

PHOENIX CLASS END OF TERM 3 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another term comes to an end and things have begun to feel a little more normal. Our pupil attendance in Phoenix has been good and, despite me being off for this last week, we have all managed to keep safe and well for the most part. Our Term 3 topic has been Healthy Humans. This has, of course, been easy to link with current world events, but also with lots of other interesting avenues of learning across the curriculum.

In History, our first study was of the Black Death and The Great Plague – a great way to capture and engage the children’s interest at the start of term. These periods of history were truly awful. We put ourselves into the role of an observer at the time and used quotes from Samuel Pepys to get a real feeling for what it may have been like in our diary entries. We enjoyed learning and writing about the ‘Plague doctors’ and their rather frightening-looking gowns and masks that were designed to prevent catching anything. The children made clear links with today’s mask-wearing world and we were all thankful that they are much more effective at stopping the spread of disease than they were during the 1600’s.

Healthy Humans has clear connections to Science and discovery. We went forward in time to the Victorian era to find out more about medical breakthroughs. The children learnt what antiseptics and anaesthetics were, and found out what the first pharmacies was like. Apparently, pharmacists would often just make up and test ‘cures’ on the unsuspecting public – as a class, we certainly did not approve of this practice! Also in Science, we learnt more about the human body – the digestive system, the main organs and the skeleton. The children had great fun playing ‘x-ray bingo’ that helped us recognise some of our main bones, and we drew and labelled various pictures and diagrams of the body.

To link our topic with English lessons, we read George’s Marvellous Medicine. As well as being a very amusing read for KS2, this is a fantastic book for inspiring different writing genres. This has also been used as our whole-class reading comprehension text. We have enjoyed writing character descriptions, coming up with exciting lists of new ingredients, writing our own instructions for making the medicine, and describing the farmyard scene populated with enormous, over-sized animals.

Phoenix children have also created some impressive artwork this term. We made x-ray pictures of hands using chalks and also using paper straws. In another lesson, we took inspiration from Albrecht Durer’s Praying Hands. The children very carefully used chalk and charcoal to create highlights and shadows. The results were really good. And last week, the children across the whole key stage got together to create models of ‘Discus Thrower’, a sculpture by the Greek artist, Myron. While the pupils found some of the techniques tricky, they showed determination and resilience throughout. Well done!

I do hope you enjoy the half term break and I look forward to seeing you all back in term 4.

Best wishes
Mr Osler

