

# Year 2 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.
- Year 1 organised a fantastic *Africa Day*, finding out what it is like to live in an African village, and making African masks, pancakes and fruit punch.
- 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 awards, with over 300 players and parents attending.

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

### Habitats

Our topic this half term has been *Habitats*, which has involved a lot of geography skills, looking at different places around the world and thinking how different animals are best suited to different types of habitats. This has linked our science and humanities lessons allowing us to make links across different areas of the curriculum.



Pretending to be penguins, protecting an egg



Huddling together for warmth

We have also turned our interest in coral reef habitats into sculpture work in art, creating lots of different creatures that would call the coral reef home. After trying our best during our assessment week, we finished off the half term with a trip to Whipsnade Zoo to look at lots of different animals and find out about their natural habitats.



Hiba's turtle sculpture



Raegan's tropical fish



Lilly's seahorse

# Stars of the Week -Class 4a-



Brooke Tayler



George Copeland



Sophie Matson



Raegan Mitchell



Jamie Conboy

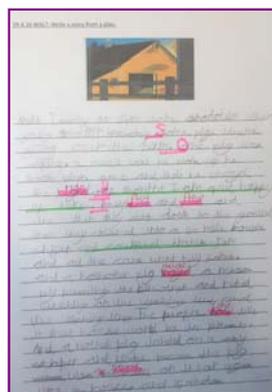
## Literacy

This half term we have continued to work hard to move up into new Read Write Inc groups, while also developing our understanding of what we have read during guided reading sessions. We are starting to master the handwriting skills needed to join our letters correctly, and as always practice makes perfect so we will be continuing this for the rest of the year. Miss Hodson's literacy group have thoroughly enjoying finding out about myths and fables, learning about stories that have a moral and about heroes, heroines and monsters in mythical quests. We explored different ways to plan our stories, to help us add detail, excitement and structure to our writing - below you can see **Evie Bates'** plan for a quest myth, using features common to other mythical stories we have explored, such as *Kwan-Li*, *Baba Yaga*, *Theseus and the Minotaur* and *Finn MacCool*.

Myth Planning Sheet

| My Setting                              | My Main Character (hero/heroine)                                    | My Hero's purpose  |
|---|---|--|
| Deep cave Mountains<br>                 |   | The Dragon has been taking children every night the father and mother go to the hero boy dragon to save the children |
| The magical item that will help my hero | The 1st dangerous place to journey though                           | The 2nd dangerous place to journey though  |
| <br>Bow and Arrow                       | <br>The wild wood   | <br>Swamp Floor  |
| My Monster                              | My ending (resolution)  | My hero goes back to his village   |
| <br>Four headed Dragon                  | He flew over the Mountain and with his 4 headed Dragon toward Arrow | He returns the children to their parents and has a party   |

We have also continued to work really hard during Big Write sessions this term, completing shared writing followed by Big Writing to help us to generate more ideas and develop greater writing stamina for longer pieces of work. **Isabelle Clark** wrote this piece based on the book *Tuesday* by David Wiesner:



Next Tuesday at 8pm some shadows were following through the sky. Some pigs were flying over the farm. One pig was sleeping. 2 minutes later he woke up he thought where am I and then he enjoyed the ride. He thought I am quite happy up here. They flew and flew and then they went down to the ground they crashed into a 40 mile hour sign and caused a traffic jam. Another pig made a mess by pushing the bin over and wrecked washing on the washing line. The people who lived in the house won't be impressed. Another pig landed on a sky scraper and stood on it for ages like 2 hours and 15 minutes. All the people were stressed and hurt because they didn't know how to get new houses.

## Maths

This half-term, our targets have focussed on calculations and mathematical vocabulary, using different methods to help us work out problems and solve one- and two-step calculations. We have continued to build on our place value knowledge to help us tackle addition and subtraction problems, using jumps drawn on empty number lines to help us show our thinking and working. We have also used partitioning methods to show how we can split numbers into tens and units before adding or subtracting. Throughout the term, we have also been working hard at home, practising 2, 5 and 10 times tables facts to work towards our tables awards, and our teachers have been very impressed with the number of us completing our bronze, silver and gold certificates!



## Across the curriculum...

### Science

In Science we have looked at living things and their habitats. We started by looking at life processes and how we can tell if things are living or not. We have been sorting pictures of things that are living, dead and those that have never been alive and discussing how we can tell if something was previously alive. Finally we have been looking at how habitats and the animals that live in them are suited to each other and discussed why certain creatures prefer certain habitats.

### Computing

This half-term we have been getting to grips (Miss Hodson too!) with computer programming using Scratch. We were very excited to play with the software and make our characters move on the screen by programming in simple up, down, left, right movements for them. Some of us have extended our programming skills by changing the appearance of the character and background and by giving instructions to control more than one character.

### PE

We have been enjoying taking PE lessons outside during the better weather and have been learning athletics skills, such as skipping, hurdles and relay races. Our competitive side has really shone through during these sessions, with teams really pulling together to help each other to do the best we can.

## Stars of the Week -Class 4b-



Arifah Kamali



Madison O'Reilly



Holly Street



Zara Taylor



Rubie-Mae Mitchell

## 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

## Our Whipsnade Trip

