

Making a Difference – Spring 1 update Feb 2017

It's been a short, but action packed, half term. Every child and adult in the school contributed to our new mosaics which will be installed over half term for you all to see (in the downstairs lobby and the middle hall). Our fabulous choir performed at the O2 as part of a 7000 strong Young Voices Choir. This week, the whole school met Souleyman Bah, a gold medal winning Team GB Paralympian. He met all of the children in assembly and talked about how he has overcome his disability. The children were compelled by his story and this inspired them when they took part in fitness circuits led by the man himself. Thank you to everyone who raised money for Inspired through Sports who support Team GB athletes. 40% of the money raised will come back to school to buy more sports equipment. In addition, 5K and 3V took part in a Southwark athletics competition, our netball team took part in a netball competition and 3E and 4D have just completed 6 months of weekly swimming lessons.



Reception started the term learning about Dinosaurs. They became archaeologists exploring dinosaur bones and took part in a problem solving exercise to design a way to protect a “dinosaur egg” – by finding ways to protect an egg when thrown out of a window! They investigated ice and the effects of heating it. They moved onto Traditional Tales in the second part of this term. In particular, they read “Handel and Gretl” which led to them writing their own versions of the story. They read “Little Red Riding Hood” and used more problem solving skills to make their own bags for Red Riding Hood. The story “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” led to sensory play with porridge and making beds and chairs for the bears using junk modelling. They also acted out the story and learned to sing and sign the story of Goldilocks. In RE, the children have focussed on special people in their lives and in PE they have used the apparatus for the first time.

The **Year 1** topic was **Superheroes** and was based on a book called “Send for a Superhero” by Michael Rosen. The children initially acted out the story and created “wanted” posters to search for a superhero. They also wrote new chapters about the main characters’ adventures at St John’s and St Clement’s. They wrote descriptions of themselves as superheroes and others who inspire them. “Supertatoes”, a story brought in by a year 1 child, inspired the children to make their own supertato characters and to write adventures based on them. In RE, the children have been learning about Judaism which they have found really fascinating. They have explored Jewish symbols and objects and found out about synagogues.



Year 2 called their topic **How can we Save Them?** with a focus on endangered animals. The children learned about which animals are endangered and why. They decided that they wanted to raise money so that they could sponsor an endangered animal so they held a very successful cake sale which raised £185.95 for the World Wildlife Fund. They are able to sponsor FOUR endangered animals and will be voting to choose which ones. Now that’s really making a difference! In RE, the children thought about God’s creation which led to them thinking about pollution and our responsibility for the environment. The children studied “The

Journey Home” by Frann Preston Gannon – a thought-provoking story with a powerful message about conservation. It inspired persuasive arguments about how to stop deforestation, wanted posters about poachers and lost posters about endangered animals.

The **Year 3** topic '**Light of the World**' began with the children learning about different types of poetry and publishing their own poems about light. This inspired many of the children to continue to write and perform their own poems on topics of interest to them. In science, they have been learning about how shadows are formed and how light travels. They have undergone many experiments looking at how light sources can change shadows. They went on a brilliant trip to the Science Museum and visited the exhibition 'Wonderlab.' The children thoroughly enjoyed it and would love to see more so do visit in half term! In computing, they have been continuing coding from last year's coding hour where the children have to solve coding problems to move through levels.

Year 4 have been learning about **Engineering Excellence**. They began by looking at everyday objects which are often overlooked (such as kettles, toasters, doorbells) and the impact they have on people's lives. A highlight of the term was a visit from R2D2 built by Mr Callaghan! The children wrote explanatory texts detailing how things work. In science they have been learning about states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. In RE, they have been reading stories from the Old Testament such as Solomon and David and Goliath. In art, they have learned about shades of colours and how to use perspective in drawings. The children have developed balancing skills and core strength in PE and in music, they have begun to learn to play the recorder.



+-

The **Year 5** children have learned about **Space Pioneers** and about planets and stars. They have explored how planets orbit the sun and discovered how the Earth's orbit affects the seasons and day and night. Following their own research, they created a timeline of significant space pioneers. Class work has included posters about planets and powerpoint presentations about the earth, sun and moon. The class text has been Shakespeare's "The Tempest". The children have acted out parts of the play and written a new scene using modern day language and as well as Shakespearian language. They visited The Globe theatre and took part in a workshop led by a Shakespearian actor. In RE, the focus has been on the five pillars of Islam and learning about a mosque. In Art, the children visited the Dulwich Picture Gallery and created collages of landscapes which are to be exhibited at the gallery.



Year 6's topic was called **From Little Acorns...** which was inspired by the class book "The Promise" by Nicola Davies (a picture book of great beauty and hope about the power we have to transform our world). The children visited Sydenham woods to learn about trees in our local habitats. Back at school, they learned to classify trees and leaves using sorting keys. In art, the children have created mono prints based on observational drawings of trees. They have developed their figurative language by developing their use of personification and wrote a news report using reported speech. In RE, the children have studied Buddhism focussing on the Four Noble Truths. After reading two Buddhist stories, the children were inspired to write posters to prevent animal cruelty. Year 6 have taken part in a CSI road safety workshop as part of their transition to secondary school.

Next half term's topic is Wonderful World

The focus for each year group is: **Reception** – Traditional Tales (continued..),

Year 1 – Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish, **Year 2** – The Minpins **Year 3** – Africa,

Year 4 – Twisted Tales, **Year 5** – Can We Save Endangered Animals? **Year 6** – It's a Wonderful World.

Our learning skill next half term is : **CREATIVITY**

Anna Harding

Anna Harding