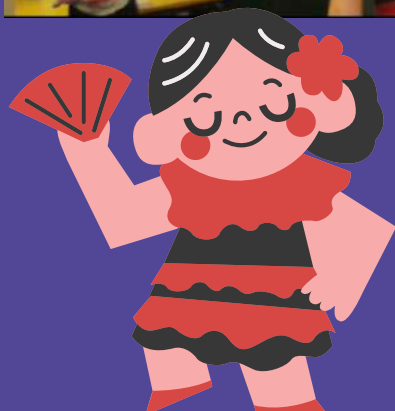
In English we have looked at poetry, story writing and setting descriptions. In Maths we have revisited and extended our understanding of place value to 3 digits and are now working on addition and subtraction skills. We are also completing our weekly Big Maths challenges and would like to thank our parents for the support they are providing at home to help their children to become more confident at a range of real life mathematical skills such as counting backwards and forwards, telling the time and using money.

Lots of the children are now completing at least 3 reads at home per week and writing these into their journal – again thank you to our parents for supporting this and signing the journal each week.



In History the children are learning about the changes in Britain from The Stone Age to the Iron Age which will then lead us into our main topic of The Roaming Romans.

We enjoyed learning about cave painting and then having a go ourselves for Art. Our geography focus considers the two local rivers, The Tern and the River Severn, and also incorporates water safety and the water cycle.



As if that wasn't enough, we are also learning modern foreign languages – our Year 3 language is Spanish but for the recent European day of languages Year 3 classes learnt about Italy, Scotland, Austria and Poland – lots of fun was had by all!





MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

The children in Year 4 have settled extremely well back to school. All 3 classes have had their first trip of the school year to Christ Church in Market Drayton, to investigate old farming implements from a bygone era, in advance of Harvest. The children were made very welcome by all the staff at the church and enjoyed their time exploring different artefacts.



Year 4



In English, the children have been learning about different styles of poetry including Haikus and Cinquains. In a link to our geography focus on South America, we have been creating poems on the themes of chocolate and the Amazon Rainforest, counting syllables to ensure that their poems keep the appropriate line structure.



Our Science focus this half term has been teeth followed by digestion. The children have enjoyed experimenting to see how a range of drinks affect our teeth! In our investigation, we used eggs to replicate our teeth. The children were surprised and shocked to see how popular soft drinks have a detrimental effect on our teeth.

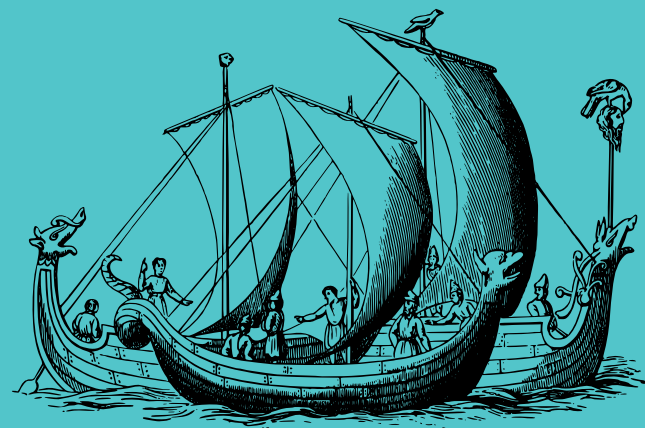
We have also explored a new language as part of the recent European Day of Languages, each class focusing on a different language: 4RG – Germany, 4CP – Denmark and 4CJ – France.

This has been a super start to a new chapter for all the children. We look forward excitedly to the journey ahead.





In Year 5 we have been incredibly impressed by how well all of the children have settled into their new year. Currently, the children are enjoying being investigators and reporters in our English work looking at the story 'Tuesday' by David Weisner where there are some strange happenings with toads!! Also the children are competing in 'Word War' which is a competition between the classes to see who can read the most words across the term. Well done to 5SL who are currently top of the leader board.



Our history topic is investigating the Anglo Saxons and their reasons for invading Britain. The children have impressed everyone with their views about whether the Saxons were correct to invade.

During the recent Languages Day the children in Year 5 all had a thoroughly enjoyable time researching and experiencing a new language. The children studied Portugal (5IR), Germany (5JC) and Belgium (5SL).



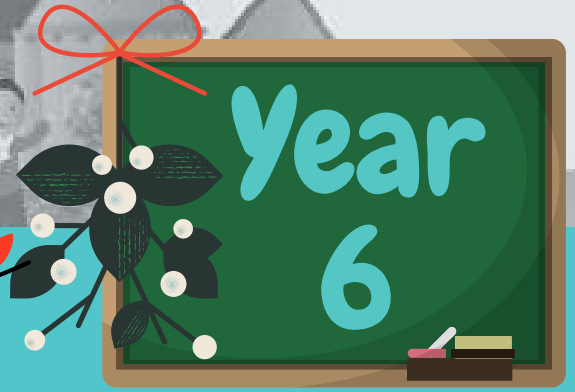
The children have been enjoying their Science topic, learning all about the circulatory system, the function of the heart and how this links to the lungs. They have also carried out a fabulous investigation, using Skittles, to understand how the nutrients in our food diffuses into the bloodstream.

In History they have been learning about World War One and using images to interpret the events of the Great War, providing cross-curricular links with Art. It has been a very busy half term!





MARKET DRAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL



70 of Year 6 pupils descended on the Arthog Outdoor Learning Centre in West Wales recently. After being in fine voice on the coaches, they soon got into the outdoor spirit through a range of challenging team building exercises, including the spider's web and 'hook a duck.'

During the week, all groups experienced a range of activities led by the superb instructors at Arthog.

Gorge walking was a favourite challenge of many and an excellent opportunity to work with others, supporting them through any fears or uncertainties. When beach walking, one of the groups collected around 200 pieces of litter! This was an ideal opportunity to think about the coastal environment and how humans impact their surroundings. Climbing, canoeing and hill walking were other fantastic opportunities to build confidence and resilience.



The weather was extremely kind and they were blessed with several stunning rainbows. The food was good too!

Many thanks to parents for supporting this trip and to staff for giving up time with their own families to ensure our pupils can take part in these vital character building activities. We would also like to thank the children for representing our school so well and pushing themselves to spend time away from home.





Our Values



EMPOWERMENT

We actively promote opportunities for every child, adult and school to influence their own practice and future.



AMBITION

We encourage and support every child, adult and school to aim high to achieve their aspirations.



COLLABORATION

We work together to support everyone to achieve their aims.



POSITIVITY

We adopt a 'can do' attitude and an optimistic approach.



RESPECT

We are thoughtful and considerate to ourselves, others and the environment.



INTEGRITY

We are honest, transparent and fair in everything we do.

