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HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS



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Achieving Success Promoting Individual
Responsibility and Excellence

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope that you all enjoyed your time with family and friends over the Christmas break and made some wonderful memories.

It has been lovely seeing the children and hearing about all of the things that they did over the holidays and hasn't it been great to see and feel the sun after so much rain recently.

Welcome to Rosa Giacomelli

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Giacomelli on the birth of their beautiful daughter Rosa at the end of December. We are absolutely thrilled for them!

Reception

We are soooo excited about this term's topic, which is New Beginnings and Dinosaurs - Wow! Apparently, we are going on a trip to the Oxford Natural History Museum in February and we can't wait!

We know it's only the first week back, but we haven't wasted any time. We've been busy learning two new digraphs, qu and ch and learning how to form and write curly caterpillar letters. In Maths we were introduced to '0' and what it means and we've also discussed capacity and been comparing mass. We've been looking at the importance of recycling and looking after the planet and have had good fun learning Dinosaur songs and how to keep a beat.

Year 1

Our topic for this Spring Term is Through Time. As part of this we are going to be learning about the Monarchy. We'll focus on King Charles III and covering the timeline of his life and his path to becoming King. We're going to be concentrating on Diary Writing in English and this week we started by talking about what we did over the Christmas holidays. We then drew the events in order and wrote sentences about them in the first person. Georgia O'Keefe is our focus artist this term and we'll be looking at her style of art and deciding what we like and why. We're then going to learn about tints and tones and use this to help us paint our own sketches of flowers and plants. This links with our Science lessons, where we'll be looking at plants, the different parts of them and how they grow. You can see some of our work below.



Year 2

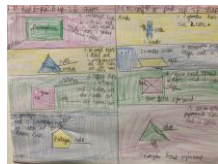
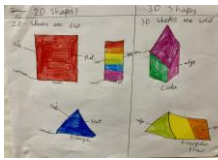
Can you believe that our topic is chocolate and healthy eating? We started this week by using our senses to investigate chocolate. We tasted a variety of chocolate types and generated adjectives to describe them. You can see some of our expressions in the pictures below! After looking at Michael Rosen's poem, 'Chocolate Cake',

we then used the adjectives and expanded noun phrases to create a verse for a chocolate poem of our own. In Maths we've been subtracting 1-digit numbers from 2-digit numbers and in IT, we've been using Google Slides to create a slide about our holidays.



Year 3

We began our new topic of the Stone Age this week. After sharing our prior knowledge, we completed a timeline of key dates, putting them in chronological order. In English, we've been looking at thank you letters and understanding the features of them. We then wrote a letter thanking someone for something they gave to us or did for us over the Christmas holidays. In Maths we've been revising the names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes, learning how to calculate the area of 2D shapes and answering word problems about perimeter. Our PSHE unit is 'Healthy Me' and we found it really interesting to look at how much sugar can be hidden in different foods.



Year 4

This week we started our new Roman topic off with a bang by looking at volcanoes. We explored various poems about volcanoes in English and then made our own shape poem. We started to look at the parts of a volcano and learn about Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii. We also looked at the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland. In Maths we continued our work on multiplication and have been learning how to multiply and divide 3 digit numbers by 10 and 100 and in Science we have been investigating and classifying solids, liquids and gases and discovering how the particles behave in each state of matter. Mrs Edwards is now teaching us Volleyball in our Wednesday afternoon PE lesson and we really enjoyed our first session.

Year 5

Our topic is 'To Infinity and Beyond' and we're looking forward to the Virtual Reality Space Workshop we'll be experiencing later in the term. After watching 'Wallace and Gromit: A Grand Day Out', we wrote the story from Wallace's perspective. Then later in the week we revised the features of formal persuasive writing in preparation for writing a response to a NASA job advert next week. Our music lessons will also link to our Space topic, as we'll be listening to and comparing and contrasting the musical composition of each of Gustav Holst's 'The Planets'. Science has been really interesting, as we have been looking at forces and trying to explain the effect of gravity on unsupported forces and the effect of air resistance, water resistance and friction.

Year 6

We began our topic of North America by looking at geological maps and identifying the areas where Native American tribes first settled. We also discussed how the different types of environment influenced the lifestyle of the different tribes. In Art, we have been looking at the block colour geometric patterns that feature across all the tribes of Native American culture and below are some examples of our artwork inspired

by Haida art. In our Maths lessons, we started a new topic on Ratio and in Science our focus is on Light and this week, we consolidated our understanding of primary and secondary sources of light and the different ways in which light travels, bounces and is reflected.



The Big Ambition

The 'Big Ambition' provides a much-needed opportunity for the children to tell policy makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. If they would like to share their thoughts, children and parents can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition. Deadline for completion is 19th January 2024.

Lost Property Box

Please can we ask that all parents go over the Lost property Box and **clear it by the end of next week**. The box is still full from the last term and with the weather getting colder, the children will drop more heavy coats, hats etc. Thank you in advance.

Twitter

Please follow **@AtHeadteacher** for updates

Please follow **@TheHeightsArts** for updates

Dates for the Diary

Vision screening test - Reception only	18 th January
KS2 Choir at the O2	18 th January
Reception - Oxford Natural History Museum	2 nd February
Half Term	9 th February
Year 4 Roman workshop	19 th March
Reception - performance to parents	27 th March
Easter Holidays	28 th March (1:30pm finish)

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Edwards