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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,

What a beautiful week it has been in terms of the weather. Very cold, but beautiful and the days are getting noticeably longer. Yay!

As usual, we have had a busy and fun packed week and an exciting trip to the O2 for many members of our choir yesterday. They joined thousands of other children to perform there and by all accounts, had the most amazing time. Congratulations to them all and huge thanks to Mrs Bentley and Mrs Fallon for all their hard work organising and leading such an exciting and memorable experience for them. Thanks also to Mrs Farina for supporting them on the trip and to Hannah and Barney Smith for their support.

Reception

We started our dinosaur topic this week and have been looking at similarities between dinosaurs and how they are part of the past through stories and pictures. We have begun to use a variety of materials to make our own dinosaur skeletons and bones and we have been making dinosaurs using paper plates and used chalk and charcoal to sketch them too. When we visit the Dinosaur Museum in Oxford later this term, we are actually going to be hunting for bones. Isn't that amazing!

The new digraphs we learnt this week were 'sh' and 'th' and we've also continued to practise writing curly caterpillar letters, by labelling different dinosaurs. In Maths we've been looking at subtracting from five and the relationship of subtraction to adding. For example, we have been looking at how many are missing from a group when we take away from a tray of dinosaurs.

Year 1

This week, we have been getting to know our new book, 'Diary of a wombat', by Jackie French. We've been finding out the mischief that the little wombat gets up to and how her human family react to her. We've been sequencing the events in the story, using days of the week and identifying the point of view of the wombat and her human family. In Maths we've been learning the place value of numbers 17-20 and looking at 1 more and 1 less of numbers from 1-20 and in Science, we planted bean seeds in window bags (see pictures below) and are going to be watching their development over the course of the next few weeks.



Year 2

As we said last week, our new topic is Chocolate and we have been using world maps and atlases to help us to locate the countries where cacao trees grow and what the climate in those places is like. We have also been looking at the type of environmental conditions that cacao trees need in order to grow. We've been reading a book called 'Grendel - A Cautionary Tale of Chocolate' by David Lucas and have re-designed a front cover for

the book. We enjoyed discussing our favourite parts of the book and looking at the character of Grendel in more detail.



Year 3

We've enjoyed exploring our Stone Age topic so far and have been looking at how Stone Age people had to work hard to survive and what the dangers were for them. We had fun designing an advert for a weapon that would be useful to have in the Stone Age and have been completing a 'tell me' grid about the text we're reading together - Stone Age Boy. In Maths we've been comparing and ordering three-digit numbers using $<=>$ and in Science, we have been considering what we need in order to see objects and how this is impacted in the absence of light. We used a black tent to find out if we could see the objects without light and you can see some of the objects we used in the picture below.



Year 4

This week we've started our class story, 'Escape from Pompeii'. We've been exploring the text and learning how to summarise a story in the most succinct way possible. We've also been writing diary entries from the perspective of the characters in the story and engaging in some drama work related to the book, as well as labelling points of a stratovolcano like Vesuvius- it was a lot of fun!

In Science, we've been investigating the properties of chocolate, finding the melting point of milk chocolate and using thermometers and stopwatches to measure the time it takes to melt it with different heats.



Year 5

We're really enjoying our guided reading book, 'Cosmic'. By Frank Cottrell-Boyce and are keen to find out how Liam accidentally ends up in space. We also enjoyed writing a letter of application to NASA in response to an advert for an astronaut, using persuasive techniques such as: powerful persuasive vocabulary, flattery and explicit reasons and examples to convince the NASA recruitment team that they are the best person for the job. We had fun listening to the Dr Who theme tune in Music and then using the glockenspiels to imitate the tune and have been considering the advantages and disadvantages of friction in Science. We've also been looking at features, symbols and keys on ordinance survey maps in our Geography lesson.

Year 6

In our topic work this week, we've been focussing on the settlements of the indigenous Native American tribes and identified the areas where they first settled. We also discussed how the different types of environment influenced the lifestyle of the different tribes. In English we've been learning about the late poet Benjamin Zephaniah and we created a fact file about him whilst also learning effective techniques of performing a poem. We've continued our focus on Ratio in Maths, looking at scale factors, proportion and ratio problem solving and have been recalling, discussing and consolidating the basics of block coding in Computing.

Oratory Prep - Winter Dash - POSTPONED due to frozen field.

Is this yours?

A bracelet was found on Thursday afternoon in the staff carpark. Please come to the school office if this is yours.



Holiday Camps - Performance Sports

Please see attached flyers for Performance Sports Holiday Camps - booking has opened and the Early bird booking discount is available until **24th January 2024**.

All courses can be booked via their Calendar: [Calendar - Performance Sports Group](#) and Childcare Vouchers can be used to make the payment.

If you have any queries about the February Half Term camps, please email annette@performance-sports.org.uk

Twitter

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Dates for the Diary

Oratory Prep Winter Dash (Y1-6)	20 th January POSTPONED
Reception - Oxford Natural History Museum	2 nd February
Half Term	9 th February
World Thinking Day - <i>Brownies & Cubs wear their uniform</i>	22 nd 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 fantastic weekend.



Mrs Edwards