

One Moment in Time – Autumn 1 update Oct 16

It has been a very busy start to the new school year! Year 1 to Year 6 took part in Shakespeare week at the start of the term. The children were enthused by their first introduction to Shakespeare's work and thoroughly enjoyed a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Year 4, 5 and 6 recently met author Gareth P Jones who introduced them to his new book "Thornthwaite Betrayal". Class 3E took part in a Southwark cluster football competition and Year 2 and Year 5 met local firemen. All children in Year 1 to Year 5 took part in dance workshops led by Perform X. We all shared a magnificent Harvest Festival in St John's church donating a mountain of gifts to Peckham Food Bank.



Our new children have settled in well to **Reception**. Their first topic has been **All About Me** and the children have been busy making self-portraits in pencil and others in the style of Picasso. The children have been talking about healthy eating and have been able to identify healthy and unhealthy foods. 'Funny Bones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg has been the stimulus for a mini topic on light and dark which has involved work in a dark room. In phonics, the children have been working on the initial sounds: s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d and g.

The **Year 1** topic was **Toys**. The children looked at old and new toys and compared them using a plethora of adjectives. They used these in their own writing to describe their own and others' toys. The children used their writing to create their own 'toy museum' which complemented their 'toy hospital' from earlier in the topic. The class books, "Major Glad and Major Dizzy" and "Lost in the Toy Museum" inspired the children to develop their own writing. A visit to the Horniman museum saw the children playing with toys from around the world. In art, they made their own skittles which were fun to play with. Class 1S have had fun in the forest each week – they have been making homes for their class toy squirrel, Hazelnut.



Year 2 have been finding out about Dinosaurs. They had an excellent visit to Crystal Palace Park to see the enormous models. Their English work has been based on "Dinosaur Roar" by Paul and Henrietta Stickland. The children wrote dinosaur poems and published them in their own books. They also produced non-fiction books about dinosaurs. In art, they made papier-mâché eggs with plastercine dinosaurs. In RE, the focus has been on Jewish festivals, notably Rosh Hashannah.

This term, **Year 3** have been learning about **Rocks and Soils** with a particular focus on volcanoes. They made salt dough volcanoes erupt using baking soda and vinegar coloured with red food colouring. They read "Escape from Pompeii" by Christina Balit which inspired stories about life in Pompeii when Vesuvius was erupting. The children also wrote stories about the life of a volcano from being dormant, to active and then erupting. This generated some lively accounts and demonstrated considerable knowledge of English and science. They have carried out a series of experiments to separate sand, water, grit and gravel, scratch tests to test how hard rocks are ("pumice was really crumbly and flint was the hardest").



Year 4 children were buzzing with excitement with their **Viking** topic. They began by making Viking long boats. This was followed by learning about Viking Gods and describing them using effective adjectives. The children have used books and the Internet to research information about the topic resulting in some brilliant creative writing such as a diary entry as a Viking settler. In art, they made bronze, gold and silver Viking brooches made out of clay. They have experienced Viking food, tasting cookies and juice from the time and they made Viking bread. In RE they have been learning about Islam and in music the children have been introduced to the pentatonic scale.



The **Year 5** topic has been **Ancient Greece**. The children have read many Ancient Greek myths and this spurred them on to write myths of their own, based on monsters they created in collage. They made their own Icarus helicopters based on their learning about forces and air resistance. In music, they have been introduced to cyclic music and rhythms. In RE, they have focussed on the journey of life including thinking about their own lives and predicting what their future will be like as well as looking at bereavement. In maths, the children have been working on their adding and subtracting using the column method, rounding decimals as well as multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 1000.



Year 6 were so inspired by Shakespeare week that they continued their learning all term. Their topic was called **Shakespeare's Theatre** with a particular focus was "Romeo and Juliet". They began by dramatising Act 1, Scene 1 of the play and went on to rewrite their own versions. They also wrote blog entries from the point of view of Romeo or Juliet using twenty first century language. They watched the 1996 version of the film and took notes from each section developing their comprehension of the story. A particular highlight has been their work on the crown court resulting in writing their own persuasive cases for the defence and the prosecution. A visit to the Globe Theatre further developed their understanding of the era, the man and the plays he wrote. In a workshop at the Globe, they were given lines from Romeo and Juliet and asked to interpret them and act them out in short sketches.

Next half term's topic is **Science Detectives (focus in Science Technology Engineering and Maths STEM)**

The focus for each year group is: **Reception** –

Year 1 – Fairy Tale approach to STEM, **Year 2** – Chocolate **Year 3** – The Power of the Force, **Year 4** – Electricity, **Year 5** – Forces in The Lost Thing **Year 6** – Lights, Camera, Action

Our learning skill next half term is : managing distractions/resourcefulness/planning

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