



Phoenix Class Newsletter End of Term 2 and looking forward to Term 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to celebrate the fantastic effort and enthusiasm shown by the children. They have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of everything they have achieved.

One of the highlights of the term was our visit to We The Curious in Bristol, which was a wonderful experience for the children. They engaged brilliantly with the hands-on exhibits and showed great curiosity and excitement for learning beyond the classroom.

In Maths, Year 4 pupils have been working hard on their multiplication and division skills. They have learned to multiply 2- and 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers, divide with remainders, and apply these skills to solve word problems. Year 5 pupils have challenged themselves with multi-step multiplication and division word problems, reading graphs, practising reading timetables, and calculating time differences and totals. Their perseverance and growing confidence have been great to see.

In English, the children have been developing their descriptive writing, focusing on using a range of noun phrases to describe the senses. We read two wonderful books: *The Varmints* by Helen Ward, which inspired the children to write explanation texts about how to make the world a better place, and *Winter's Child*, where they explored beautiful descriptive language linked to the arrival of spring. As part of our whole-school write based on *Peace on Earth*, the class also created a shared book of poignant letters asking for peace in the world.

Science has been a real highlight this term. The children learned about states of matter and conducted experiments to investigate melting, including making marshmallow squares and melting chocolate to compare different melting points. They were encouraged to think like scientists by evaluating how fair their investigations were and how they could be improved. We also carried out an investigation to answer the question, "*Does a gas have mass?*"—ask your child what happened when we shook the fizzy water in class!

In Computing, the children have been creating media using video. They learned how camera angles affect how a message is conveyed, how to edit clips by cutting and reordering them, and how to add voice-overs using editing software.

RE this term has focused on Christianity with the children learning about Incarnation and The Holy Trinity. In addition to studying sections of the gospels in the New Testament, we had the pleasure of inviting Mr Priest into an 'interview'. We quizzed him on his understanding of the Holy Trinity and Christmas, and how his views shape the way that he thinks and feels. It was an enlightening afternoon and the children gained much insight into a Christian's views about God.

In PE, pupils developed their lacrosse skills and took part in yoga sessions, which required much more strength, balance, and concentration than many of them expected.

In Art, the children created Diwali candles using paper. This craft activity required careful measuring, cutting, folding, and sticking, and the finished results were fantastic.

In Geography, we went on a virtual field trip to the Taj Mahal in India, learning about tourism and key features of the country. The children wrote postcards about their visit and created fact files summarising everything they have learned about India.

For Reading, we have been enjoying *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. His wonderful storytelling has truly captured the children's imaginations. They have been deeply engaged in VIPERS activities, focusing on vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, and summarising.

Finally, thank you for your continued support with spelling homework. We have seen a clear increase in the number of children achieving full marks, and every child has shown improvement, this partnership between home and school really does make a difference. Please do continue to encourage your children to practise their times tables, as these skills will help them with so many calculations that come their way in their lessons.

Thank you once again for your support this term. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Kind regards,

Mr Miles, Mr Osler, Mrs Flynn and Mrs Tayler

