

# Year 2 News

October 2016

## Elsewhere in School...

- Our Bake Sale raised a massive £423, which will be shared between the Make a Wish Foundation and the school. A big thank you to everyone who sent in (or bought) cakes.
- Year 5/6 took part in an interactive retelling of Macbeth, working with the Schools Shakespeare Company.
- We hosted the Stevenage FA Boys and Girls Football Tournaments, with 14 schools and almost 150 children playing on our field.
- Our Year 5/6 Basketball squad took part in the Stevenage Festival, finishing 5th overall.
- Year 1 headed to the woods to collect natural resources for their Lois Ehlert-inspired artwork as part of their *Wild and Free* topic.
- Year 6 took part in *Crucial Crew*, learning how to stay safe and make positive decisions as they grow-up.

## What we've been doing this term...

### Super Seasons

Our topic this term has been *Super Seasons* and has seen us learning all about the four seasons and the different types of weather we might expect at different times of year. We really enjoyed singing the *Seasons Song* every week and talking about how the weather and trees have been changing outside.

As part of our topic we have also been watching weather reports and learning about the different symbols used to represent the different types of weather. We had lots of fun making up our own weather reports and sharing them with the class! Whilst looking at these reports we also learnt about compass points and directions. We won't forget these easily, as we can remember that Naughty Elephants Squirt



Amara and Bianca forecasting the weather

Water and use this to recall that, working clockwise around a compass, we go through North, East, South and West.

We have taken inspiration from our topic work for Art this term, create our own Autumn Tree Collage by cutting leaf shapes from a range of different materials. To make the tree trunks we went outside and used crayons to create our own bark rubbings which looked particularly effective.

### Material Investigators

In Science we have been learning about Materials. We have been investigating a range of objects to find out which materials they are made from, using scientific names wherever possible (such as glass, metal, paper, wood, china and plastic). We have also extended our vocabulary by using words to describe these substances, comparing rough and smooth, rigid and flexible, light and heavy, transparent and opaque materials.

Over the course of the term, we have extended our learning by exploring the properties of different materials, grouping them in different ways, thinking about the reasons why particular substances are used for particular purposes, and starting to apply this to our design work in DT.

## Stars of the Week -Class 4a-



Darcy Michell



Amelia Wolcayk



Marika Wieclaw



Skye Wells



Raiden  
Rowland-Morris

## English

This half-term we have been learning about fairytales. As part of this we have been creating story maps, looking at how most fairy tales have a build-up to a problem which gets resolved in the end. We really enjoyed describing different characters using ambitious adjectives and we impressed our teachers by writing some very entertaining character descriptions during our Big Writing sessions, an example of which we have included for you to read below:



### Little Red Riding Hood

Little Red Riding Hood has a pleasing personality. Little Red Riding Hood is charming and kind. She's got a fabulous voice. She's wearing a red cloak with a dress underneath. She always has a smile on her face. She has blue eyes. When she sees the Big Bad Wolf she screams. She doesn't listen to her Mum because she went off the path. I think she should listen to her mum!

by Aliyah Hewett

We then moved on to writing our own versions of Little Red Riding Hood, changing some of the details to make the story our own. We introduced lots of new characters who Red Riding Hood could meet on her journey, each of which sent the story off in a new direction - but fortunately, whatever happened, they all ended-up living happily ever after! We then used our story-writing skills to retell classic fairytales in Big Writing - just like Raiden has done in the fantastic example below:

### Retelling Hansel and Gretel

One day Hansel and Gretel and their parents were poor. The next day their mother took them in to the forest. Luckily Hansel brought some white pebbles so they could find their way back. Their mother said wait there. They waited and their pebbles helped them find their way back home to their dad and mum. The next day the mother took them further into the forest on a different path. But the door was locked so Hansel used bread crumbs. But the birds ate all of them so they couldn't find their way back. They were hungry but there was a gingerbread house with sweets on top.



