

Year 3 & 4 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...

Dragons!

Our last English unit of the half term began with great excitement as we came in one morning to find giant eggs under our tables! Rumours of different animals and creatures spread round the playground quickly during break - however after much speculation they were revealed to be dragon eggs, which introduced our text, *How to Train Your Dragon*. Over the next few weeks we learnt how to write an explanation text using the mystical world of dragons as a context - examples of which you can find over the page.

We also used the theme of dragons as inspiration for our Art work, designing and making dragon eggs. We based our work on the idea that dragon eggs have defences such as deadly spikes, poisonous spots, or the ability to burst into flames. First we designed a range of different eggs, each with a different defence, then we made eggs using an egg mould and plaster of Paris. Once they were dry we added a simple base colour and added our designs. A number of us then looked at texture, seeing how we could change the surface of our egg so that they weren't all smooth. As you can see, they turned out well and are now displayed in class next to the explanations we wrote in English.



Stars of the Week

Ross Arno

Alexia Huggard,

Sania Mughal

English : Science Fiction

We began the half-term by investigating science-fiction writing, learning an *Alien Landing* story and exploring the way that authors build tension and a sense of the 'unknown'. We then adapted and innovated on our model text to create our own versions of the story - just like Eddy has done in this brilliant piece...



Alien Landing

The evening air was fresh and crisp as the sun nestled behind the Brooklyn Bridge. Adi and Ethan buttoned up their coats and headed home from the stadium. They loved the city at night, its neon glow and busy streets were intoxicating.

Without warning a light began to blink erratically. Overhead they heard a peculiar whirring sound. Turning to each other in confusion they froze. They had seen many lights in the city before but this was unlike any they had seen. Out of nowhere a florescent light streaked across the sky.

The surrounding streets lights began to quiver, sparks cascaded down from them like a waterfall of magma. Suddenly a mysterious object crossed the blackness and headed for Central Park. The boys dashed after it, dodging cars as they raced across the road. At last they reached the park, they saw the spacecraft land sending plumes of dust high into the night sky. Both boys, although half frightened, inched closer eager to get a look. Slowly they approached. Hearts pounding. A door slid open. Inch by inch a claw appeared scratching at the air and pointing towards the boys...

Twenty four hours later the boys awoke, dazed and confused. It appeared that they were in some kind of derelict factory. Why were they there? The last thing they could remember was being in the park. The factory was old, rusty pipes covered every wall, the smell of damp stung their senses. There was very little light as the windows seemed to be coated in a thick black ash.

"Where are we?" whispered Ethan.

"I don't know, but I want to go home, I'm tired and scared!" moaned Adi.

The boys found an opening, squeezed themselves out and headed home. Later that night, when getting ready for bed, they found strange symbols carved into their skin.

What did they mean? Who had put them there?

Eddy Musomba

English : Explanations

Our focus for the last month has been explanation texts, using sections from *How To Train Your Dragon* to inspire our work. Having learnt and analysed a model explanation, we finished by writing our own - and were hugely impressed by the texts we wrote as a result, including this great example from Daniele...

DRAGON EGGS

A dragon egg is an object that keeps baby dragons safe until it is ready to hatch. As their job is to protect the baby dragon they have to act differently to normal eggs.

Dragon egg differences

Dragon eggs are different to any other animal species. They are dangerous, unlike normal eggs, because they have super defences. Dragon eggs are much more enormous and colourful than normal eggs. They are armed and can move with great speed and have to be huge to carry their huge babies. Dragon eggs are sort of camouflaged to the dragon that is inside them because they are the same colour. Dragon eggs are completely the opposite of boring chicken eggs.

Dragon egg defences

Dragon eggs have an abundance of defences. They need to be able to protect themselves since their parents leave them when they are born. You have to be very attentive when handling dragon eggs because they have defences such as explosions, setting on fire or camouflage, you name it they have it. They develop defences and as a result they survive.

Dragon egg examples

There are 2 different species of dragon. There are the Common Garden Dragons and the Deadly Dragons. Common Garden Dragons are pets so their defences are not deadly, for example Golphin eggs bounce and Gronckle eggs are covered in lumps making them hard to eat. The Giganticus Maximus is invisible and enormous making you bump in to it.

The really Deadly Dragons have deadly defences. They can be poisonous or make you blind. For example the Toxic Nightshade eggs are covered in poisonous spikes or the Underground Tail Hunter that hunts and rips out your spine. There is the Foamy Cloud which can shoot out foam that makes you blind. The deadliness of the defence depends on the deadliness of the dragon.

Dragon eggs are unlike any others, their colour and size show their differences as well as their incredible ability to protect themselves during the many months they are left alone. Whether it is a Common Garden Dragon or a Deadly Dragon egg you are fortunate enough to find consider it armed and hazardous.

Daniele Mazuolyte

Stars of the Week

Rashed Hussian,

Lenny Shearing,

Lyla Ruddock.

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

Science

In science this half-term, Class 7 have been investigating 'States of Matter', learning about solids, liquids and gases and the way that materials can change between these different states. As a result, we spent a lot of time working on our practical skills, behaving like scientists to observe changes and design experiments to discover ways we can speed them up.

We carried out an evaporation experiment to see how quickly we could get 500ml of water to evaporate by placing them in different places, and then expanded our understanding to include the entire water cycle.

We used sandwich bags and dyed water to create our own mini-water cycles, which we hung in the windows to allow us to observe the way they changed over time.

We saw the water that had evaporated start to condense and precipitate, falling back down into our water at the bottom when it became too heavy - all mirroring the way that water around us evaporates and then condenses to form clouds and then rain in the real world.



Coming soon...

Cuffley Camp

Thank you to all those who returned the letter expressing interest in the Cuffley Camp trip for Year 4 - we are pleased to say that it has been booked for 7th-9th June. A letter regarding deposits will be sent out after Christmas and saving books can be issued to help you spread out the cost. Please speak to Mr Humber or the Office for any further information.

Art workshop (16th - 18th January 2017)

We are really looking forward to a series of sculpture workshops which we have been lucky enough to secure at the start of next term. An artist will be visiting Years 3 and 4 for three days, and will be supporting us in creating quality pieces from recycled materials. Before we can get started, however, we need to collect a number of materials. Over the Christmas break please could you collect any of the following: tins or foil recycling (eg. pie trays, bean tins), cardboard tubes (from wrapping paper or kitchen rolls), colourful card boxes (from toys, biscuit/sweet containers etc), bubble wrap, brown paper packaging, the remains of Christmas crackers and paper hats, bits of scrap wood (eg. broken chairs, posts from For Sale signs), newspapers, magazines, bottle tops, corks, buttons and other small objects, and finally plastic bottles. Please could we ask for these items to start coming into school on Monday 9th January - a huge 'Thank you' in advance from everyone in Year 3/4.