

# Year 5 News

December 2017

## Elsewhere in School...

- Key Stage 1 put on two fantastic performances of their Christmas show, with over 150 parents and family members coming in to watch.
- Our Year 5/6 Basketball team finished third in the Stevenage Festival
- Year 2 visited one of our local churches, St Andrew and St George, to learn about the Christmas Story.
- Our non-uniform day for Children in Need raised over £280 for charity.
- Year 1 took part in the Stevenage Mini-Olympics, trying out a huge range of sports at the Leisure Centre.
- Year 1 and 2 invited their families into school to share mince pies and a good book in the last week before Christmas.
- The windows are nearly finished! After two months of hard work, our team of builders only have a few panels left!

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

### Reading Week 2017

Our *Spooktacular Reading Week* was a real success, with every child in the school taking part in a series of fun and engaging activities. Early in the week, we visited the library, where we were issued with our very own library cards. Almost all of us borrowed books and many of us are still visiting the library (and borrowing) on a regular basis. We then took part in workshops with two established authors. Dan Friedman is a writer who has had his range of football related books turned into a popular children's TV series Jamie Johnson. He told us all about the way he changed careers from a journalist working with the England squad to a successful children's author. In addition to this, we also met the hilarious Steve Cole who kept us entertained all afternoon with his energetic, all-action tales.

During the week, we also took part in a reading treasure hunt, buddy reading with younger children and our *Book Swap* - all leading up to our *Big Read* day on Friday, where we all came to school in our pyjamas and settled down for a long, cosy read with our favourite books (and teddy bears!)



## Stars of the Week

Matthew West

Lexie Keene

Chloe Ngaosi

## English

Our writing this half-term has been all about recounts and, in particular, biographies. Our unit was tied to our topic of Ancient Greece and we learnt about the lives of Greek heroes, such as Theseus, Perseus and Achilles. We studied the features required in a biography and then produced detailed, informed pieces of writing of our own. Below you can see one example - Ross Arno's biography of Perseus:

### *The Life of Perseus, Slayer of Medusa*

#### *Why is he famous?*

When Perseus was born in the Kingdom of Argos, his parents would never have predicted what lay in store for their fierce and remarkable son. Many years later, Perseus was training to become the first hero to successfully retrieve the hideous head of Medusa. This mission would change his life forever. If you would like to hear more about this impeccable man, please read on...

#### *Growing Up*

From an early age, Perseus grew up on the island of Argos, with only his lovely mum. Annoyingly, Perseus and his mother were thrown into the sea and they ended up on the island of Seriphos. Demonstrating all his power, he trained to be an astonishing warrior. As an adult, he was consistently challenged and as a result he learnt to be a breathtaking and resilient hero. Several years later, he was adamant that he wanted to kill Medusa and free his mother from the grotesque king. Perseus knew he could save his mother and kill the sinister Medusa by using a reflective shield to see the gorgon. He found the magical and reflective shield, while training in a forest. His mission became known to the world as... Perseus' pursuit to slay the sinister Medusa.

#### *Completing his mission*

At that time, he was devoted to successfully completing his errand, so he could prove his vigour, gallantry and honour. When Perseus was away on his mission, he met Princess Andromeda and saved her by turning a revolting sea monster to stone. During his project, the inspiring hero repeatedly saved the world from hostile monsters such as: vile gorgons, a repulsive sea monster and a ferocious dragon. Following his triumphs, Perseus was finally able to slay the hideous Medusa.

#### *Perseus' End*

Unexpectedly, following the successful completion of his valiant mission, the dishonest king refused to give his mother back. Therefore, Perseus turned the king to stone with Medusa's vile head. When he finally rescued his mum, he would lead a joyful and jubilant life. Unfortunately, Perseus died of old age. He will always be remembered for killing the menacing Medusa.

Ross Arno

## Groovy Greeks

In history, we have continued to learn about Ancient Greece. We have learnt about the phenomenal leader, Alexander the Great, and the remarkable way he conquered a huge part of Europe and Asia by the time he was just 30 years old, and we have also contrasted life in Sparta and Athens. We discovered that life was very different in these two Greek states, and imagined what it would have been like to grow up in warlike Sparta (where all the men were taken away from their families for military training aged just 7 years old) and democratic, outgoing Athens.

We also further deepened our knowledge of the Ancient Greek gods and religions, developing our understanding of the wide range of gods that ancient peoples worshipped and the specific roles and responsibilities which they each had. We then drew on this knowledge to produce some excellent character descriptions - including this example:

### DEMETER - GODDESS OF THE HARVEST



If you were ever fortunate enough to encounter Demeter, the first thing you would notice is her long, golden hair with two buns, tied by bright pink hair bands. Additionally, her pleasant smile is a delightful sight. As the Goddess of Harvest, she takes marvellous care of her flowering plants. Gracefully watering the seeds, she carefully removes the plants when they are ripe, and she wonderfully spreads the seeds

from each plant. Moreover, when Demeter speaks, her voice is as pure as water and as light as a feather. Dressed simply in a green vest and a bright yellow dress, she is never seen without her ripe wheat, as golden as gold. Demeter is as elegant as the warm breeze.

*Chloe Ngaosi*

## Science

Our science work has continued to focus on exploring the way that materials change in different situations. We have separated mixtures by using a variety of methods such as filtering, decanting and sieving.

We also set up an investigation to find out how changing different liquids could have an affect on the amount of time it took for sugar to dissolve - producing some rather surprising results. We had predicted that sugar would dissolve fastest in fizzy drinks, but what we discovered was that the sugar actually dissolved more slowly here. We have since learnt that this is because these liquids already contain a high concentration of sugar, and therefore it takes more time (or effort) to get even more sugar to 'fit in'.

## Stars of the Week

Gabriel Sarumi

Crystal Adaramola

Annie Yu

## Diary Dates

4th January  
Start of Spring Term

7th February  
Parents Evening

12th-16th February  
Half-term

21st February  
Year 5/6 Sportshall  
Athletics

2nd March  
Inset day - school  
closed

23rd - 25th March  
Year 6 PGL trip

29th March  
End of Spring Term

17th April  
Start of Summer  
Term

# Christmas!

We rounded-off the term with a brilliant Christmas party on Thursday 13th December, including loads of silly (and hotly contested) games and an awful lot of eating - a big thank you to everyone who donated party food, and a Merry Christmas to you all from all of us in Class 10!



On the penultimate day of term, members of our Street Dance club showed-off the moves and techniques they've been working on over the last few months, alongside our Year 2 and Year 3/4 dance groups. Their fantastic routine wowed the rest of the school, and it was great to see so many of the class involved in the performance.

