

Year 3 & 4 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 1 and 2 took part in the Stevenage Mini-Olympics, trying out a huge range of new sports.
- 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...

School Council

One of our first tasks this term was to elect a new set of School Councillors. We thought carefully about the skills we thought a good class representative should have, what we liked about our school and how it could be improved further. Building on this, we then drew on all our understanding to write speeches, 'selling' ourselves to the rest of our class and showing why we'd be the perfect Councillor. We then presented these to our class and narrowed down a shortlist of 4 girls and 4 boys from each class, who went onto the ballot papers for our elections. Finally we got to vote - and you can see all our newly elected Councillors (along with extracts from their speeches) below:



...I can help people with their work as well. Finally, I will try to get more school dinner for people who have been good. I think I should be the school councillor, not because I want to do it, but because I can help other people. Would anyone else be better than me?

Maddison O'Reilly

... I would like to explain why you should vote for me. You should vote for me because I'm generous and willing to help people if they are upset. I will be the best person for this job because I will make playtime longer. Next, I would like to have more music lessons...



Samuel Poulter



...If you pick me, I will try and get more school trips organised, so we can learn more, and try and do things that will help us to raise money for the school, so that we can buy more equipment and give some away to charities. So pick me, because I know I am the best choice!

Abigail Entwistle

...You should vote for me because you don't want someone who shouldn't be doing it, believe me! I think I would be good at this job because I'm kind and helpful, as well as being the first person to go to someone who is hurt, because I want to help them...



Alfie Smith



...Next everyone should get a class pet in their rooms. You could have a fluffy bird, chubby hamsters or goldfish. They would give the children extra responsibilities and teach them valuable skills. I believe that I am a very helpful person and I will endeavour to help people when they need it...

Lily Street

...I strongly believe that I have the right qualities for leadership including intelligence and integrity. I have a number of ideas on how I would like to improve the school such as buying more equipment for golden time so that more children from each class can choose an activity...



Ethan Atkinson

Stars of the Week

English : Exploring Fables

Libby Barber

We have had a really big push on English this half term and we have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about fables and science fiction. The term began by us looking at fables. After time spent studying the features and structure of these traditional tales, we began to write a fable based on the short film *The Girl and the Fox*. The story is set in the Arctic wilderness and centres on a young girl who tracks down a fox that keeps killing her animals. The girl eventually finds the fox but rather than killing it, she lets it go. In the end the fox returns to save the girl from a freak snow storm and they remain friends for ever. Below, you can see two examples of our writing inspired by this text:

Melody Page

One perishing mid- winters day a young fresh faced girl stood staring silently at the lifeless remains of her birds. Soft delicate paw prints trailed into the murky black distance. Suspecting the swift fox she buttoned her caribou skinned parker and dashed into the forest to find her enemy. After stomping through the blanket of snow the girl advanced to a clearing in the trees. Like a bolt of lightning the fox bounded from behind a bush and raced away. Ferociously, she pounced after him, on and on through the dense undergrowth. The chase was exhausting but the brave young girl was determined.

by Rashed Hussain

Lenny Shearing

As the fox vanished into the cold dark night, thick corpulent snow began to fall. The trees moaned under the weight of the growing snow. Panic stricken, the girl began to head home. It wasn't long until the weather began to tighten its grip on the girl and she soon grew tired and weak. She could fight it no longer and as a tear dripped down her icy cheek, she collapsed into the snow.

by Lenny Shearing

Casey Entwistle

Dimitrios
Chalatzioukas

Reading

We have had a number of questions about reading in lower Key Stage 2 so here is a little guide about how it works and what you should expect:

Every child in the class will be heard reading a minimum of three times a week. This takes place in three guided reading sessions where a member of staff will share a book with a small group. The group will read the book and then answer a series of questions about what they have read. We look at the plot and the characters, we discuss structure and layout, language features and look at how the author has created different moods within the story. In addition to this we have members of staff that hear the children read on a one to one basis every fortnight. Our teachers also hear our children read during small group sessions which help us to form our assessment of the children's reading level.

Big Writing

Every Friday we complete an independent piece of writing in our *Big Writing* sessions, working towards hitting our personal targets and aiming to top our class' Big Writing Leaderboard. Here are three examples of our work from this term:

The School Secret

One day I went into Class 6 and saw Mr Wilson. Suddenly his skin changed, going purple then magically hot pink, and sparkling spots exploded over his face! Next he turned into gooey pink slime and slithered into Mrs Moore's office. Bravely I crept in to see what he was doing. I was shocked and frightened!

Quickly, I ran and hid, because I didn't want Mr Wilson to know that I knew his secret...

by Katy Mikiel

The Teacher Transforms...

It was the fourth day of school and suddenly I noticed that something wasn't right... When we were writing our Big Writing, I looked up and saw Miss Smith eating worms! I felt disgusted and noticed that her nails were all long and pointed.

After lunch, we had Golden Time. I was so excited, but... I saw there were spiders all over her back! "Miss, why can I see spikes on your back?" I asked. There was no answer, then I saw that her teeth were growing, sticking out towards me, and her clothes were transforming. Why was she wearing a black cape?

The next day, I didn't want to go to school because I felt so petrified of my teacher. When I finally went into class, someone was talking quickly to the teacher (or should I say alien). I saw her and immediately knew that something horrible was going to happen... As quick as a flash I ran to the cloak-room. From behind me, came a hideous crunching noise...

by Isabelle Walker-Impett

The Deserted City

I quickly opened the door to what was left of my house, to remind myself what had become of my home. All I could see for miles were derelict buildings with protruding tiled roofs, as well as thick emerald green ivy clinging to every building in sight.

I slammed the door and raced to my room to pack a few items. I packed: a sandwich, a water bottle, a compass and a map. I climbed into my car and started to drive around the once pristine, now abandoned, metropolis. A few hours passed, but no survivors were found. Could I be the only human left? If that was true, then even thinking about it terrified me...

by Sania Mughal

Stars of the Week

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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

Our new gazebos

Some of you may have seen that the old gazebos on the field have been replaced by three new ones. Work on the new structures began in earnest two weeks before half-term, when some of the teachers pulled the old ones down so that Mr Moses could get the site ready for the arrival of the new ones. We have loved watching each stage of construction from



the windows in class over the week and have been very impressed with how quickly they have gone up. We now have a new covered area to work and play under for many more years to come.

Maths



In Mr Wilson's maths group, we have been looking at addition, working with 2- and then 3-digit numbers. We have used lots of practical resources to help us to visualise what happens when we combine numbers, and then

transferred this understanding to number lines, which have been our key method for addition. As a result of all this, we have made some fantastic progress this term, becoming much more confident in our work.

Music

Clarinet & Recorder

Some of our more musically able Year 4s have been given the chance to learn how to play the clarinet this term, building on the recorder lessons they had last year. It has been great to hear how positive they are about these lessons (particularly as this can be a really tricky instrument to play) and we cannot wait to listen to their new found skills!

The rest of year 3/4 have been learning the recorder in 30 minute sessions every Monday. Each group have already been taught to play their first notes, and are trying really hard to learn to read music. They have begun practicing simple tunes, ready to share with others later in the year.