

Year 1 News

May 2016

Elsewhere in School...

- Years 3 and 4 headed to London to watch the brilliant musical *Matilda* in the West End.
- Our Year 4 tennis team won the Stevenage Festival and qualified to represent the town at the County Finals.
- We took part in the Bellboating and Dragonboating Festivals, with our Year 4 and Year 6 teams paddling furiously around Fairlands Lakes.
- The Year 6 Boys and Girls Cricket teams were both in action, with our Girls team winning their tournament and also qualifying for County Finals.
- Foundation Stage's latest *Stay and Play* session gave parents a chance to spend a morning in class with their children.
- We hosted the Stevenage Schools FA Cup Finals and end-of-season presentations, with over 300 players and parents attending.

What we've been doing this term...

Hakuna Matata!

This term's topic has been 'Hakuna Matata!' We have enjoyed learning about everything to do with Africa in all areas of the curriculum. We have looked at the countries that make up the UK and the 7 continents of the world. We looked closely at Kenya and made comparisons with their cities, seascapes and villages. In science we have been looking at different animals, sorting them into the different animal groups (reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds and fish), and also grouping them by what they eat - using the terms herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We have named the different parts of the animals



and have found how they are similar. We particularly enjoyed searching for all the African animals at the zoo. In art we have looked closely at some different African art. We painted our own sunsets and then made silhouettes of different animals to make an African scene. We have looked closely at the patterns on the animals skin and carefully made our own patterns.

Whipsnade Visit

Linked to our topic, we visited Whipsnade Zoo earlier this term, looking carefully at lots of different animals, particularly all those that come from Africa. The weather was gorgeous, and we especially enjoyed watching the lions sunbathing on their backs and the meerkat that was playing dead!



Watching the giraffes stretching to munch their lunch



The lemurs come to investigate us



Pheobe Stevenson holding a butterfly



On the train!

Stars of the Week -Class 3a-



Missy Shields



Phoebe Stevenson



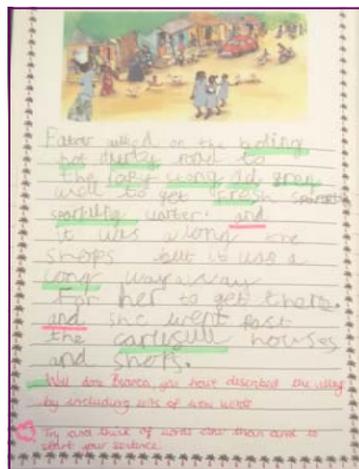
Raiden Rowland-Morris

Mitchell Taylor

Literacy

We have made fantastic progress in phonics and reading through our daily Read Write Inc sessions, working in small groups with others at the same level as us. We are all becoming more confident within our groups, learning more sounds and writing sentences independently. This term, we have looked at the story of *Fatou, Fetch the Water* by Neil Griffiths and *Mama Panya's Pancakes* by Mary and Richard Chamberlin. We looked closely at the setting of each story and made comparisons between the lands described and our own country. We have also written setting descriptions based on these stories.

We have also continued to complete fortnightly Big Writing assignments, and this half-term we have written a recount of what we did over the Easter holidays, a letter to the zoo keeper after our zoo trip, and a story about the day we found out we had Superhero powers.



Setting descriptions for Fatou, Fetch the Water

Fatou walked on the boiling hot dirty road to the rocky strong old grey well to get fresh sparkling water. It was past the shops but it was a long way away for her to get there. She went past the colourful houses and shops.

By Bianca Musomba

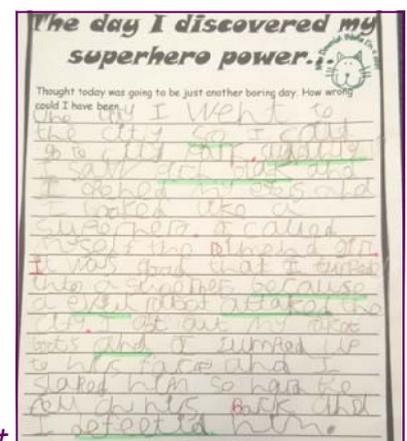
Fatou went to get some sparkly fresh water. She walked slowly along the sandy road to go to the busy village to get to the rocky well.