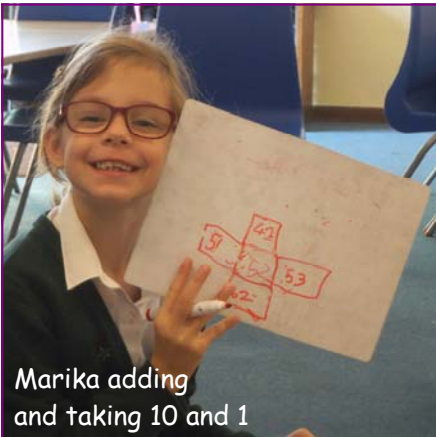
by Raiden Rowland-Morris

Finally, we looked at poetry, and had lots of fun playing with words to create silly rhymes about aliens. We especially enjoyed listening to nonsense poems and funny poems such as Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*, and designing an onomatopoeia poem with our partners.

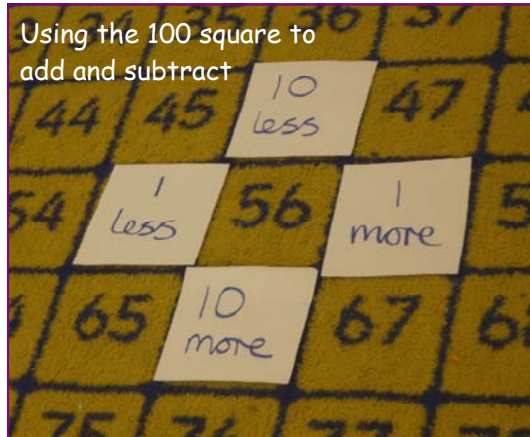
# Maths

We have been busy learning number facts and strategies for addition and subtraction in maths, especially how to add using an empty number line. We have also been practising our basic number facts, quickly recalling numbers that make 10 and 20, as well as the subtraction facts that go with them ( $20 - 8 = 12$ ,  $20 - 11 = 9$  etc). We have also been working hard to learn our 2, 5 and 10 times tables, taking home (and bringing in) our times tables packs every week to help us to improve our recall of these facts. We are looking forward to receiving lots of certificates this year!

Over the past half-term we have also learnt how to partition numbers into tens and units and have been challenging ourselves to remember doubling and halving facts, as well as tackling two- and even three-digit numbers. Finally, towards the end of the term we have been learning about a variety of 2D and 3D shapes, naming them and describing their properties using mathematical vocabulary.



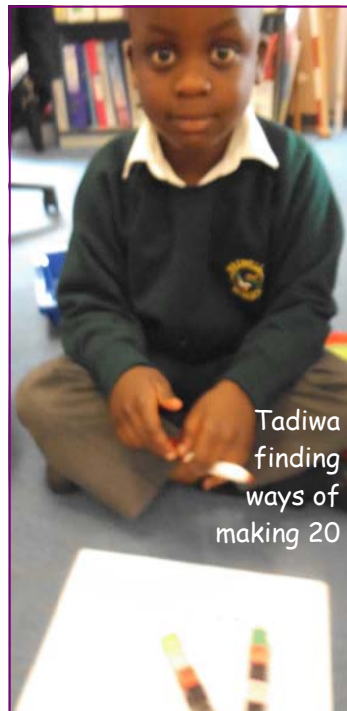
Marika adding and taking 10 and 1



Using the 100 square to add and subtract



Sammy and James making a 100 square



Tadiwa finding ways of making 20

## Stars of the Week -Class 4b-



Therese Gaetos



Eldric Ngaosi



George Clarke



Dixcie Ruddock



Fionn O'Sullivan

## Diary Dates

21st December  
End of term

5th January 2017  
Start of Spring  
Term

13th-17th February  
Half-term

10th March  
Inset day - school  
closed

31st March  
End of term

19th April  
Start of Summer  
Term

1st May  
May Bank Holiday -  
school closed

8th-12th May  
Year 6 SATs Test  
Week

29th May - 2nd June  
Half-term

21st July  
End of term

# Stevenage Mini-Olympics

We were lucky enough to spend an afternoon trying out all sorts of sporting activities at our local Leisure Centre earlier in the term. We had lots of fun taking part and enjoyed participating in a variety of activities, including rugby, cheerleading, stacking cups, gymnastics, curling and cricket. We were exhausted by the time we got back to School!

