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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

7th January 2022 – Issue 284

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Headteacher: Mrs Karen Edwards

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful time with your families and friends over the festive break. It was really lovely to welcome all the children back to school on Tuesday and to hear their stories and tales about what they did over the holiday.

So, it's a new term and all the children have started fresh topics which they seem really excited about. We also have different Curriculum enhancing trips, clubs, experiences and events planned and are confident that it's going to be a fun, interesting and positive few months.

Reception

In Reception, our new topic is 'New Beginnings and 'Dinosaurs'. Isn't that such an amazing topic?! We're looking forward to asking so many questions and finding answers to them and wondered if we might have a day out to Jurassic Park. Sadly, Mrs Bentley and Miss Fairbain said they didn't think Mrs Edwards would approve the Risk Assessment - oh well. In Phonics, we've been revising all the sounds we know and learning 'y' and 'z', and in Writing, we've been practicing letter formation starting with 'c'. In Maths, we've been exploring the positions and orders of objects, as well as the concepts of height and length and we're really excited about having our PE lessons with Mr Ellison every Wednesday afternoon. We've spent quite a bit of time talking about the celebrations of the New Year and have been drawing and writing about our resolutions, dreams and goals.

Year 1

We are so thrilled that our topic this term is 'Spectacular Space'! We've started to explore new worlds and galaxies, listen to different space stories and think about what we want to learn about in this exciting topic. In English, we've been beginning to extend and develop our sentences. We've also been continuing to practise using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. In Maths, we're learning about odd and even numbers, counting to and from 100 and place value. We've also been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. In Science, we've been comparing the four seasons and have created a seasonal wheel to help remind us which months fall into which season. We're looking forward to studying different artists and the techniques they use, starting with the painting 'Starry Night' by Vincent Van Gogh.

Year 2

We started the term with much excitement as we launched our 'Chocolate and Healthy Eating' topic! After listening to and performing Michael Rosen's wonderful poem 'Chocolate Cake', we have been writing our own poems about chocolate and looking at the different techniques and strategies that he used! To prepare for this, in Science we investigated and described chocolate as well as tasted a variety of chocolate types including white chocolate and milk chocolate with different percentages of cocoa. We then generated adjectives and expanded noun phrases to describe what our senses were experiencing. In Maths, we've been investigating 2D shapes, learning the difference between regular and irregular polygons. We also looked at the properties of a 2D shape and how we use these to identify and describe shapes. We're really looking forward to our Chocolate Workshop this term.



Year 3

Our topic this term is 'Stone Age Rocks' and this week we began reading our new focus text 'Stone Age Boy' for our English lessons. Throughout the week, we completed a 'tell me grid' focused on what we like, what we dislike, any questions we have and any other tests it reminds us of. We then completed some comprehension questions about what we've read so far. In Maths, we're exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We began the week by revising what we already know about shapes from Year 2 and then were introduced to irregular 2D shapes and naming them by the number of sides they have. We were really excited to learn how to calculate the perimeter of a 2D shape and answer word problems on this by the end of this week. In Science, we've continued our learning about 'Animals, Including Humans'. We've been designing a new vertebrate species using what we've learnt about different body parts and will make sure our animal can adapt to its diet and surroundings.

Year 4

This term our topic is 'Roman Britain Revealed' and we started it with a bang on Wednesday, where we came into school dressed as Romans. It was really fun and we loved making clay pots and mosaics. In English, we've been learning about the myth 'Romulus and Remus'. We used drama to retell parts of the story and looked for clues in the text to explore character's thoughts and feelings. In Maths, we continued our work on multiplication and division and applying our knowledge to solve problems more efficiently. In Computing, we're continuing to use Scratch to develop our skills and in Music we've been listening to the song 'Looking in the Mirror' and exploring the style indicators of country music.

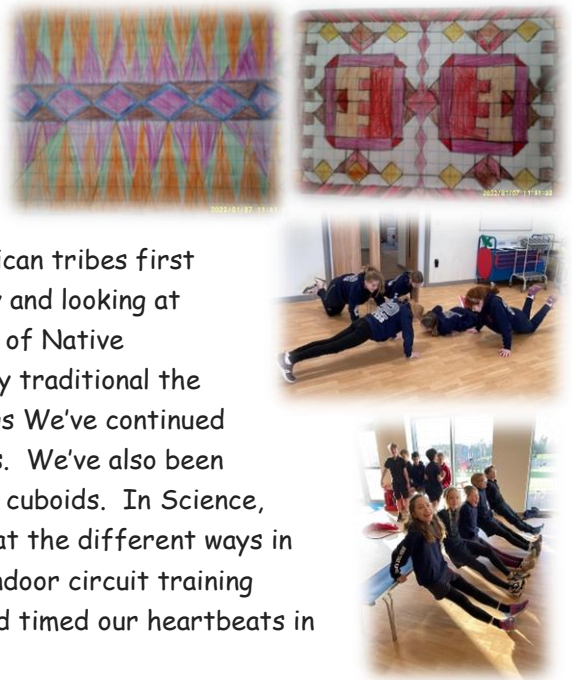


Year 5

As part of our topic 'To Infinity and Beyond' we watched Wallace and Gromit 'A Grand Day Out'. We've been using this to create a piece of writing using a genre of our choice. In Maths, we've been recapping written strategies for multiplication and solving problems using the written method that we feel most confident with. In Science, we've been identifying pushes and pulls and explaining the different forces acting on objects and in Art, we've been looking at and appraising representations of 'Rockets and Space' by Peter Thorpe.

Year 6

This term our topic is 'Native America' and we will be learning about the evolution to North America, spanning from the earliest settlements of the indigenous Native American tribes, to the arrival of the European settlers and present day organisation of the United States. We started this topic off by looking at the geological maps of North America and identifying areas where American tribes first settled. We've also been exploring the different elements of poetry and looking at different forms of Native American poetry, as well as various styles of Native American Art. We drew Native American Blanket designs inspired by traditional the block colour geometric patterns in Native American blankets and rugs. We've continued to study and calculate the area and perimeter of 2D shapes in Maths. We've also been learning to calculate the volume of 3D shapes, particularly cubes and cuboids. In Science, we're focusing on 'Light' this term, and this week we've been looking at the different ways in which light travels, bounces and is reflected. In PE we took part in indoor circuit training where we undertook high and low impact, high intensity exercises and timed our heartbeats in between tasks.



Cross Country

It would be fabulous to see lots of children take part in the Cross Country event taking part at Shiplake College next Saturday 15th January. If your child is keen to take part, please email the school office or let Mrs Edwards know directly so she can organise running vests for all the runners to wear over plenty of warm layers. Mrs Edwards will be attending.

START TIMES 09.00 Year 1, approx. 700m

09.10 Year 2, approx 700m

09.20 Year 3 approx, 1200m

09.35 Year 4, approx 1400m

09.50 Year 5, approx 1400m

10.05 Year 6 approx 1700m

There will be boys and girls races.

Twitter

The school has a Twitter Feed - please follow [@AtHeadteacher](#) for updates!

Dates for the Diary

Virtual Reality Experience - Years 1 & 2	Tuesday 1 st March
Winchester Science Centre - Year 5 (Details to follow)	Monday 7 th March
Winchester Science Centre - Year 1 (Details to follow)	Tuesday 8 th March
Earth Trust Visit - Year 3 (Details to follow)	Tuesday 22 nd March
Additional INSET Day (Queen's Platinum Jubilee)	Monday 6 th June

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Edwards