By Tristan Rama

The day I discovered my superhero power...

One day I went to the city so I could go to the city park. Suddenly I saw pitch black and I opened my eyes and I looked like a superhero. I called myself the Diamond Girl. It was good that I turned into a superhero because an evil robot attacked the city. I got out my rocket boots and I jumped up to his face and slapped him so hard he fell on his back and I defeated him.

By Aliyah Hewitt



Dear Zoo Keeper...

Thank you for letting us visit your awesome zoo. My favourite animal was the rhino. The rhinos were eating the grass and my other favourite animal was the zebra because it was stripy. Love from Kenzie

By Kenzie Cole

Maths

For our targets this term, we have been learning fact families to 20, and using these facts to make 4 different number sentences by switching the 3 numbers around - for instance, if we know that $14 + 5 = 19$, then we also know that $5 + 14 = 19$, $19 - 5 = 14$ and $19 - 14 = 5$. Our learn-its have been $6+6=12$, $7+7=14$, $8+8=16$, $9+9=18$

We have also been learning how to find a quarter of an object, so that we can share food between the monkeys, and a quarter of different amounts by sharing objects into four groups. We have used the same system to begin to find three-quarters of amounts too. In addition, we have been measuring using weight and capacity. We measured lots of objects, finding all those lighter than 25 grams for the bugs to carry and those heavier for Pumbaa to carry, and measured different ingredients to make our African pancakes. We used non-standard measures to explore capacity and measure out our African punch, and began to look at millilitres to measure out the Flamingo wash.



Vincent Liu exploring capacity



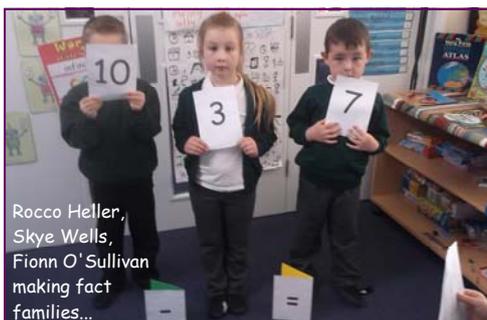
Sammy Maklouf and Tristan Rama measuring out the flamingo wash



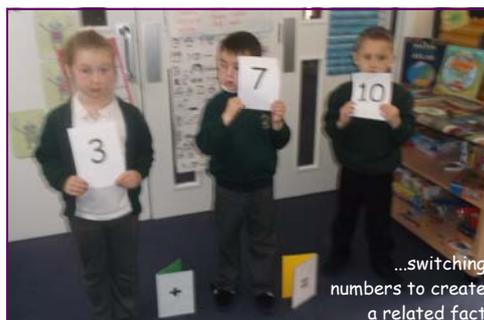
Erik Vegso, Darcy Michell, Marika Wieclaw directing the beebots around the animals



Amara Salvary finding a quarter of an amount



Rocco Heller, Skye Wells, Fionn O'Sullivan making fact families...



...switching numbers to create a related fact

Stars of the Week -Class 3b-



Darcy Michell



Tristan Rama



Marika Wieclaw

Aliyah Hewitt

Diary Dates

6th June

Nursery trip to Willows Farm

7th June

Year 5/6 trip to Chessington

9th June

Year 5/6 Athletics Festival

6th July

Year 6 Rounders Festival

12th & 13th July

Key Stage 2 end-of-year production (afternoon and evening on 12th, evening only on 13th)

14th July

Year 6 transition day at new secondary schools

21st July

End-of-year disco (Years 1-6)

22nd July

End of term

Africa Day

To mark the end of our topic we had an *Africa Day*. We were able to come to school in bright colours and took part in lots of African activities. We wrote letters to Fatou asking what it was like to live in her village, made African pancakes, made an African fruit punch and made African animal masks. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Musomba who sent in some tribal African dishes for us to try. They were delicious!



During the day, we also wrote letters to Fatou, asking questions that would help us to understand what his life is like, just like Missy Shield did here:

Dear Fatou,

What do you do at home time? Do you have a TV? How do you carry water on your head? We made juice today. Is that what you drink?

From Missy

