

Year 2 News

December 2016

Elsewhere in School...

- We raised £262 for this year's Poppy Appeal through sales of poppies, wrist bands and badges, and a further £334 for Children In Need thanks to our non-uniform day.
- Our Special Needs Coordinator, Mrs Wood, was nominated for a Pride of Stevenage Award, in recognition of her tireless work to secure the best possible support for our children.
- Foundation Stage had a great day out at Herrings Green Farm, where they got to handle owls and watch a great falconry display.
- Year 4 were invited to Barnwell School to watch their Christmas production, while Year 5 headed to Nobel for a special performance of their pantomime.
- Years 2-6 all visited Stevenage Cinema for movie screenings as part of this year's National Film Week.

What we've been doing this term...

Guy Fawkes

This half-term, our topic work started with a BANG! We took inspiration from Bonfire Night on the 5th of November and decided to find out all about why we celebrate this event by learning about what happened 400 years ago. We began by looking at the story of Guy Fawkes and how he plotted with a group of men to kill King James in the Houses of Parliament. We recounted his story, looking at the main events and putting them into chronological order. We also had a go at creating our own timelines and putting events in our own lives into chronological order which was lots of fun!

As part of our art work we looked at buildings which were featured in Guy Fawkes' story such as the Houses of Parliament and the Tower of London. First we used watercolour paint to create our own sunset scene and then we used our cutting skills to create a silhouette of these famous buildings. We put the silhouettes over the sunset paintings, and were extremely pleased with our final pieces of art.

English

We began the half-term by looking at the books written by Mini Grey who writes lots of fun, comic strip style books about the adventures of Traction Man. We really enjoyed these stories and had a lot of fun inventing our own 'Traction Man' and designing a special mission costume for him. We then used these ideas to write our own short story, such as this adventure written by Max:

Traction Man

Again, Traction Man is on another adventure! He was wearing an acorn hat and leaf armour on his way to the garden to kill Professor Dirt who was holding watering can captive. He used his special acorn bombs to save the spitting watering can with his pet scrubbing brush. They knocked out Evil Professor Dirt and rescued the spitting watering can. Hurray, Traction Man saved the day again!

By Max Lambert

Over the last few weeks, we have also used our topic work to inspire our writing. We have found out so much about Guy Fawkes that we decided to use this to write recounts about the Gunpowder Plot. We began by learning the features we would expect to see in a historical recount, such as writing in the past tense and third person, and then helped to write a whole class recount which we then learnt off by heart using lots of enthusiastic actions. We then rewrote the class recount, making it sound much more interesting by adding lots of adventurous adverbs and adjectives.

Stars of the Week -Class 4a-

Nishtha Mathur

Amelia Wolczyk

Lexleigh Fulleylove

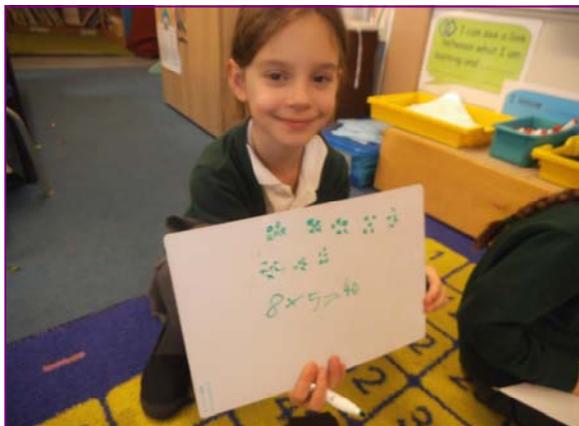
Ethan Nisbet

Shayaan Usman

Sophia Kostorz

Maths

We have continued our hard work in maths over the past half-term. We have been consolidating our use of number facts and strategies for addition and subtraction of larger numbers in maths and have also moved on to multiplication and division. We have enjoyed learning about finding the difference using amounts of money and buying items in our class shops. We are counting everyday in 2s, 5s, and 10s, starting from different numbers and challenging ourselves to count forwards and backwards using these multiples. The times tables packs have been a real success and children are beginning to earn their bronze, silver and gold certificates which is a great achievement. Next term we will also start to take part in weekly Booster sessions, helping us to get ready for our SATs later in the year by working in small groups.



RE

This half-term we have been learning about the Christian tradition of advent. We found out that Advent is the start of the Christian year and we had fun making our own advent calendars. We learnt that Christians use Advent to help them count down to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

We have also become familiar with the Christmas Story, linking this to our end-of-term production of *Prickly Hay* and helping to make sure that we all understand and can retell it.

Our Church Visit

On the 1st of December we were lucky enough to be invited to a local Catholic Church, St Andrew and St George. Whilst there we enjoyed learning more about how Christians celebrate Christmas and they shared their Christmas story with us. The afternoon was packed full of arts and craft opportunities and all the children made their own crown and sheep baubles. There were lots of adults dressed up as characters from the Christmas story such as the three wise men and the shepherds, and they let us ask lots of questions and explore different objects such as real gold, frankincense and myrrh. The visit really helped to get us ready for our own performance of the Christmas story!



Stars of the Week -Class 4b-

Sammy Maklouf

Vincent Liu

Megan Vince-Wick

Aliyah Hewett

Missy Shield

Meryem Basbaydar

Diary Dates

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

Prickly Hay

The term ended brilliantly with a dazzling performance from all of the children in KS1. The children had been working so hard to learn all of their lines and stage directions, and it was great to see all their hard work paid off during their performance last Thursday. The show was packed full of sensational songs, such as 'Stable Hoedown' and 'Christmas is for you'. We hope that all of the parents enjoyed the performance and that the children have created memories which will last forever.

